

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

(FORMED BY ALHAJI THE RT. HON. SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA, 9TH JANUARY, 1965)

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS	Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, P.C., K.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF FINANCE	Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G., M.P.
MINISTER OF DEFENCE	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.P.
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT	Alhaji the hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS	Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari, M.P.
MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER	Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule, M.P.
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION	Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P.
MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS	Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua, M.P.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE	Dr the hon. T. O. Elias
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND INFORMATION ..	Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi
MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND LABOUR ..	Hon. J. C. Obande, M.P.
MINISTER OF AVIATION	Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe, M.P.

MINISTERS OF STATE OF CABINET RANK

Alhaj the hon. Nuhu Bamali	
Alhaji the hon. Usmanu Maitamari, M.P.	
Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji, M.P.	
Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima, M.P.	
Chief the hon. Ayo Rosiji	} <i>Appointed 1st February, 1965.</i>
Chief the hon. A. M. A. Akinloye	

PARLIAMENT

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE	Dr the hon. A. A. N. Orizu
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE	The Rev. Amos M. Olaleye
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ..	Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri, M.P.
THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	(Vacant)
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS	J. O. Adeigbo
CLERK OF THE SENATE	M. A. Tahir
CLERKS ASSISTANT	O. A. Coker M. Adamu Usman
SECOND CLERKS ASSISTANT	G. A. Okoye R. A. Amaefula

House of Representatives Debates

PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS

T. I. Ojo
A. A. Onafuwa
S. W. Udo-Udom
V. C. Ilona

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LIST OF MEMBERS AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

NORTHERN NIGERIA

<i>Member</i>		<i>Constituency</i>
	A	
M. Sule Biu Abba (NPC)	.. .. .	Biu
M. Salihu Abdul (NPC)	.. .. .	Igbirra South
Alhaji Aminu Abdullahi (NPC)	.. .. .	Binji Tangaza Silame
Alhaji Rilwanu Abdullahi (NPC)	.. .. .	Lafaji-Pagegi
M. Attahiru Abubakar (NPC)	.. .. .	Dawakin Kudu
M. Muhammadu Sani Abubakar (NPC)	.. .. .	Bauchi North East
M. Tanko Abubakar (NPC)	.. .. .	Keffi
Alhaji Sarkin Tafarki Adamu (NPC)	.. .. .	Bauchi South East
Alhaji Tafida Kazaure Adamu (NPC)	.. .. .	Kazaure
Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed (NPC)	.. .. .	Kwara (Koton-Karfe)
M. Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti (NPC)	.. .. .	Dange-Shuni
M. Umaru Birnin Kebbi Aliyu (NPC)	.. .. .	Gwandu East
M. Modu Alkali (NPC)	.. .. .	Akwanga
M. Yakubu Allanana (NPC)	.. .. .	Bornu North
M. Ahmadu Angara Doma Amadafu (NPC)	.. .. .	Lafia West
M. Shehu Ambursa (NPC)	.. .. .	Gwandu North
Alhaji Muhammadu Yauri Aminu (NPC)	.. .. .	Yauri
Mr N. O. Aro (NPC)	.. .. .	Ilorin South
Alhaji Kano Atiku (NPC)	.. .. .	Dawakin Tofa East
M. Umaru Madali Atiku (NPC)	.. .. .	Cubunawa-Madagali
	B	
Alhaji Ahmadu Babandi (NPC)	.. .. .	Gumel East
Mr S. A. Babatunde (NPC)	.. .. .	Ilorin Central
M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya (NPC)	.. .. .	Igbirra North
Alhaji Muhammadu Bankano (NPC)	.. .. .	Sokoto North Central
M. Barko, Ma'aji Kachalla (NPC)	.. .. .	Geidam
M. Abdu Bauchi (NPC)	.. .. .	Kontagora
Alhaji Abubakar Garba Bayero (NPC)	.. .. .	Kura
M. Hamidu Bayero (NPC)	.. .. .	Gwaram
Alhaji Muhammadu Bayero (NPC)	.. .. .	Bici West
Alhaji Muhammadu Bello (NPC)	.. .. .	Gwadabawa North
Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (NPC)	.. .. .	Abuja-Lapai
Alhaji Usman Borkono (NPC)	.. .. .	Adamawa West
M. Ato Muhammadu Bungudu (NPC)	.. .. .	Sokoto South East
	C	
M. Mohammadu Yarima Chinade (NPC)	.. .. .	Katagum West
	D	
Dr P. A. A. Dada (NPC)	.. .. .	Ilorin East
M. Dalhatu, Sarkin Yola (NPC)	.. .. .	Gaya South
M. Ibrahim Maikaita Dambo (NPC)	.. .. .	Ingawa-Kankia
Mr J. M. Damla (NPC)	.. .. .	Pankshin West
M. Abubakar Sadiq Baba Danbappa (NPC)	.. .. .	Tudun Wada
Alhaji Bello Dandago (NPC)	.. .. .	Gwarzo
Alhaji Mahummudu Dantata (NPC)	.. .. .	Kano East
M. Umaru Marafun Daudu (NPC)	.. .. .	Minna North
Mr D. Dimka (NPC)	.. .. .	Pankshin East
Alhaji Muhammed Bala Dutsinma (NPC)	.. .. .	Yandaka
Alhaji Abubakar Duwan (NPC)	.. .. .	Ruma-Tsaskiya

House of Representatives Debates

<i>Members</i>		<i>Constituency</i>
E		
Mr J. O. Ede (NPC)		Idoma North
Mr D. O. Enefolo (NPC)		Igala South
F		
Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika (NPC)		Zaria North West
G		
M. Baba Gaidam (NPC)		Borsari-Damaturu
M. Kangiwa Madaki Garba (NPC)		Argungu West
M. Yushau A. Mohammed Garba		Kubau-Soba
Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (NPC)		Hadeija North
Alhaji Sani Gezawa (NPC)		Gabasawa-Gezawa
M. Jibir Girema (NPC)		Numan
Alhaji Hamza Gombe (NPC)		Nafada
M. Ibrahim Gusau (NPC)		Sokoto Central
M. Aliyu Abubakar Gwarzo (NPC)		Babura Garki
Alhaji Muhammadu Dalhatu Gwarzo (NPC)		Karaye
Alhaji Usman Gwarzo (NPC)		Kiru
Alhaji Muhammadu Gwate (NPC)		Minjibir
H		
Alhaji Isa Haruna (NPC)		Jos South
Alhaji Zanna Musa Hindi (NPC)		Tune-Gujba
Alhaji Bello Farar Bici Hula (NPC)		Bici East
I		
Alhaji Abubakar Ibrahim (NPC)		Muri South West
Alhaji Garba Gada Ibrahim (NPC)		Gada
Alhaji Ibrahim, Iyan Katsina (NPC)		Marusa-Mashi
Alhaji Maska Idi (NPC)		Maska
Alhaji Isa Iko (NPC)		Zuru
Alhaji Yusufu Ilesha (NPC)		Borgu
Alhaji Abdullahi Othman Inde (NPC)		Musawa-Kankara
M. Ladan Isa (NPC)		Isa-Gandi
Alhaji Zakari Isa (NPC)		Kaduna
Mr Akubakar Isandu (NPC)		Jos North
Mr M. D. Iyorka (UMBC)		Kunav
J		
Alhaji Garba Jabo (NPC)		Sokoto South West
Mr J. K. Jatau (NPC)		Jama'a
Mr A. G. Jiah (NPC)		Gashaka-Mambila
K		
Alhaji Damale Kaita (NPC)		Dan-Yusifa/Kaura
Alhaji Uwaisul Karni (NPC)		Dikwa North
M. Audu Kirim (NPC)		Muri East
Alhaji Datti Kudu (NPC)		Birnin Kudu
M. Muhammadu Kuma (NPC)		Ako
Alhaji Muhammadu Kura (NPC)		Misau

House of Representatives Debates

<i>Members</i>						<i>Constituency</i>
L						
Mr S. D. Lar (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Lowland East
M. Shekarau Ka'a Layya (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Zangon Katab
M						
M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto South
Alhaji Abdullahi Mahuta (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Malumfashi
M. Bukar Mai (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Bornu North West
Alhaji Abdulkadir Maidugu (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Hadeija South
M. Haikali Maigari (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Kauru-Lere
Alhaji Abdullahi Maikano (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Rabah-Wurno
M. Umaru Maltumbi (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Muri North
M. Mustafa Mallambe (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Kaga-Marghi
M. Iro Mani (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Durbi
M. Umaru Gella Mansuru (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Mubi
Mr Dominic M. Mapeo (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Chamba
Alhaji Mohammed-Munir (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Rano
Shettima Alli Monguno (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Kanumbi-Nganzai
Zanna Isa Monguno (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Chad
Alhaji Aliyu Muhammadu (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Gumel West
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Moriki-Zurmi
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarki Gobir (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Argungu East
Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Dambatta
M. Ibrahim Muka (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Bida West
Alhaji Adamu Muri (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Jahun
N						
M. Ibrahim Nadabo (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Danja-Kogo
Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Maradun
Alhaji Ali Nakura (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Kaura Namoda
Alhaji Shehu Na'Ita (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Sabon Birnin Goronyo
Alhaji Muhammadu Nalado .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Chafe-Gusau
M. Muhammadu Ningi (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Bauchi North West
M. Nyelong, Damburam of Shendam (NPC) ..	..	..	..	..	..	Lowland West
O						
Mr E. A. Odo (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Idoma West
Alhaji Abdusalami Olomoda (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Ilorin North
Alhaji Salami Ajibola Olukotun (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Kabba
Alhaji Muhammadu Shekarau Omar (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Katagum North East
Alhaji Zubairu Omar (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Nassarawa
Mr E. T. Orodi (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Ukum Shitire
P						
M. Garba Paiko (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Minna South
R						
Alhaji Abbas Rabah (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Gwoza
Alhaji Rabi'u Wakilin Dabbobi (NPC)	..	..	..	..	..	Kano West
M. Abdulkadiri Rashid (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Dukku/Kwami
Alhaji Abdul Razaq (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Ilorin Town
Alhaji Ahmadu Ribadu (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Adamawa East
Alhaji Sayyadi Ringim (NPC) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Ringim

House of Representatives Debates

<i>Members</i>		<i>Constituency</i>
S		
M. Abba Saddiq (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Auno-Magumeri
Alhaji Saidu, Wazirin Ayyuka Daura (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Daura East
Alhaji Yarima Saleh (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Bedde
Bukar Mala Sandabe (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Dikwa Central
Alhaji Sarkin Abbas Sanusi (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Kumbotso-Ungoggo
Mr J. A. Sen (UMBC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Gaav-Shangev
Mr V. T. Shisha (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Iharev/Masev
Alhaji Aminu Dutse Sulaiman (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Dutse
Mr E. K. Swem (UMBC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Kwande
Mr J. S. Tarka (UMBC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Jemgbar
Mr P. O. Tarkande (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Iharev-Ningov
M. Muhammadu Bello Tilli (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Gwandu West
Mr P. O. Tokula (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Igala North East
M. Peter Turaki (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Zaria South West
U		
M. Yerima Ulenda Uba (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Adamawa North West
M. Muhammadu Mustafa Umar (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Katagum South
M. Ali Umaru (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Wukari
Alhaji Haruna Usman (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Daura West
M. Sule Usman (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Kaita-Jibia
W		
Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Gombe Central
M. Maina Waziri (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Potiskum
Y		
Mr J. A. Yacim (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Igala North West
M. Sule Yaro (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Ikara-Makarfi
M. Adamu Ture Yola (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Tangale Waja
Alhaji Aba Yola (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Wudil
Alhaji Yunusa, Wakilin Masaka (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Gaya North
Alhaji Musa Yusufu (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Lafia West
Z		
M. Muhammadu Zaiyana (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Gwadabawa South
Alhaji Saidu Zango (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Zaria Central
M. Gani Zubairu (NPC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Bauchi Central

EASTERN NIGERIA

A		
Mr D. O. Ahamefula (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Okigwi South West
Mr S. U. Alumona (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Nsukka Central
Mr Mbazulike Amechi (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Onitsha Central
Mr N. N. Anah (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Awka Central
E		
Mr U. O. Ekenekot (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Opobo South
Mr G. A. Eze (NCNC) .. .. .	.. .. .	Onitsha South

House of Representatives Debates

<i>Members</i>		<i>Constituency</i>
	I	
Mr J. O. A. Igwe (NCNC)		Ezza
Mr O. W. Inyang (NCNC)		Enyong West
	N	
Mr M. N. Nrirom (NCNC)		Okigwi North East
Mr N. Nwangbo (NCNC)		Ishielu
Dr B. U. Nzeribe (NCNC)		Orlu West
	O	
Mr J. N. F. Obioha (NCNC)		Orlu North
Mr J. U. Odey (NCNC)		Obudu
Mr F. E. Offor (NCNC)		Okigwi Central
Mr F. A. Ogike (NCNC)		Orlu South East
Mr B. C. N. Okeke (NCNC)		Awka North East
Mr N. N. Onugu (NCNC)		Nsukka East
	U	
Mr T. O. Umeukeje (NCNC)		Awka South
WESTERN NIGERIA		
	A	
Mr S. A. Abasi (NNDP)		Ibadan South
Mr B. A. Adedipe (NNDP)		Ondo North East
Prince Adeleke Adedoyin (NNDP)		Ijebu Remo
Mr M. F. Adeegbe (NNDP)		Ibarapa
Mr M. A. Adeniji (NNDP)		Oshogbo North
Mr J. A. Adeparusi (NNDP)		Ekiti Central I
Mr J. O. Adewunmi (AG)		Oshogbo South
Mr D. A. Agboola (NNDP)		Ila
Chief Wahabi Aileru (NNDP)		Egba Central
Mr I. C. Ajanaku (NNDP)		Ilesha Urban
Mr M. A. Ajasin (AG)		Owo South
Mr J. A. Ajayi (NNDP)		Ilesha South
Chief Abiodun Akerele (NNDP)		Oyo East
Chief C. O. Akinfosile (NCNC)		Okitipupa
Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (NNDP)		Ibadan South East
Mr S. A. Akinloye (AG)		Ejigbo
Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (AG)		Egba South
Mr V. M. Akinsete (AG)		Ondo South East
Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (AG)		Ekiti East
Alhaji K. O. S. Are (NNDP)		Ibadan North
Mr N. G. Asanbe (AG)		Owo Central
Mr E. K. Atanda (AG)		Iwo West
Mr J. A. Awoyinka (NNDP)		Ottun Ekiti North
	B	
M D. B. Babajide (NNDP)		Egbado North
Mr C. A. Bamgboye (NNDP)		Ekiti Central II
	D	
Chief H. O. Davies (NNDP)		Ekiti West
Mr A. O. A. Duduyemi (NNDP)		Ife Central

House of Representatives Debates

<i>Members</i>						<i>Constituency</i>
			F			
Mr Ayo Fasanmi (AG)						Ijero Ekiti
			I			
Dr L. O. Ibukun (AG)						Owo North
			J			
Chief J. A. Jinadu (NNDP)						Oshun North East I
			K			
Mr S. O. Kamson (NNDP)						Ikeja North
Mr C. O. Komolafe (NNDP)						Ilesha North
			L			
Mr J. B. P. Lafinhan (NNDP)						Ogbomosho South
Mr V. L. Lajide (NNDP)						Ogbomosho North
Prince A. Lamuye (NNDP)						Iwo East
Mr S. Lana (NNDP)						Ibadan East
			O			
Mr J. D. Odebunmi (AG)						Egba East
Mr E. O. Odekunle (NNDP)						Oyo North East
Mr E. O. Odeyemi (NCNC)						Ikeja Central
Mr A. F. Odulana (NNDP)						Ijebu North East
Mr M. E. Ogundare (AG)						Ekiti South I
Chief A. O. O. Ogunsanya (NCNC)						Ikeja South
Mr S. E. Ogunyimika (AG)						Ondo North
Prince A. Olaniran (AG)						Oshun South East
Mr J. O. Olaore (NNDP)						Oshun North East II
Mr T. O. Oloyede (NNDP)						Ife South
Chief B. O. Olushola (NNDP)						Ekiti South II
Chief V. O. Onabanjo (AG)						Ijebu South West
Mr S. A. Oyewole (NNDP)						Ibadan West
			R			
Mr A. A. Raji						Ede
			S			
Mr D. Senu-Oke (NCNC)						Badagry
Mr S. Sobowale (AG)						Epe
			T			
Mr J. O. Taiwo (NNDP)						Oyo North West
			Y			
Mr S. A. Yerokun (NCNC)						Oyo Central

IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND
PARLIAMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA

WHICH OPENED SEVENTEENTH FEBRUARY, 1965

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 17th February, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the Official Gazette of the 11th February, 1965, as followeth:—

A PROCLAMATION

(Under the Constitution of the Federation)



By His Excellency Doctor
NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Presi-
dent and Commander-in-
Chief of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria.

NNAMDI AZIKIWE
President

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 67 of the Constitution of the Federation, the President is empowered to appoint a place and time for each session of Parliament.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient and necessary that Parliament shall be convened.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me, do by this my proclamation, appoint the National Hall at Lagos on Wednesday, the 17th day of February, 1965, at 10 a.m. to be the place and time of the commencement of the first session of the new House of Representatives.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at State House, Lagos, this Tenth day of February, 1965.

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh), *addressing himself to the Clerk of the Parliaments (who, standing up, pointed to him and then sat down) said*; I rise to move, That the Member for Gombe Central (*Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri*) be elected Speaker of this House, (*Applause*).

The Constitution provides that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall vacate his office when the House first sits after any dissolution of Parliament, and so, as we assemble here to-day, the Speaker's Chair is vacant. And then the Constitution goes on to say that no business may be transacted in this House, other than an election to the office of Speaker, at any time when the office is vacant.

This is a wise and prudent provision, for the orderly conduct of Parliamentary business would be difficult indeed if we had no Speaker to rule and guide us from the Chair—and sometimes to protect us.

Guide and Ruler—that is as concise a definition as I can give of a Speaker. He must be able to guide a straying Member back into the straight path of Parliamentary procedure. And he must be firm with his rulings, and ready to give a touch of the whip to any errant Member who shows undue reluctance to accept them.

No man will succeed in this delicate task unless he holds the respect and the affection of hon. Members. He must be plentifully endowed with wisdom and with wit, with patience and with impartiality.

Those Members here to-day who were Members of the last House will know that the Member for Gombe Central (*Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri*) has all the necessary attributes in full measure. And he possesses an additional qualification—experience. After a six-month apprenticeship as Deputy Speaker, he was elected to the office of Speaker in November 1960, and served with distinction and to the great satisfaction of the House for a full four years until the recent dissolution.

It is by tradition the duty of the Leader of the House to propose the election of a Speaker, and it gives me much personal pleasure to find myself to-day, not merely proposing the election of a Speaker, but proposing the re-election of the hon. Member whose election I myself had the honour of proposing in 1960.

Those among us who had the privilege of being Members of the former House will, I am sure, recall with affection the solid figure of the Member for Gombe Central filling the Speaker's Chair as he presided over our deliberations, firm and unflurried, enjoying the confidence and respect of Members on every side of the House.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

I do not think it is necessary for me to dilate further on the qualities of the Member for Gombe Central, which are well-known not only to Members of the former Parliament but also to all who followed the proceedings of the House. So long as he remains available there can be no other choice for election to the office of Speaker, in which I am confident he will continue to command the respect and affection of every Member.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I beg to second this Motion which has been very ably moved by the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

This House could not have made a better choice than the Member for Gombe Central (*Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri*)—a wise, calm, serene and unruffled man.

It is said that some people are born great, that some have greatness thrust upon them and that some achieve greatness. Of Ibrahim Jalo Waziri, it can be said that he achieved greatness by the merit and the dint of his own hard work. Every side of this House must therefore welcome this proposal from the hon. Minister of Finance for the Member for Gombe Central is a conspicuous jewel in the crown of this great Parliament.

I beg to second. (*Applause.*)

And there being no counter proposal, the House then unanimously called Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri to the Chair without Question put.

Mr Speaker (*who was received with general cheers, and standing up in his place*): It is with great humility that I submit myself to the will of the house. I need hardly say now how much overwhelmed I am at this historic moment. It is a great honour, indeed, to be elected *nemine contradicente* to the high office of Speaker; but I believe it is a double honour and implicit vote of confidence to be re-elected unopposed for a second time to this important office by such a large assembly of the elected representatives of this great country.

For this reason, I think I should first of all thank Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, Minister of Finance, the Mover of the Motion, and the Seconder, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, Minister of Aviation, for the kind things which they have said about me, and I should also thank the whole house for doing me this great honour.

Speaking from experience, I appreciate that the Speaker has a heavy responsibility and that his duty is an onerous one. But as long as I occupy the Chair I will do my utmost to keep aloft the high traditions of the office and carry out my responsibilities with fairness to all. (*Hear, hear*). In this connection, I will count on your support and co-operation which it has been your custom to give readily to previous holders of this office, including myself. It is unfortunate that Mr Speaker is often obliged to disappoint Members when they want to make speeches. I wish to assure the house that whenever this happens the Chair feels as much discomfort and disappointment as Members themselves. But if Members will not use up all the time allowed to each speaker by our Standing Orders, it may go a long way to reduce our disappointments and discomfort.

I should seize this opportunity, I think, to say a word of welcome to new Members. I wish them a happy tenure of office, whether as Ministers, or Parliamentary Secretaries or as ordinary Members of this house. They should bear with me if I seem slow at mastering their names; but they will agree with me that it is not easy to recognise all the faces and remember all the names of as many as 312 Members of Parliament. I also welcome old Members and congratulate them on their success at the last General Election.

I know my speech is getting too long for an occasion like this; but I crave your indulgence to make one final point since, once this election is over, I shall not have another opportunity for a long time to address this House.

As I said in my valedictory speech to the old House last September, I believe in the unity of this great country. All the political crises we have been through have clearly shown that the future of this great country lies in the coming together in unity and amity of all our people.

Members of the old House and previous Houses have shown that there is no political problem which cannot be solved. It is my earnest prayer that in this principal aspect this House will not differ from the former ones, and that by the Grace of God we will understand and love ourselves and our country more than we have ever done before, and we will now build on the solid foundations which have already been laid by our leaders, a Nigeria truly united, truly one, and truly great. (*Applause.*)

The House then having again unanimously called Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Waziri to the Chair, he was taken out of his place and conducted to the Chair by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Aviation.

OATHS

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I have to remind Members that the first thing to be done is to take and subscribe the Oath required by Law. I will first do so myself. But before doing so I have to inform the House that I have received the following letters from Justice Sowemimo and Justice Lambo :—

*Chief Justice's Chambers,
High Court,
Lagos, Nigeria.
26th January, 1965.*

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

*Oath of Allegiance
Member of Parliament*

I have to inform you that in accordance with the proviso to section 55 of the Constitution of the Federation, the following Member of Parliament was sworn before me on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1965 :—

The Hon. Mr Ukie Ogonte Ekenokot.

*G. S. Sowemimo,
Acting Chief Justice of the
High Court of Lagos.*

*The Hon. Mr Justice S. O. Lambo,
Judges' Chambers,
High Court,
Lagos, Nigeria.*

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

*Oath of Allegiance
Member of Parliament*

I have to inform you that in accordance with the proviso to section 55 of the Constitution of the Federation, the following Member of Parliament was sworn before me on the 9th day of February, 1965 :—

The Hon. Mr Abel Gelchi Jiah Warwar.

*S. O. Lambo,
Judge*

Thereupon, the Speaker first alone and standing upon the upper step of the Chair, took and Subscribed the Oath.

Then the following Members took and Subscribed the Oath or made and Subscribed the Affirmation required by Law :—

Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa—
Bauchi South West (No. 13).

Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu—Adamawa
Central (No. 2)

Dr Taslim Olawale Elias—Attorney-General
Alhaji Inuwa Wada—Sumaila (No. 86)

Alhaji Waziri A. Ibrahim—Konduga-Mafa
(No. 28)

Mr J. C. Obande—Idoma South East (No.
43)

Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe—Orlu
North East (No. 223)

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh—Warri (No. 307)

Chief A. M. A. Akinloye—Ibadan North
East (No. 254)

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima—Bida East
(No. 15)

Alhaji Yusufu M. Sule—Dawakin Tofa
West (No. 68)

Alhaji Shehu Shagari—Sokoto West (No.
152)

Zanna Bukar Dipcharima—Yerwa (No. 29)

Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua—Katsina Central
(No. 104)

Alhaji Bello Dandago—Gwarzo (No. 74)

Alhaji Usman Maitambari—Gwandu South
(No. 39)

Alhaji Hashim Adaji—Igala East (No. 45)

Mr T. O. S. Benson—Lagos North (No. 309)

Mr A. F. Odulana—Ijebu North East (No.
263)

Chief Hezekiah Oladipo Davies—Ekiti West
(No. 249)

Chief Christopher Olu Akinfosile—Okitipu-
pa (No. 272)

Mr Felix Elendu Ofor—Okigwi Central
(No. 212)

Mr J. M. Udochi—Afenmai (No. 296)

Alhaji Abdul Razaq—Ilorin Town (No. 55)

Chief Adeniran Obasanya Olugboyega
Ogunsanya—Ikeja South (No. 268)

Mr Samuel Lana—Ibadan East (No. 253)

Mr Samuel Ogunwale Kolade—Oyo South
(No. 294)

Mr Mbazulike Amaechi—Onitsha Central
(No. 216)

Mr Alade Lamuye—Iwo East (No. 279)

Alhaji Muh. Munir M'wali—Rano (No. 84)

Chief Abiodun Akerele—Oyo East (No. 291)

Mr L. L. Borha—Ishan East (No. 302)

Mr Richard Osuolale Abimbola Akinjide—
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BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to make a statement concerning the business which the Government proposes should be taken at this meeting.

First, however, I wish to say that the main business for the present meeting will be to enact the Electoral Bill, 1965, so as to enable elections to be held in those constituencies in which Members were not returned at the recent General Election. The presentation of this Bill, its Second Reading and other stages will take place tomorrow, Thursday, 18th February, immediately after the formal opening of the new Session of Parliament by His Excellency the President.

The House will also be asked to approve two resolutions confirming the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1964, and the Excise Tariff (Duties) (No. 3) Order, 1964.

Thereafter the House will adjourn sine die.

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 three minutes after twelve o'clock.

PARLIAMENT OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 18th February, 1965

Parliament met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President of the Senate in the Chair)

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, entered the Chamber in procession and took his seat.

His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows :

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives.

I welcome you all to this Session of the new Parliament, the first to be summoned since the parliamentary elections of last December. We all witnessed the historic events of the recent constitutional crisis which was peacefully resolved under a five-point agreement aimed at securing unity and peace throughout this Republic.

Your main business at this meeting will be to consider and pass an Electoral Bill, 1965 which will be laid before you.

In conformity with the intention to form a broadly-based government that would cater for all our people and in order to complete the general election of December 1964, parliamentary elections will thereafter be held in every constituency in which no election was held.

At your forthcoming Budget Meeting, I shall outline to you the policies to be pursued by my Government during the coming year.

I pray that your counsels may be directed towards the strengthening of our national unity, the preservation of cherished liberties under the law and the furtherance of progress, peace and stability throughout the country.

May the Almighty God grant you wisdom to discharge your duties in the overall interest of the citizens of this Republic.

His Excellency retired from the Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Health and Information (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to move, That Parliament do now adjourn.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Parliament do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 18th February, 1965
The House met at 10.30 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members:—

- Mr S. A. Babatunde—Ilorin Central
Alhaji Ahmadu Ribadu—Adamawa East
Alhaji Mahmud Dantata—Kano East
M. Abdu Bauchi Maratan Kontagora—
Kontagora
Alhaji Usman Barkono—Adamawa West
Mr E. A. Odo—Idoma West
Mallam Ibrahim S/Fulani Dambo—
Ingawa-Kankiya
Dr M. A. Majekodunmi—Minister of
Health and Information.

PAPERS

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : Sir, Section 14 (2) of the Audit Act provides that I shall, within sixty days of the receipt of the Director of Federal Audit's report on the accounts for any year lay it, without alteration thereto, before the Federal Legislative House. The Director's report on the 1963/64 accounts was received in my Ministry on the 24th December last and, Mr Speaker, I beg to lay it on the Table now in order to comply with the time limit imposed by law.

Standing Order 65 (1) provides that—

There shall be a committee to be known as the Public Accounts Committee, consisting of a Chairman to be nominated by Mr Speaker, and not more than twelve other members to be appointed by the Committee of Selection. It shall be the duty of the committee to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the House to meet the public expenditure, together with the auditor's reports thereon. The committee shall, for the purpose of discharging that duty, have power to send for persons, papers and records, to report from time to time to the House, and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

It is hoped that as soon as the Public Accounts Committee is appointed, it will

examine the Auditor's report, scrutinise any relevant documents relating to the Accounts for the year and interview Accounting Officers on those parts of the Auditor's observations affecting their Departments. This will enable the Committee to report to this House.

Sir, I beg to lay the Director of Federal Audit's Report for the 1963/64 Accounts on the Table for the information of Members.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

ELECTORAL ACT, 1965

Bill to make provision for the holding of Parliamentary Elections in constituencies in which members were not returned to the House of Representatives in the General Election held in the month of December Nineteen Hundred and sixty-four, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

This is a Motion that does not require any speech from me. I am sure hon. Members are anxious to go back home in order to prepare for the Budget Meeting.

I beg to move.

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

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : We are accepting this Motion not because we want to hurry home to prepare for the Budget Meeting but because the Government has been kind enough to disclose to us the main object of this meeting. The object was disclosed in the Address of the President.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of Order, Order 20 (6), the hon. Member speaking is irrelevant. From facts at my disposal, the man is not a Member of this House, because he has resigned his seat. I do not know why Mr Speaker allowed him to take the oath yesterday. In any case, if the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) were a man of his words, he could not have got up in this House to challenge the Motion presented by the able Minister of Finance.

[CHIEF OGUNSANYA]

In so far as this Bill is concerned, we are happy that there has been this attempt on the part of the Government and this shows a readiness to take suggestions whenever those who are not in government say things. I have no doubt that with the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and the other Ministers there, and particularly on a very important Act like this—the Electoral Act, 1962—wherever suggestions are made, the Government will take ample opportunity to see that these suggestions are looked into and that some of them are incorporated.

To that end, I wish to say one or two things on the position of our Electoral Act generally—the Electoral Act, 1962, The Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1964 and precisely what is brought before us this morning. A lot has been said about elections being free and fair and I can say with confidence that all over this honourable House, every political party here has at one time or the other expressed a desire for elections to be free and fair; whether they carry it out or not, is a different matter. This is a point over which we are all agreed.

I would like to suggest also that there are a number of other worthy amendments in addition to what is being done this morning which I think should be taken note of—

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): On a point of order, with respect to my hon. Friend, I think that as far as this Electoral Act is concerned, he is irrelevant; he is not to talk generally on the Electoral Act but he should talk on this particular Amendment.

Mr Speaker: I quite agree with the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) that it is better to confine observations to this Bill; so far, the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) has not wandered too far for me to intervene.

Chief Ogunsanya: My speeches are relevant. I think my hon. Friend the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) should at least learn to respect one of the small men in this House when he is speaking. I know short men, as a rule, want to give trouble but I hope, at least, that when men who belong to the same class are speaking he should give less trouble.

One finds embodied in the purpose of the Bill and stated quite clearly—"An Act to make provision for the holding of parliamentary

elections in Constituencies in which Members were not returned to the House of Representatives in the General Election held in the month of December Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Four." With respect, the purpose of this Bill is merely to provide for what has been left out and, with the greatest respect, I consider that if in discussing what has been left out mention is made of one or two other things which have been left out, it will be relevant. The Standing Orders will not rule out what I am going to say now, not what I have said before.

Under this, the sub-heading—"Holding of Elections in certain Constituencies"—with respect, since we are going to have elections in Lagos in respect of Lagos South, Lagos North-Central and Lagos South-Central (there is going to be no election right-away in Lagos North), we are concerned with areas where we are going to have elections. I wish to point out, and indeed the Electoral Commission might take note of the fact, that the Electoral Register at the moment is in a slight muddle. In many places, certain portions of certain wards in Lagos are mixed up with portions of other wards, thereby tending to make the holding of elections on election day very difficult. I experienced a lot of difficulties as regards the Electoral Register for the Constituencies where I worked in the Western Region. I think if we are going to have elections under this Amendment, these things should be looked into.

Taken as a whole, I have no doubt that the officers appointed, and who are being retained as a result of the provision of this Bill, will do their best to make elections in Lagos free and fair. I am sure that as time goes on, there will be complete assimilation of the idea of fairness of election throughout the country.

When the election was being conducted in respect of the Register we are going to use now, there were a number of people who, because of the necessity or the provision of section 8 of the main law, it was not possible to have their names on the Register in that they were not able to fill Form I which made it possible for people who had a right to vote to register their names. I think that the present Register in Lagos is deficient even now to that extent and I hope that, as soon as possible, the Electoral Commission will take necessary precautions to correct the deficiency.

There is a provision here in Clause 3, which refers to nominations. It is provided that the existing nominations shall stand. Now, care will have to be taken in this connection. We do not know, of course, what period of time will be given after the assent to this Bill and the date of the actual election, but unless care is taken—I am sure the Attorney-General is capable of doing that—there might be a confusion between the legal date of withdrawal in normal elections prior to the actual date of election and—

I hear an hon. Member say that there will be no more withdrawals in this case, but I think there may be some people who may want to withdraw in Lagos against U.P.G.A.

When this law comes into effect, I want to assure Members of this House that it will be a test to know which party is supreme. The contest for the three remaining seats in Lagos and those in the East will give an appropriate barometer for one to know the strength of the U.P.G.A.

I wish to mention that care should be taken in respect of polling stations. I realise that there has been a decision on the part of the Electoral Commission to have uniform polling stations. I hope when the polling stations for Lagos are being constructed, none will be made with mats. I know that some of us like the sleeping mats because we slept on them at one time or the other but surely that is not the thing for polling stations.

I assure hon. Members that in so far as everything is done in conformity with the law, the coming elections will be as orderly as possible and that the political parties who are opposed to our alliance in Lagos, once they behave themselves will have no trouble whatsoever. I want to say quite openly that in Lagos we have no cause to want any sort of hooliganism.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Ikeja (*Chief Ogunsanya*) is getting too far away from the Bill.

Chief Ogunsanya: Some of the new hon. Members in the House are still learning the art of heckling and one must let them know how expensive it could be heckling someone sometimes. That is why I always like to give it back to them and thus keep them quiet.

I give this assurance that in so far as Lagos is concerned, I will see to it on our side that there is peace and I am sure the Member for Lagos North will also appeal to his friends on the other side of the Chamber so that they will not bring hooligans into Lagos from the West. We do not want hooligans here.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Shettima Alli Monguno (Karumbu-Nganjai): In supporting the Second Reading of the Bill before the House, I have a mixed feeling—mixed because it is sad that Parliament has to be summoned as if condoning the defiance of the Federal law by a few individuals in this country who are selfish and who have no regard whatsoever for public interest.

The unity of this country is paramount and we all accept that no sacrifice is too great. I think I am speaking not only my own mind but also that of many peace loving Nigerians. I am even prepared to go beyond what we have so far achieved in order to help bring about the necessary unity of this country.

May I very humbly appeal to the Prime Minister that we should be given assurance that free and fair election would be held in all the constituencies that are involved, as was the case in the Northern Region of this country. We think that what is good for the goose is also good for gander. If people could be returned unopposed in one region of the country there is no reason why other should not be returned unopposed in other part of the country. If an Easterner is good enough to be returned unopposed in the East, similarly a Northerner should be equally good in the North. But I have already said that we have in the bottom of our heart the interest of the nation and we are ever prepared to make any sacrifice that is demanded of us.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East): We welcome in good faith the introduction of this Bill. It is designed to secure peace, concord, harmony, progress and stability of this young, growing nation. The introduction of the Bill is a partial solution to the irregularities that have been caused as a result of the boycott of the last Federal Elections in some areas.

[ALHAJI ABDUL RAZAQ]

This Bill, when passed into law, will enable elections to be held in Eastern Nigeria and in parts of Lagos. I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to the organisers of the boycott to allow the elections to be conducted in a free and fair atmosphere—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, we are here to discuss the Electoral Bill, 1965. But the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Razaq*) has been harping on the word "boycott". Boycott is an effect; it is not a cause. The hon. Member should refrain from speaking in a way that can incite feelings because either side has its own case in this matter of boycott.

This Bill is what we come here to pass. Let us pass it and let the people go and conduct their elections. If the hon. Member had allowed his opponent in Ilorin to file his nomination papers, he would not have been here!

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : In a more serious tone, I am appealing to this honourable House to see to it that the elections to be held as a result of the passage of this Electoral Bill, 1965, in parts of Nigeria, should be held in an atmosphere of fairness and freedom. Already gigantic and elaborate plans are being made and implemented so that only candidates of a certain party could be returned in Eastern Region. The opposing candidates there are being prosecuted because of their political conviction.

I strongly appeal that this proposed law should not be a licence for the prosecution of political opponents in the East. The N.N.A. supporters were being threatened with persecution if they voted for the N.N.A. In this persecution which the N.N.A. supporters suffered in the Eastern Region there was a mass arrest of our supporters, and frivolous charges were brought against them, particularly in the Customary Courts there.

Please permit me, Mr Speaker, to substantiate this, because this law is being passed to enable election to be held in the Eastern Region. This particular case is an illustration of what is happening to the N.N.A. supporters and candidates in Eastern Nigeria. In the Olokoro Ubakala District Court in Umuahia, Charge No. UB.2/65 was brought against fourteen N.N.A. supporters there,

and I would ask my hon. and learned Friends to be prepared to learn from the charge sheet. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I read:—

"That you on the 30th day of December, 1965—"

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : On a point of order, the matter referred to by the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) is *sub judice*, and it is not subject to any discussion in this Legislature.

Mr Speaker : Order! It is difficult for me to say whether it is *sub judice* at this stage.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : On a point of information, that allegation is untrue. It should be realised that a while ago an hon. Member asked to know how many people somebody killed. The hon. Member should ask this question from somebody else, because my supporters were killed, and those who were arrested were tried by N.N.A. judges.

Mr Speaker : Order! I do not think old Members should be so precipitated by a maiden speech from an hon. Member. After all, there should be at least the traditional courtesy of the House that maiden speeches are not too much interrupted even on political points.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : Taking advantage, Mr Speaker, of your permission that I should read the charge sheet, I now read it as follows:—

"That you on or about the 30th day of December, 1964, conducted yourself in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace at Old Umuahia by holding an unauthorised meeting in which you conspired to vote for Ihenacho of Ikpama, a candidate of N.N.A."

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : On a point of order, the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) is misinforming the House, and he should not be allowed to continue in that way.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : I invite the Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr Ahamefula*), with your permission, Mr Speaker, to see me immediately after this meeting, and I would show him a certified true copy of the proceedings of the case which I have quoted.

What I ask is this. Since when has a conspiracy to vote for a candidate in a parliamentary election become a criminal offence? Now,

hon. Members would like to know that fourteen N.N.A. supporters were charged with this particular offence in that court, and they were all found guilty and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from nine months to three months. I quote this instance only to illustrate what is happening and what might happen after we have passed this Law in preparation for the election that is impending in the Eastern Region.

I appeal more seriously to the authority that be that such practices should stop, and that this Bill, when passed into law, should not be taken as a licence for persecuting N.N.A. supporters in Eastern Nigeria.

The case that I have quoted is only one of the easiest and smallest of other cases. Leaders of a political party like Dr Okezie are facing charges of attempted murder. Others are facing more serious charges because they have decided to stand election against the official candidate of the U.P.G.A.

I do hope that when this Bill is passed into law and our Eastern Colleagues go back to campaign, they would remember our appeal to them that N.N.A. supporters should no longer be persecuted as they are being persecuted at the moment.

Finally, in supporting this Bill, I congratulate the Government for limiting the effect of this Law only to the special occasion which has arisen so that the law will lapse as soon as the impending elections have been held.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is usual for a Member to make his maiden speech non-contentious. I do not intend to depart from this custom which makes a new Member, such as I am, acceptable to all sides of the House. But one would agree that this Bill has a very contentious history, and I am sure I shall be pardoned if I raise a number of controversial issues, only, I promise, in the most uncontentious manner possible.

This Bill is the result of the agreement reached by the Head of State and the hon. Prime Minister in order to resolve the last constitutional crisis. In this connection, I shall permit myself of only two observations. The first is on the one aspect of the agreement and the other is on our electoral procedure as a whole.

Members are aware of the gist of the accord reached between the President and the honourable Prime Minister. The one aspect of it which I consider pertinent to this Bill is that which deals with low polling which makes a mockery of parliamentary elections. I would have thought that the Prime Minister would by now have persuaded his Colleagues to help give effect to this undertaking so that a pertinent clause could have been included in this amending Bill. Is it not possible for the Government to include a clause nullifying elections in areas where polling was less than thirty *per cent* of the total number of registered voters ?

Some hon. Members : No.

Chief Onabanjo : I can understand the alarm of the Members opposite. I have heard it said, Sir—

M. Tanko Abubakar (Keffi) : On a point of order, we have been discussing the passing of this Bill and the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is begging for an increased percentage for the forthcoming Federal elections in Eastern Nigeria, which is not one of the things we are discussing now.

Mr Speaker : Actually, the point of including a clause can be more efficiently dealt with at the Committee Stage. But as a matter of courtesy to him, I think he is entitled to say what he wishes in regard to that.

Chief Onabanjo : I am much obliged to you, Mr Speaker. I have heard it said that smallness of the number of voters does not make an election invalid or void. This, to me, is sheer legal sophistry and ignores the political and, indeed, the moral issues involved ; for, if we were to keep to this legal hair-splitting, Parliament would probably not be meeting to-day. The truth is that we sought, early this year a political solution to the crisis. Each party should therefore honour its own side of the agreement reached. This attempt at legalistic mental gymnastics can only help to keep the embers of political bitterness on. This we must avoid at all costs.

There are many Members who know that they ought not to be in Parliament because, in normal circumstances, the electorates would not have voted for them. Where is the honour in being voted in by about six hundred people in a constituency of well over ninety thousand ? Where is the honour in securing five hundred

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

Secondly, there are some allegations made by the previous speakers about something which happened in a customary court. Let us hope that the quotations are correct; but if they are not, that would have justified the need for what I advocated in the old House about parliamentary privileges. These privileges under which a Member can hide and make false allegations should be removed.

There should also be established a high court of Parliament where any Member who comes here and makes false allegations could be punished.

I beg to support.

M. Adamu Yola Ture (Tangale Waja): The Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) who has just spoken is one of those who are here to-day by the grace of the Prime Minister.

The Member has made two contradictory statements. He first of all said that election should be nullified in a constituency where up to 20 per cent of the registered voters did not vote. After a few minutes, he said again that the Electoral Act should be amended so that if less than 30 per cent of the registered voters did not vote in a constituency, the election should be nullified.

We are wholeheartedly in agreement with those who say that we should have another election in the East and some parts of Lagos. I do not agree that we should continue to amend the Electoral Act now, otherwise we shall not make progress.

I beg to support.

Clause 1—(HOLDING OF ELECTIONS IN CERTAIN CONSTITUENCIES)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(APPLICATION OF ELECTORAL ACTS)

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kanumbu-Nganzai): I think a further amendment to this Act is essential in order to wipe out the distrust which always accompanies results of elections in this country.

It will therefore be highly appreciated if the appropriate Ministry will undertake an examination of methods of elections in certain overseas countries with a view to improving our own.

I beg to support.

Clause 2—(APPLICATION OF ELECTORAL ACTS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—(ELECTORAL OFFICERS, ETC.)—

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): I think this is a good provision, but I want to tell the House about something which is now going on in the Eastern Region with reference to Clause 4 (1).

Immediately the people in the East read about this Act in the Newspapers, they started to ask their supporters to take Oaths of Allegiance to the Government.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, I think that all jokes apart, this honourable House should not be made a place where any Member could come and cast expensive jokes on Regional Governments. Members of this House are expected to be patriots of the highest order and calibre, so they should desist from this sort of thing. I think it is *infra dignitatem* for any Member to say what the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) is saying about either the Eastern Government, the Northern Government or the Western Government.

Mr Kolade: I am still emphasizing what I say because that is the truth. If the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) wants to prove me wrong, let him tell us why the Eastern Government is worrying Messrs Ememe and Chiedozie.

Dr Nzeribe: I want to protest against Members of this House saying anything wrong and immoral on the Floor of this House.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji): On a point of order, I am surprised to see Members like the Member for Orlu West getting up to speak without the permission of the Chairman. I think this is a very wrong procedure.

The Chairman: When there is one Member speaking from the Floor of the House without another Member interrupting him, he can continue to speak. But when there are more than one Member wanting to take the Floor, then I can give the Floor to anyone I think should have it. However, when the House is in Committee, a Member can speak more than once.

Mr Kolade : I think the position is very delicate, now that the law has tied the former officers to their respective offices. We have been reliably informed that those who were selected to take charge of the election in December are still going to take charge of the forthcoming one, and we are told that these people were selected by the government officials in the East so that they could make people vote solidly for U.P.G.A. Any election held under these circumstances cannot be free and fair.

We have also been listening to Members on the other Side of the House crying and demanding for a free and fair election. How can any election held under the circumstances I have mentioned be free and fair? The election was free and fair in the West, but I am sure that it cannot be free and fair in the East.

These U.P.G.A. people went about destroying polling booths during the last election. These are the people wasting the Federal Government's money in this country. They are the people responsible for our gathering here to-day to pass this Bill.

Finally, with regard to this particular section of the Bill, I think that something should be done to those who did not allow the last election to take place in some parts of the country. Something should be done, especially to Okpara—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order, I just want to appeal to my hon. Friend, the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) to desist from mentioning names of people who are not present in this House to defend themselves.

Also I want the Member to realise that it is only right and fair for a Premier of a Region to be properly addressed. The Premier of the East is called Dr Okpara and he is a head of a Government in this Federation. I expect hon. Members to use their sense of decorum.

Mr Kolade : All right, I will not mention anybody's name, but some people went about organising against—

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North): The Minister of Finance did not say that the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) should not mention names. What he said was that the Premier of Eastern Region should be addressed as Dr Okpara and not just as Okpara.

Mr Kolade : I will not put in the word "Doctor" because he should not have disturbed the elections.

I was trying to say that something should be done about those who did not allow the elections to take place in their own territories. I think in the Electoral law we have it stated that anybody who obstructs the conduct of elections should be brought to book under the law.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): The position is that at the time they obstructed the elections, they were suffering from mental insanity.

Mr Kolade : I now want to ask whether these people are above the law? Something should be done about them. It is shameful for those who actually obstructed the course of law to come here and debate in this House on this particular Bill.

I hear an hon. Member ask what about the Mid-West? Well, I think there is no U.P.G.A. in the Mid-West because we do not hear of the Action Group in the Mid-West. The Mid-Westerners are wise men.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 4—(ELECTORAL OFFICERS, ETC.)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 5—(SHORT TITLE APPLICATION AND COMMENCEMENT)—*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 INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): We must all admit that it is because of the ungodly and undemocratic attitude of the N.N.A. during the last election that this Bill has come into being. We must tell the truth in this House, no matter how bitter the truth may be. This present meeting of Parliament should be called the special meeting of the House simply because some people did not want the election to be conducted in a free and fair atmosphere. I think we should all condemn this act.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North): I Chief Theophilus Owolabi Sobowale Benson, the only Member representing Lagos to-day in this House—(*Interruptions*).

DR IYUKUN : The hon. Prime Minister and yourself, Mr Speaker, have in a way contributed to the building of parliamentary democracy in this nation. We know that both of you would not tolerate the highest elected Parliament

whether the Speaker is aware that this broadly-based Government is translated by some Members to mean broadly-based assumption, presumption or imagination. In the Eastern regional constituencies where this Bill is going

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ensure that the local sugar industry does not suffer as a result of the fluctuations of the price of sugar in the world market, and the measure which is now before you was imposed with this in mind. I have no doubt that it will have the support of the House.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): It is not my intention to go into any lengthy debate on this matter. The only point I would like to mention is that before our independence sugar was imported free of duty, but after our independence we imposed a duty of $2d$ per lb. which to-day we are increasing to $3\frac{1}{2}d$. This burden is always to be borne by the consumer. I should like an assurance from the Minister of Finance that this increase would stop at this. At the moment we do not know where the increase will stop.

I fully realise the Minister's intention of increasing the revenue of this country, but we would like to know the method adopted for revising the tariff on this type of item. We would also like to know the composition of the Board responsible for bringing suggestions and recommending classifications on the various types of items upon which the revision of tariff is decided. We do not know the composition of this Board.

Once again, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to help us keep the duty on sugar at $2d$ as it is at present and not increase it to $3\frac{1}{2}d$. I am not compelling the Minister to do this, but appealing to him to reconsider his decision because, as I have already said, the increase on duty has effect only on the common man.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): I think that the duty increase on sugar from $2d$ to $3\frac{1}{2}d$ is premature. I say this because according to my information, Nigeria eats the least quantity of sugar in the world and I am sure that this is because we do not have sufficient quantity of this commodity. I realise that the intention of the Government is to protect the local sugar industry, but I do not think that this is the right time for the Government to do this because this local sugar industry cannot provide sufficient quantity of sugar for the country. Why then should we increase duty on sugar and scare many poor Nigerians away from buying it? I think it is not yet time for an increase in the duty of imported sugar.

Along with that, what guarantee will the Government give that the locally produced sugar in this country will be a little cheaper than the imported sugar? We must learn from events of the past. Let us take, for instance, what happened in the cement industry, where we found that even after the duty increase on imported cement it was still cheaper to buy imported cement than the one locally manufactured here in Nigeria. The case of cement is not an isolated one, for the same thing happened in the tyre industry and some other industries. If the Government will make sure that the locally produced sugar will be much cheaper for the common man to buy, then this House can welcome the duty increase. Otherwise, I think the increase is premature because we need plenty of sugar for energy and I think sugar is the cheapest food for a poor man to buy and make *kunnu*, *fofoo* and also to drink *gari*. So I think that we should be very careful about the increase on the duty of imported sugar.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): It is not on every point that I always see eye to eye with the Minister of Finance, but I think that he has raised one point—the question of protecting local industries—on which I think most of us will be at one with him. But when it comes to the question of sugar, one would like to be assured that the local industries we want to protect will really produce sufficient sugar for the country so that there will be no question of pushing up cost of living. If the local industries will not produce sufficient quantity of sugar for us, then it will mean that there will be people who will buy locally produced sugar at a cheaper rate while there will be other people who will buy the imported sugar at a much higher rate, and this will only push up cost of living.

I do not need to quarrel very much about the duty increase on sugar because those of us in the weight of ten stones and above, like the Minister of Finance and myself, will be advised not to take a lot of sugar. But we must protect others who are not in that class.

Shettima Ali Mongono (Kanumbu-Ngan-zai): The desire to protect an indigenous industry is welcome, but at the same time I would like to appeal to the Minister of Finance to work in collaboration with the Minister of Commerce and Industry and assure us that both the quantity and quality of sugar produced in this country are satisfactory for home

consumption. It is no use protecting a local industry at the expense of the poor man in the street.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja south) : The first point I was going to make has already been made by the Member for Ijebu south-West (*Chief V. O. Onabanjo*), and this is the question of the quantity of the sugar produced in this country. We know the Minister of Finance very well. He is usually very thorough. We require him to give us an estimate of the tonnage of sugar produced in the Bacita sugar industry. I am sure that is the place the Minister has in mind where sugar is produced in this country.

In protecting locally produced sugar, however, we should be careful not to create a situation which followed a similar duty increase imposed on locally bottled alcohol in one of the companies in which the Government has some interest. I am thinking of the Nigerian Fermentation Industry.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ikeja south (*Chief Ogunsanya*) is the legal adviser to this company.

Chief Ogunsanya : I am not. I am not in any way connected with the company.

A similar imposition of duty was made, and after this what resulted was that similar goods coming from abroad can now sell well at a higher price to the detriment of the locally produced ones. I think that this is quite important.

The other aspect is that when duties are imposed like this on goods coming into the country, the Government in the past has been failing in its duty by not controlling prices. Unless there is effective price control the result is that the burden on locally manufactured goods which are not good enough anyway remains there, and people will prefer to buy goods from abroad at much higher prices.

I think that unless the Federal Government takes the added pains of seeing that sugar from abroad has a ceiling price, a control price, the really good intention of this Motion will not exist at all. These are the two aspects which the Minister of Finance must definitely look into.

Have we got enough locally manufactured sugar to meet the demand in the country and are we sure that this will not mean in the final analysis that the big firms trading in the country

are benefiting from the increase in duty? These are two very important questions. Anyway, I am happy that this time we have in this House some of our friends who had never been here before. I can see that two of them are looking at me right now and they are the Member for Ishan East (*Mr L. L. Borha*) and the Member for Ikeja Central (*Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi*) They represent the workers and if we increase prices they will come back to this House and plead for more pay. We do not want that to happen.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have spoken on this Motion and the points which they have made are well taken.

To reply to them briefly, I would like to say this. Unfortunately, for the first time, I am not armed with the statistics of sugar consumption in Nigeria but I want to give this assurance that I was aware of the fact that the Bacita Sugar Factory was to produce sugar in the North for Nigerian consumption. The production may not be immediately but we have to protect the industry to enable it to grow in order to give us sufficient sugar. I am informed that the sugar will be of the best kind so that we are not going to produce second grade sugar in Nigeria.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : On a point of information, the Bacita sugar industry is not going to produce enough sugar for Nigeria now. It is going to produce about half or three-quarters of the total consumption.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : That is not a point of information because I have already said that the Bacita Sugar Factory may not go into full production immediately, but that it is expected to do so soon.

The next point is the question of protecting the industry to the disadvantage of the ordinary man. This point has been well taken because I have been fighting against this myself and I do not mind hon. Members harping on this because we do not want to protect industries for the benefit of a few people.

First of all, it is our duty and it is my duty to see to it that local prices are not unduly inflated after the people have received due protection. Our purpose is to raise the standard of living of our people and if Parliament were to pass or enact a law to protect the

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industry, we should see to it that those who are trading on this type of commodity do not inflate their prices to the disadvantage of the man-in-the-street.

The question of price control is not a good measure because it drives the whole business underground and people will not profit by it.

Referring to the points raised by the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) and the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*), about the ordinary man drinking *garri* with sugar, I want to say that in Badagry there are lots of coconuts which will give people enough coconut water with which to drink *garri*.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 149 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 17th February, 1965, be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn sine die—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

Adjourned accordingly at three minutes to one o'clock.

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Q.=Question

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