

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN NIGERIA

(Formed by Chief S. L. Akintola on 1st January 1963; reshuffled in March 1964)

MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- The Premier—The Honourable Chief S. L. Akintola, M H A
 The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government—The Honourable Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, M H A
 The Minister of Finance—The Honourable Oba C. D. Akran, M H A
 The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General—The Honourable Chief B. Olowofoyeku, M H A
 The Minister of Education—The Honourable D. K. Olumofin, M H A
 The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources—The Honourable Dr S. D. Onabamiro, M H A
 The Minister of Lands and Housing—The Honourable D. Ogundiran, M H A
 The Minister of Home Affairs—The Honourable S. L. A. Fajimi, M H A
 The Minister of Information—The Honourable O. Adebayo, M H A
 The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare—The Honourable Chief J. O. Adigun, M H A
 The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs—The Honourable Chief S. A. Layonu, M H A
 The Minister of Health—The Honourable Dr J. O. Omitowoju, M H A
 The Minister of Works and Transport—The Honourable Chief A. O. Adeyi, M H A
 The Minister of Trade and Industry—The Honourable A. B. Bello, M H A
 The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development—The Honourable Chief J. O. Osuntokun, M H A
 The Minister of State (Premier's Office)—The Honourable Chief J. L. Tifase, M H A
 The Minister of State (Premier's Office)—The Honourable S. S. A. Adeniyi, M H A
 The Minister of State (Local Government)—The Honourable N. A. B. Kotoye, M H A
 The Minister of State (Agriculture and Natural Resources)—*The Honourable Chief J. O. J. Omokowajo, M H A
 The Minister of State (Agriculture and Natural Resources)—The Honourable Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye, M H A
 The Minister of State (Education)—The Honourable Ayo Ajibola, M H A
 The Minister of State (Economic Planning and Community Development)—The Honourable K. S. Adebisin, M H A
 The Minister of State (Trade and Industry)—The Honourable Chief S. A. Tinubu, M H A
 The Minister of State (Lands and Housing)—The Honourable C. O. John, M H A
 The Minister of State (Works and Transport)—The Honourable Chief E. B. Arowojolu, M H A
 The Minister of State (Health)—The Honourable Chief O. Olaitan, M H A
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Sir Olateru Olagbegi, The Olowo of Owo, M H C
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba S. O. Abimbola, The Oluwo of Iwo, M H C
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba A. Gbadebo II, The Alake of Abeokuta, M H C
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba S. A. Adenle, The Ataoja of Oshogbo, M H C
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba A. Adeleye II, The Elekole of Ikole-Ekiti, M H C

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

LIST OF MEMBERS

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abiosun, Mr J. O. | | Iwo South Suburban |
| 2. Adebayo, Hon. O. | | Ibadan South Suburban |
| 3. Adebisin, Hon. K. S. | | Egba Central I |

*Removed from the Regional Executive Council on the 20th of October, 1964.

Western House of Assembly Debates

MEMBERS—*contd.*

4. <i>a</i> Adedoyin, Prince A.	Ijebu-Remo South
5. Adedigba, Mr M. A.	Iwo South-East
6. Adegbenro, Alhadji D. S.	Egba South I
7. Adekeye, Chief A.	Ondo West II
8. Adekunle, Mr Y.	Ogbomosho South-East Urban
9. Adelegan, Mr S. T.	Ijesha Rural North
10. Adelodun, Mr I. A.	Oyo North-West II
11. Adenekan, Alhadji A. L.	Egba Central II
12. Adeniran Mr J. L.	Ibarapa West
13. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.	Oyo East II
14. Adesanya, Mr A. A.	Ijebu North I
15. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.	Ibadan Central East
16. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.	Oshogbo North I
17. Adeyi, Chief A. O.	Oyo South-East
18. Adibi, Mr N. A.	Ogbomosho North-East
19. Adigun, Chief J. O.	Ogbomosho North-West
20. Adisa, Mr A.	Ibadan South-East Rural
21. Aina, Mr V. A.	Egba South II
22. Ajibola, Hon. A.	Ibadan North-West Rural
23. <i>b</i> Ajimobi, Mr L. A.	Ibadan South Central
24. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.	Ibadan East Rural I
25. Akerele, Mr S. A.	Ekiti North-East
26. Akerele, Mr S. O.	Ife-Ila North
27. Akingboye, Mr A. O.	Okitipupa South-West
28. Akintola, Chief S. L.	Ogbomosho South-East
29. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.	Ikeja South
30. Akran, Oba C. D.	Badagray West
31. Aniyi, Mr I. O.	Iwo West I
32. Areola, Mr R. O.	Ekiti South-East I
33. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.	Okitipupa South-East
34. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.	Owo South II
35. Ashiru, Chief B.	Egbado South-West
36. Atolagbe, Mr D.	Ekiti North-West I
37. Awopeju, Mr J. O.	Ijebu Remo North
38. Babatola, Chief J. E.	Ekiti North-East II
39. Babayemi, Mr A. A.	Egb North-West
40. Bello, Hon. A. B.	Oyo Central II
41. Ebudedike, Mr F.	Badagr East
42. Elusade, Mr T. E.	Ife Town South
43. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.	Egbado North-West
44. Fajimi, Hon. S. L. A.	Ibadan South-East Suburban
45. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.	Ife-Ila South
46. Fashola, Mr O.	Ibadan South-West Suburban
47. Fawehinmi, Alhadji B. O.	Ondo West I
48. Fetuga, Mr M. A.	Ijebu Central East
49. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.	Oyo North-West I
50. John, Hon. C. O.	Oyo East I
51. Kehinde, Mr J. O.	Ede Ejigbo North
52. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.	Egba East II
53. Lana, Mr R. A.	Oshun North-East II
54. Lawal, Mr J. L.	Oshogbo South-West Urban
55. Layonu, Hon. S. A.	Ede Ejigbo South
56. Obadara, Mr A. O.	Ibadan North-West Suburban
57. Obisesan, Alhadji B. O.	Ibadan North-East I
58. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.	Egbado North-East
59. Odutuga, Mr J. A.	Epe North

a Elected into Federal Parliament on 30th December, 1964.

b Died on 3rd September, 1964.

Western House of Assembly Debates

MEMBERS—contd.

60. Ogundiran, Hon. D.	Ibadan East Rural II
61. ^c Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.	Oshun South-East II
62. Ogunyele, Alhadji Y.	Oshun South-East I
63. Oke, Mr E. O.	Ogbomosho South-West
64. Okeya, Mr S. A.	Ekiti South-East II
65. Olaitan, Chief O.	Ilesha Urban East
66. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.	Okitipupa North-East
67. Olaniyan, Mr B.	Ibarapa East
68. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.	Ilesha Urban West
69. Olukoju, Mr I. A.	Owo South I
70. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.	Akoko South
71. Olusa, Mr R. A.	Akoko North
72. Omitwoju, Hon. Dr J. O.	Ife Town North
73. Omokowajo, Chief J. O. J.	Okitipupa North-West
74. Onabamiro, Hon. Dr S. D.	Ijebu North II
75. Onasanya, Mr S.	Ijebu Central West
76. Opaleye, Alhadji Z. A.	Egbado South-East
77. Popoola, Mr D. A.	Oyo South-West
78. Orowole, Mr D. O.	Iwo West II
79. Ositelu, Mr I. A.	Ikeja North
80. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.	Ekiti North-West II
81. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.	Oyo Central I
82. Oyewole, Mr S. O.	Ibadan Central West
83. Sanni, Mr S. A.	Ibadan North-East II
84. Sobande, Chief O.	Egba East II
85. Sogbein, Chief S. O.	Egba North-East
86. Somotan, Mr A. S.	Ibadan South-West Central
87. Tifase, Chief J. L.	Ondo North-East I
88. Tinubu, Chief S. A.	Oshun North-East I
89. Williams, Mr C. A.	Epe South

REGIONAL MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Premier	The Honourable Chief S. L. Akintola, M H A
Ministers of State	The Honourable Chief J. L. Tifase, M H A
	The Honourable S. S. A. Adeniyi, M H A
Ministers without Portfolio	The Honourable Sir Olateru Olagbegi, The Olowo of Owo, M H C
	The Honourable S. O. Abimbola, The Oluwo of Iwo, M H C
	The Honourable Oba A. Gbadebo II, The Alake of Abeokuta, M H C
	The Honourable Oba S. A. Adenle, The Ataoja of Oshogbo, M H C
	The Honourable Oba A. Adeleye II, The Elekole of Ikole-Ekiti, M H C
Parliamentary Secretaries	Mr E. O. Oke, M H A
	Mr C. O. Olamigoke, M H A

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government	The Honourable Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, M H A
Minister of State	The Honourable N. A. B. Kotoye, M H A
Parliamentary Secretaries	Mr A. S. Somotan, M H A
	Mr J. L. Lawal, M H A

^c Died on 5th February, 1965.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Minister of Finance The Honourable Oba C. D. Akran, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr O. A. Akingboye, M H A

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Minister of Justice and Attorney-General The Honourable B. Olowofoyeku, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr K. O. Owonikoko, M H A

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Minister of Education The Honourable D. K. Olumofin, M H A
Minister of State The Honourable Ayo Ajibola, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr J. O. Abiosun, M H A

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources The Honourable Dr S. D. Onabamiro, M H A
Ministers of State ^aThe Honourable Chief J. O. J. Omokowajo,
M H A
The Honourable Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye,
M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr A. S. Sanni, M H A

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Minister of Lands and Housing The Honourable Duro Ogundiran, M H A
Minister of State The Honourable C. O. John, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr C. A. Willaims, M H A

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Minister of Home Affairs The Honourable S. L. A. Fajimi, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr S. O. Akerele, M H A

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Minister of Information The Honourable O. Adebayo, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Chief A. Borokinni, M H A

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare The Honourable Chief J. O. Adigun, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr I. O. Aniyi, M H A

MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs The Honourable Chief S. A. Layonu, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr J. L. Adeniran, M H A

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Minister of Health The Honourable Dr J. O. Omitowoju, M H A
Minister of State The Honourable Chief O. Olaitan, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary Mr I. A. Adelodun, M H A

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Minister of Works and Transport The Honourable Chief A. O. Adeyi, M H A
Minister of State The Honourable Chief E. B. Arowojolu, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary ^bMr L. A. Ajimobi, M H A

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Minister of Trade and Industry The Honourable A. B. Bello, M H A
Minister of State The Honourable Chief S. A. Tinubu, M H A

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Minister of Economic Planning and Commu- The Honourable Chief J. O. Osuntokun,
nity Development. M H A
Minister of State The Honourable K. S. Adebesein, M H A
Parliamentary Secretary ^cMr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa, M H A

a—Removed from Regional Executive Council on the 20th of October, 1964.

b—Died on the 3rd of September, 1964.

c—Died on the 5th of February, 1965.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. Oba C. D. Akran	Member
3. Hon. N. A. B. Kotoye	Member
4. Hon. D. K. Olumofin.	Member
5. Hon. Ayo Ajibola	Member
6. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
7. Mr O. Fashola	Member
8. Mr D. Atolagbe	Member.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Justice	Member
4. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
5. Mr J. O. Adeyemo	Member
6. Chief O. Sobande	Member
7. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
8. Mr Y. Adekunle	Member
9. Alhaji B. O. Obisesan	Member
10. Chief J. E. Babatola	Member
11. Chief A. Adekeye	Member.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Finance	Member
4. Mr D. O. Orowole	Member
5. Mr J. O. Kehinde	Member
6. Mr S. B. Aruwajoye	Member
7. Mr C. O. Olamigoke	Member
8. Mr J. A. Ajuwon	Member
9. Chief E. A. Fadayiro	Member
10. Mr J. O. Awopeju	Member
11. Chief S. A. Okeya	Member.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Justice	Member
3. Mr S. O. Oyewole	Member
4. Alhaji Z. A. Opal ye	Member
5. Mr C. O. Olamigoke	Member
6. Alhaji Y. Ogunyele	Member
7. Mr M. A. Adewumi	Member
8. Mr I. A. Ositelu	Member
9. Mr R. A. Olusa	Member
10. Mr D. A. Popoola	Member.

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Chairman (To be nominated by Executive Council)	
2. The Minister of Works and Transport	Member
3. The Minister of Trade and Industry	Member
4. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
5. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
6. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan	Member
7. Mr B. Olaniyan	Member
7. Mr B. Olaniyan	Member.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Chairman (To be nominated by Mr Speaker).	
2. One member representing Minority interest to be nominated by Mr Speaker.	
3. Mr K. O. Owonikoko	Member
4. Mr M. A. Adedigba	Member

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—*contd.*

5. Mr J. O. Adeyemo	Member
6. Chief S. B. Aruwajoye	Member
7. Chief O. Sobande	Member
8. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
9. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi	Member
10. Mr S. Onasanya	Member
11. Mr D. Atolagbe	Member.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

*a*Prince A. Adedoyin, M H A

*b*T. E. Elusade, Esq., M H A

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

S. T. Adelegan, Esq., M H A

WHIPS

Government Chief Whips	<i>b</i> T. E. Elusade, Esq., M H A
	R. A. Lana, Esq., M H A
Government Whips	J. O. Adeyemo, Esq., M H A
	O. Fashola, Esq., M H A

LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro, M H A

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr J. M. Akinola	Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr M. O. Onajide	First Clerk Assistant
Mr O. B. Okuboyejo	Second Clerk Assistant
Mr E. O. A. Soyeye	Hansard Editor
Mr S. A. Onadele	Acting Official Reporter, Grade I
Mrs W. A. Akinwunmi	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mr R. S. A. Akinrinmade	First Serjeant-at-Arms

a—Elected into House of Representatives on 30th December, 1964.

b—Elected Speaker of the House on 28th January, 1965.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 9.25 a.m.)

(pursuant to a Proclamation by the Governor published in the *Western Nigeria Extraordinary Gazette* dated 31st March, 1964).

(Mr Speaker in the Chair).

Whereupon, the First Sergeant-at-Arms, having come with a Message to attend His Excellency in the House of Chiefs.

The House went, and having returned—

PRAYERS

OATHS

The following took and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance:—

1. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
2. Mr I. A. Ositelu
3. Mr J. A. Oduwala
4. Mr R. O. Areola
5. Dr S. D. Onabamiro
6. Mr A. A. Babayemi
7. Mr A. O. Akingboye
8. Mr M. A. Adedigba.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to report that this House has attended His Excellency in the Other House at his request, and that His Excellency has been pleased to address a Meeting of both Houses. For purposes of greater accuracy and clarity, I have instructed that copies of the Address be circulated to Members of this honourable House.

The text of the Speech was as follows:

"SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

His Excellency, Sir Joseph Odeleye Fadahunsi, GCON, KCMG, Governor, Western Nigeria: Honourable Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly: Once again, I have very great pleasure in welcoming you all to a new Session of the Legislature. The last twelve months have witnessed a gigantic task of reconstruction in this Region, and, the great but pleasurable burden associated with efforts to accelerate the pace of economic development in this part of the Federation of Nigeria is still with us. Within the limits of our financial resources, the work of reconstruction which has been so ably started will continue.

One memorable event which has taken place since the last meeting of this august Assembly

deserves special mention. I refer to the excision of two provinces from the old Western Nigeria, namely: the Benin Province and the Delta Province, which have now been constituted into a separate State known as the Midwestern Region. As these two Houses of Legislature have, until the provinces were severed, been responsible for the administration of the area, no one could appreciate better what initial difficulties confront the Government now in charge of the Region. My Government did all in its power to assist the new Administration throughout its formative months, when it was the direct responsibility of the Government of the Republic. No one appreciated the magnitude of the help given, and the spirit in which it was so given, more than the leaders of the new Region themselves. We of this Region heartily congratulate all those who fought for the creation of the new Region on their achievement. My Government is pleased hereby to reaffirm that it will continue to co-operate with and support the Government and people of the new Region in all its legitimate aspirations in so far as it lies in its power so to do.

During this Session, the Recurrent Expenditure Proposals which will be laid before you for consideration and approval are bound to reflect some decreases, consequent upon the creation of the Midwestern Region. Hon. Members would recollect that as a mark of its goodwill and earnest intentions my Government at the crucial time agreed to the transfer of nearly one-third of the strength of its Civil Service to the Midwest Administration and to the shedding of certain assets and essential services in order to give the Government of the new Region and its people a fair start.

The strains associated with development will be evident from the Estimates that will be presented to you. The need for economy and all-round sacrifice is, without doubt, still imperative, if the much needed funds required for the further prosecution of our Development Plan are to be provided. It is true we have received assistance in money and kind from other sources, but the experience gained since the beginning of the Plan period has shown beyond any shadow of doubt that our salvation is largely in our own hands. The best help is self-help.

Hon. Members will recall that, last year, I hinted that my Government intended to examine the progress made during the first year of our current Six-Year Development Programme, with a view, if necessary, to re-arranging or modifying the Programme

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within the frame-work of the broad policies laid down in the Western Nigeria Development Plan (1962-68). I am happy to report that this exercise has been carried out in collaboration with the other Governments in the Federation. It is proposed to place before this Session a Progress Report on the Development Plan in respect of the financial year, 1962-63, with indications as to the trends in our economic and social development during the year 1963-64. Although this paper contains a lot of useful information, and may be a source of some inspiration, the trends in the economic and social development, which it shows, appear to have been overtaken by events. In fact, the whole of our Six-Year Development Plan, 1962-68, examined in the light of the new census figures, looks very much like some promise in the Old Testament which can only be fulfilled in the New. The whole plan calls for a drastic revision both at the Regional and the Federal levels. That does not, however, mean stoppage or curtailment of the current Development Programme. While the reviewing or the re-examination goes on, my Government will continue with the execution of the existing Development Programme.

The problem of unemployment, not only in this Region, but also in the whole of the Federation, is one that has come very much to the fore in recent years. My Government has not been silent over this issue. Consultations have been going on with the other Governments of the Federation and with the private sectors of business and industry. Expert opinion has been sought, and, in August 1963, a Regional Man-power Committee was set up to deal with all the man-power problems in this Region, including unemployment. The Committee's Report and recommendations on unemployment will be considered by my Government, and will later on be co-ordinated by the National Man-power Board with similar Regional Reports, and be considered by the National Economic Council in due course. Mass unemployment is a menace to peace and progress of the Federal Republic. It is not simply a Regional problem, but a national one. My Government is prepared to co-operate with all concerned in order to find a practical solution to it. There is much hope that, with the implementation by all Governments and others concerned, of the various programmes proposed in the Reports of the Man-power Committees, an effective national solution to the problems of unemployment will be found.

There are, however, certain aspects of the problems of unemployment which can be tackled on Regional basis. The question of unemployment comes up again and again just like the hydra-headed monster; but, for some time now, my Government has had under consideration the need for providing job opportunities for school leavers as well as for other unemployed persons in the Region, through the avenue of the Integrated Rural Development Programme which has to it both the industrial and the agricultural sectors.

The Programme has been designed with a view to promoting a balanced development of urban and rural areas and it is hoped through it to dam the rapid population drift from rural to urban areas. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development is the co-ordinating Ministry for this Programme but the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources and of Trade and Industry are responsible for the implementation of the schemes within the agricultural and industrial sectors. This implementation will necessitate the establishment of thousands of young farmers on agricultural holdings of their own during the first year of operation. My Government has gained considerable experience during the last few years of the operation of the Farm Settlement Scheme. This experience has shown that the main object we had in view originally could be achieved much more economically than was previously thought possible. The number of young men and young women, for whom the integrated rural development programme caters, would be tremendous. The potentialities of the scheme are, indeed, great. The marriage between Agriculture and Industry distinguishes the rural integrated development from its predecessor, the farm settlement.

Considerable propaganda has been conducted in various parts of the Region, and Local Authorities have been requested to make free offers of land for the schemes. I am pleased to inform hon. Members that the response all around has been overwhelming; about twenty-eight sites in different parts of the Region have been inspected by the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to determine their suitability; machinery has been bought and tractor operators have been trained. This, it is expected, will facilitate the use of mechanical equipment for the heavy operations of land clearing and preliminary soil cultivation. Two of the sites already inspected are now at an advanced stage of development.

The Eruwa Scheme Project was launched a few weeks ago with fifty young farmers who

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

had been recruited from Ibarapa District. The second project to be launched in the very near future is expected to be at Erio in Ekiti Division. By the time the agricultural sector of the Programme has been operating for five years, it is estimated that several thousand young farmers would have been established on their holdings and a firm foundation would have been laid, not only for increasing the employment opportunities for the generality of young school leavers, but also for solving our complex agricultural development problems.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is responsible for implementing the schemes within the industrial sector of the Programme. Already, plans are well advanced for launching the School Uniform Project amongst other small scale industries. Within the framework of the present policy for free primary school education, the wearing of school uniforms is not compulsory, nor is it intended to be so. But experience of the last few years has indicated, however, that virtually all schools, with over one million pupils, in fact, voluntarily prescribe some kind of uniform or other for their pupils. It is an unhappy reflection upon our ability for planning that practically all the materials with which these uniforms are made are imported from abroad. By producing the materials in the Region, we would offer the people a new opportunity for employment. Therefore, the Government has organised and systematised the production of school uniform on broadloom by local weavers. It is envisaged that when the project is in full swing, the weaving sector will provide employment for over 10,000 young school leavers. The Tailoring and Spinning Sectors are still under review.

Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of our economy. The efforts to modernise our agricultural methods and to increase production are still the dominating features of the activities of my Government.

Research is also an important aspect of our agricultural work. The Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources continues to devote considerable time to the search for better and higher yielding crops as well as to the introduction of new crops and more efficient methods of production. Crop protection research, and soil survey activities, are being intensified. Our research activities require the services of highly trained specialists. So far, it has not been possible to recruit and train enough Nigerians for this work. My Government, however, has been fortunate to obtain the

services of a good number of specialists from the United States Agencies for International Development, and the United Kingdom Department of Technical Co-operation, while our own men are being trained at various local and overseas Universities. We need to be grateful to various agencies for technical assistance, particularly those belonging to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, not only for providing us with specialists for various purposes, but also for providing facilities for training our men who can replace their own men in the future.

My Government's policy to attract young and able-bodied literate men into farming continues to be vigorously pursued. Two of the existing five Regional Farm Institutes are located in the new Midwestern Region, thus leaving three in the present Western Region in the following places, Ilesha, Ikorodu and Odeda. About 600 trainees were in residence in the three Institutes in the West during last year. Of this number, 300 completed their training in December 1963, and are now being settled on the various Farm Settlements. About 300 new trainees have been recruited and have reported at the three Farm Institutes, thus bringing the number of prospective farmers who are in training at these Institutes to about 600.

A considerable amount of progress has been made in the establishment of Farm Settlements. The acreage of all types of permanent crops now established on fifteen of these settlements is over 10,000. This is about double the total acreage established a year ago. The number of settlers has also increased from about 800 a year ago to about 1,200 at the beginning of 1964. Villages are being established according to plan on the Farm Settlements; the wives and other members of the families of the young settlers are joining them; co-operative shops have been established on some of the settlements in order to facilitate the purchase of essential goods, and, thus, new communities are being established, so to speak, out of the wilderness. By this means, my Government is helping to provide the youths with employment, to increase food production for the generality of the people, and to check, if not to arrest, the exodus of young men from rural to urban areas. My Government intends to intensify these activities in the near future on a prodigious scale.

The benefits of mechanisation continue to offer much attraction to farmers in various parts of the Region. Groups of farmers now farm contiguous areas of lands which are promptly stumped to facilitate the mechanical

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cultivation of crops like tobacco, maize and rice in parts of Oyo and Oshun Divisions; but by far, mechanisation has made the greatest impact on the arable settlement.

There is such a large area of uncultivated land in the Region that our people could afford the luxury of shifting cultivation. Nevertheless, farming in the immediate vicinity of towns and villages is becoming the constant practice. The outcome of this type of farming is that the length of fallow becomes progressively shorter and soil fertility poorer and poorer. Such situation results in the danger of soil erosion.

Although it is not a universal problem, there is no doubt whatsoever that on the light sandy soil of our derived Savannah in Oshun and Oyo Divisions, it is felt that erosion will soon become a problem unless properly attended to. This is particularly true wherever large acreages of land are being brought under cultivation as is happening on arable settlements in these two Divisions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has, therefore, initiated soil conservation measures in these areas. On the Ogbomosho Farm Settlement, twenty-five miles of level terraces and nine miles of graded terraces have been constructed and vegetated; 840 acres of contour farming and contour strip cropping have been established. About 6,000 linear feet of waterways have also been constructed and vegetated. On Ilora Farm Settlement, on the other hand, thirty-seven miles of level terraces had been constructed and vegetated. One thousand acres of contour farming and contour strip cropping had also been established. The result of this soil conservation measure has been astonishing, as judged by the increasing yields of crops being obtained on these two Settlements. It is hoped that this successful experimental work at Ogbomosho and Ilora will lay the foundation for a Soil Conservation Service which will be extended to the whole of the Region.

The Extension Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources continues to do very valuable work. The officers of that Division are always trying to ensure that adequate quantities of staple food crops are produced in the Region. In spite of the unprecedented flood which took place last year, hon. Members will be relieved to hear that food crop production has not suffered.

Nearly 3,000 acres of the new variety of cotton *Allen 26 J* were cultivated in the Region this last year. The yields therefrom,

were, on the average, very good indeed. It is hoped to double or even triple this acreage in the coming year, and, in a few years' time, it should be possible to produce all that is needed not only for local industries but also for export. There is every incentive for the growing of this type of cotton. The need for it is great. There are local as well as foreign markets for it. My Government is prepared to give every encouragement and support to all the farmers who are prepared to enter, either in a big or modest manner, into the field of cotton production. Unemployment need not be on the scale we complain of, if, and only if, our people, especially all our young men, are prepared to take full advantage of all the opportunities available to them. Here is a fruitful field for gainful employment.

The low level of protein nutrition in this country is so well-known that efforts are being made not only to increase the production of protein-rich food crops, like beans and other legumes, but also to expand and develop our animal protein resources. The cattle fattening scheme in Northern Oyo division is an attempt to convert unimproved savannah pastures into highly nutritious protein foods in the form of prime beef.

The most significant contribution so far made towards the solution of our problems of protein deficiency is in the production of poultry. The hatchery capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been expanded tremendously to facilitate the production and the distribution of vastly increased numbers of day-old chicks. During the past year, about 170,000 chicks were produced from the Ministry's hatcheries. There are, at present, about 250,000 improved birds of all classes in the Region, and egg production has, as a result, increased from about 800,000 to 1½ million eggs every month. The Egg Marketing Scheme operated by the Ministry for the advantage of all private poultry producers has been put on a very firm footing. It is hoped that private poultry keepers will soon be able to form a Co-operative that will administer the scheme completely.

Progress has also been made with the expansion of the two urban dairies at Agege and Ibadan. *Young Jersey* milch cows were imported from the United Kingdom during the past year for the Agege Dairy. A pasturing plant was also installed at Agege. Thus for the first time in Nigeria, pastured milk is being produced and sold to the people in Lagos.

The 1963 wet season was characterised by abnormally heavy rains which resulted in the

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widespread disruption of communications, and, in several cases, in damage to property as a result of flooding. The effect of these heavy rains on agricultural production was variable; the majority of farmers experienced problems in the harvesting, drying and storage of early season food crops. These problems were due to the complete absence of the dry period which normally occurs in late July and August, and which corresponds with the harvesting period of crops such as early maize. However, losses caused by this circumstance were generally offset by increased yields resulting from generally good growing conditions.

Tobacco is becoming an increasingly important crop in the Region's agricultural economy. The Nigerian Tobacco Company has, over the years, steadily increased its purchases of leaf from growers in the Oyo, Oshun and Ibadan Divisions. In 1964, more tobacco than ever before will be grown by farmers supplying cured leaf to the Company. This Company's Chairman has stated that tobacco production for sale to the Company will be doubled in the next two years.

For some time, my Government has been actively investigating the possibility of exporting tobacco from this Region overseas. Investigations have shown that markets exist abroad for Western Nigeria grown tobacco. To take advantage of these circumstances, a new company, the Premier Tobacco Company, partly owned by the Government has been formed. This Company assists farmers to grow and to cure tobacco, purchases the cured leaf from them and then processes, packs and exports the leaf. The Premier Tobacco Company's development programme includes participation in all aspects of tobacco production, maintenance and export. Eventually the Company will produce cigarettes for sale in Nigeria. During its first year of operation in 1963, the Company purchased cured leaf and tobacco to the value of several thousands of pounds from farmers in the Ogbomosho and Northern Oyo Districts. This budding trade and industry promises to expand rapidly in the next few years, and in the interest of the farmers, my Government will give it every support that it deserves. This is another avenue of opportunity for the industrious youths of the land.

I make no apology for dwelling extensively on agriculture in this speech. There are people genuinely unemployed because they cannot find any type of employment; but there are those who are unemployed because

they are too choosy. A number of jobs are available which can satisfy the needs of many people. The truth must be driven home that we cannot all take white collar jobs and be clerks, lawyers and doctors; nor can people be employed in factories which have not been built. But many of those unemployed can be of use to their communities and to themselves if they would seize the opportunities which agriculture offers. It is often said that if you cannot have what you want, you must be satisfied with what you have. The problem of unemployment will be greatly reduced if our youths could devote their energy to available opportunities on the land, rather than wasting a good deal of time and energy upon opportunities which do not exist and may not exist for many more years to come. A bird in the hand is worth much more than two in the bush. I appeal to the School Teachers, to Parents, to Religious Leaders and to all prominent people in the country to drive this point home to the youths of the country. There is nothing disgraceful in being a farmer. A good deal of honour lies in the creative use of one's hands. To be a farmer, however lowly, is at any rate, in my opinion, better than to be a loafer.

The 1962-63 cocoa year ended last August. During the year, 177,000 tons of cocoa were purchased by the Marketing Board. This was rather less than was purchased in either of the two preceding years. In many ways, the crop was disappointing, particularly in so far as it was the first time for six years that there had not been an increase in purchases over those for the previous year. There was some evidence, however, that farmers held part of their crop against a possible increase in producer price for the 1963-64 season.

The heavy incessant rains in 1963 caused some concern for the current 1963-64 crop since such conditions are ideal for the development of black pod disease. However, the cocoa farmers of the Region, with the co-operation of my Government, adopted a rigorous plan of black pod control spraying, which has resulted in the current crop being larger than ever before.

Cocoa production in the Region has steadily increased in the last few years although it was feared last year that the flood might reverse the process. The superstitious, in fact, regarded the flood as a very bad omen for the Region. They even ignored the fact that the heavy rainfall of last year was universal. When the price of cocoa was increased by £5 per ton, based on last year's price, it was not generally realised that the Marketing Board was running a risk of having to subsidise cocoa by as much as £1 million.

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The Marketing Board, as an Agent of my Government, courageously took the risk, because it was believed to be in the best interest of the Cocoa Producers. It is gratifying to note that the fears of the prophets of doom have been proved to be unfounded, and that the floods have not resulted in adverse production.

The steady increase in cocoa production is the result of my Government's policies of subsidising the sale to farmers of planting equipment, improved varieties of cocoa, and of subsidising the cost of disease and pest control chemicals, the sales of which, in 1963, were 10 per cent higher than in 1962. The success of my Government's programme to increase cocoa production again illustrates the capacity of the people of this Region to take advantage of scientific development and up-to-date techniques, when they are acquainted with them and assisted to use them.

World production of cocoa beans has been increasing steadily over the past five years. It exceeded the 1,000,000 tons mark in 1959-60 cropping year. Although world consumption has also been increasing quite well during the same period, the characteristic time lag between production and consumption has created a situation whereby more cocoa seemed to have been available than the market could effectively consume. The result has been a steadily downward trend in world market prices. The situation became very critical in 1961-62 when world prices were as low as around £165 per ton, C.I.F.

Mr Government, in co-operation with many other Governments under the auspices of the Cocoa Producers' Alliance, whose membership comprises Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Camerouns and Togo, and under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Cocoa Study Group, has tried to find some permanent solutions to the imbalance in the cocoa trade. Four meetings of the Cocoa Producers' Alliance were held in Lagos, Camerouns, Trinidad and Geneva to discuss a common marketing strategy to be adopted, in order to sustain prices at more remunerative levels, and to crystallise the general attitude of producers at various F.A.O. Cocoa Study Group meetings. Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Chairman of the Western Region Marketing Board attended all these meetings.

One meeting of the F.A.O. Cocoa Study Group was held in Trinidad, between March

and April 1963, to discuss a Draft International Cocoa Agreement for the purpose of stabilising cocoa prices, and thus reduce the prevailing extreme fluctuations in world market prices. This meeting paved the way for the holding of a United Nations Negotiating Conference on Cocoa Price Stabilisation in Geneva in September/October 1963. The Negotiating Conference was, however, a disappointment as both producer countries and consumer countries exhibited serious divergencies in their conception of what the minimum and maximum prices to be written into the Agreement should be. It is hoped, however, that the Food and Agriculture Organisation Cocoa Study Group will soon initiate action towards a resumption of talks for the solution of all outstanding problems connected with the Draft Cocoa Agreement. As usual, both the Chairman of the Western Region Marketing Board and an official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources attended the Conferences in Trinidad and Geneva.

The F.A.O. Cocoa Study Group also organised a technical meeting on Cocoa Grading in Paris in July 1963, with a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in attendance. This was with a view to evolving an International Model Ordinance that would govern the grading and standardisation of all cocoa beans entering into international trade. The publication in the United States of a revised regulation governing the importation of cocoa beans under the United States Food and Drug Administration was, of course, a strong argument for holding this meeting. The adoption of this proposed International Model Ordinance will necessitate the revision of our own Ordinance regulating cocoa standards, as, otherwise, our cocoa will not be admitted into the United States market. Our Ordinance has, in fact, been revised and very stringent quality standards are being enforced so that our cocoa exports will meet the prescribed standards written into the International Model Ordinance when it becomes universally adopted. My Government will co-operate with the cocoa producers of the Region in a manner that will assist them to comply with the new quality standards. It is in the compliance with these standards that the future of cocoa in Western Nigeria lies.

In pursuance of my Government's policy to improve the quality of the diet of our people, and to increase employment opportunity, efforts for the development of our Fisheries have been intensified. Some two years ago, there were only seventy-one fish

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ponds and reservoirs in the Region belonging to individuals as well as to communities, but, today, there are 105 of them, with more than a corresponding increase in fish production. It is my Government's aim to breed even faster growing species of fish than at present. Recently a consignment of carp, a fast growing and highly nutritious species of fish, was received from abroad. This will be reared and distributed to fish pond owners in the Region. The experiment in carp rearing has been a phenomenal success in other tropical countries. Its rearing will improve our food value as well as our economy.

Last year six new Veterinary Clinics were built at Agbor, Ilesha, Ogbomoso, Ilaro, Badagry and Agege. Six more will be built in various parts of the Region this year. These clinics facilitate very much the diagnosis and treatment of livestock diseases.

With the creation of the Midwestern Region, Western Nigeria was left with a constituted forest estate of 5,054 square miles out of a former total of 7,244 square miles. This has left a proportion of the Region's surface under forest cover in a slightly better position, as there is now 16.6 per cent of the Region as against 15.9 per cent previously under permanent forest.

The timber trade has remained fairly steady and my Government intends to take advantage of this to export a large quantity of timber. Our revenue from timber has increased considerably and should continue to increase if we apply the results of timber utilisation research, whereby it is hoped to discover more uses for lesser known timber found commonly in this Region.

Last year, a large area of our high forest was brought under management, and the greater portion of it was allocated to Nigerians to exploit. This is in keeping with my Government's policy of encouraging Nigerians with the necessary technical know-how, capital and experience, to be given a chance to participate actively in the exploitation of our forest resources, while, at the same time, protecting the interest of expatriate firms working in licensed forest areas.

My Government is, however, ensuring that all exploitations are done in a scientific manner and as judiciously as possible to ensure the maximum sustained annual yield of forest products as well as to maintain an equable climate in the Region. The large-scale planting of fast growing species of timber such as *teak*, *gmelina*, *idigbo*, *arere* and *opepe* on a plantation basis is also designed

to increase ultimately our revenue from forest products.

Although, proportionately, forest area has increased, as stated already; and, although we are devoting a good deal of energy to fast growing species of timber; the need is now greater than before, for a bolder and more intensive skill of regeneration, which will include the planting in suitable areas of even slow growing species of timber, like Iroko and Mahogany. In the coming year, my Government intends to lay emphasis on this regeneration.

My Government is happy to announce that the National Council on Health which was formed about two years ago is now well-established. Through this Council, all the Governments of the Federation now make proposals not only for the improvements of health services but also for the eradication of certain diseases from the country. The Council, hon. Members will be pleased to learn, has decided to launch an eradication campaign against small-pox and also a pre-eradication campaign against malaria.

A post-graduate school for public health nursing has been established. It is expected that during the next twelve months, the first batch of students will be passing out of the school. My Government will be too happy to make available the facilities in this school to students from neighbouring countries in West Africa.

The routine preventive and curative work against tuberculosis will continue. My Government has succeeded in recruiting some experienced tuberculosis medical officers who, during the coming year, will establish tuberculosis sub-centres in certain new areas of the Region.

It is not the intention of my Government to limit the benefits of preventive and curative medicines to urban areas. Arrangements would be made in the coming year for more health and medical facilities to be extended to rural areas. A healthy farmer is a great asset to an agricultural community like ours. It is the intention of my Government to provide him as well as his wife and children with medical facilities and expert advice on health, wherever he may be.

During the coming year, my Government, with the assistance of the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund, will be supplying better equipment to all the Rural Health Centres and to several of the Local Government Rural Health Centres. Vehicles will also be provided to enable these centres to run with a higher degree of efficiency.

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The creation of the Midwest Region, which resulted in the loss of the Leprosy Headquarters at Ossiomo, has set up new problems in Leprosy for my Government. Acknowledgement has to be made here of the tremendously valuable services being rendered by Voluntary Organisations in this field. All the facilities which they offer will still be inadequate having regard to the overall needs of the Region. A Government Regional Leprosy Hospital will, therefore, have to be established to supplement the facilities offered by these Voluntary Agencies. Meanwhile, in co-operation with the Agencies, my Government will continue to provide a Leprosy Service in as efficient a manner as is possible under the existing circumstances.

My Government is also giving active consideration to the extension of the asylum for lunatics at Lantoro in Abeokuta, where they will receive expert treatment. When the project is completed, it will be possible to provide accommodation and treatment for a maximum of 500 lunatics at any given time.

There is also the plan to erect permanent buildings for the Nurses' Preliminary Training School now housed in temporary buildings at Eleiyele, Ibadan. The erection of the buildings which is to cost £119,000 is due to start during this financial year.

Education still consumes a substantial portion of our recurrent and capital expenditure. My Government, whilst searching for ways and means of effecting economy by introducing more efficient administrative methods, and eliminating waste, will continue not only to maintain but also to expand all our public educational institutions and to raise their standards. The merger of our primary schools which took place during the last twelve months has resulted in greater efficiency. The all-round improvement now gradually being noticed in these schools is due to the employment of a greater percentage of trained teachers. My Government is determined to ensure that in the next two or three years, all our Primary Schools will have trained teachers. Despite the false alarm being raised in certain quarters from time to time, there is no intention on the part of my Government to abolish Free Primary Education. Educational opportunity up to, at least, the top primary level is, in the opinion of my Government, an inalienable right of every young citizen. It is a sin against humanity to deprive him of that right. Further, the creation of educational facilities for the youth is inseparable from the programme of the building-up of an informed

and educated democracy such as we intend for an emergent country like the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Post-primary Institutions in this Region, that is, Secondary Modern and Secondary Grammar Schools, number over 470 and 170 respectively. With this large number, and bearing in mind Government policy of providing a five-year Secondary Education for 10 per cent of primary school leavers, it is the intention of my Government to develop existing schools by expanding them and diversifying the courses offered, so that with the full co-operation of the Proprietors, they may, in the future, become Comprehensive Schools which will cater for all abilities and aptitudes, and so produce school leavers who are employable at all levels, and who have respect for technical education. Government's policy will, therefore, reflect preference for the expansion of existing schools.

My Government continues to give all necessary support and encouragement, both moral and financial, to the Authorities of the University of Ife, to enable the Institution to fulfil its educational functions, by planning to produce graduates of high academic standing, imbued with sterling character and high sense of discipline, who will become useful citizens, of whom this Region, and, indeed, the whole of our Republic, would be justly proud. My Government appreciates all the difficulties and handicaps which the staff and the students are currently having to contend with. It is, therefore, doing all it can to find the funds to enable the University to erect its own permanent buildings on the site acquired for it in Ife, and to move thereto as soon as possible.

My Government already has a plan for setting up an Agricultural Credit Corporation which will take over all agricultural credit activities from the existing Finance Corporation. The new Corporation will provide an expanded facility for supervised credit for all farmers, big or small, individual farmers, as well as those organised on co-operative basis. It is my Government's earnest hope that with increased credit facilities, our productivity on farms will increase by leaps and bounds, so that an improved standard of living for our farmers may be achieved at a not-too-distant date. This Corporation will be administered in full co-operation with the farmers themselves. To make this work, my Government has it, as part of its scheme for this new financial year, to strengthen its co-operative organisation, so that it may be better able to co-operate with the farmers in

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their effort to organise themselves properly. Since its object is to increase agricultural production, to raise the standard of living of the peasants, and thereby to strengthen the economy of the Region, it is the intention of my Government to have the farmers strongly represented on the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

My Government has it as its ultimate objective to end expatriate participation in the retail trade, which will then become the exclusive preserve of indigenous traders. The process to be adopted will involve immediate termination of expatriate activities in this field. An exception will be made, to begin with, for the Department and Super-market Stores, in view of the heavy capitalisation usually involved in such ventures, and, on the ground that the existing organisations will serve as a model by which indigenous traders could learn to improve their stores, while at the same time offering training opportunities for Nigerians in managerial and salesmanship techniques. Temporary exception will also be made in retail trade relating to technical goods, due to the fact that a wide range of such goods, apart from requiring skilful handling, normally need after-sales services, which are essentially of a specialised character. The goal will be to legislate against expatriate participation in the retail trade in its entirety, but it is considered that it will not be economically prudent to make a general application of the policy now until provisions, both financial and managerial, are available for Nigerian Businessmen.

It is the objective of my Government, in the field of industrial development, to raise the living standard of our people by increasing real income and providing more employment opportunities. My Government also intends to increase the national income by enlarging the productive capacity of the economy, so that funds may be available for further economic development. The foregoing intentions have been pursued very vigorously in the past year through the various agencies created for them.

In order to create in the country conditions for improving our balance of trade, and to provide employment opportunities for the men and women of this Region, we have invested in the development of Industrial Estates and entered into partnership with Overseas Companies in order to establish industries in certain parts of the Region. Whilst we do not grudge people of other Regions being employed by these Companies, we cannot be indifferent to discriminating

practices in favour of non-Westerners, which tend to defeat our own ends. It is, therefore, the intention of my Government to look more into this matter in the future and in the interest of the people of this Region to find an immediate remedy to this situation.

My Government, up to the present time, has financed directly either partly or in whole, over thirty industrial projects with a capital of over £6 million. In addition, about £4 million has been given out in loans to individual farmers and industrialists in the Region. During the past year, the negotiations for the establishment of a number of industries have either almost been completed or already finalised; among these are the pharmaceutical project, textile factory, the beer brewery and the guinness stout project. Negotiations with a number of overseas investors are still in progress for the establishment of Jute Bag industry and an Optical and Ophthalmic project.

One of the objectives which my Government hopes to achieve through its industrial policy and practices is to set up industries which will produce locally some of the articles that are being imported into the country, thereby producing employment opportunities as was stated earlier on, as well as technical and managerial skills, without which our independence would be meaningless. But, dear hon. Members, here I must appeal to you and, through you, to our people to develop the habit of savings as an essential pre-requisite to self-sustained growth of the country's economy. For this reason we should commend organisations like the Egba Investment Club. Through Savings and Investments, which many other communities have started to emulate, people develop stakes in the economic development of their country. It is the collective responsibility of all the citizens of the country to inculcate the habit of savings with a view to mobilising the maximum financial resources possible to promote development. It is an erroneous idea that the economic development of the country is the exclusive responsibility of the Government. Nor does it help, when every citizen makes it his duty to blame the Government for every economic ill. The economic development of Nigeria is the collective responsibility of us all, Government as well as individuals. Everyone has his own role to play. Every citizen of Western Nigeria through savings and investment clubs can bring about an economic revolution, and improved industrial change in the country. This is the time for re-thinking. Are we prepared to bear the burden which, independence, for which we fought so much, has

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imposed upon us? Political freedom, without economic stability, is a glorified serfdom. I appeal to you all here, in this honourable House, and throughout the Region, to rise up as one body and re-dedicate your lives to the task of making your country more economically stable, and our citizens happier and more contented.

Negotiations for the local processing of Palm Kernel and Cocoa, which are the main agricultural products in the Region, are almost completed. This offers additional employment opportunities for school leavers and places the Government in a position whereby it would realise more income from agricultural products, due to their enhanced value.

During the last Budget Meeting of this House the Report of the Coker Commission of Inquiry had just been published, and questions were being asked about the future of the Statutory Corporations involved in the Inquiry. The latest position is that the Government has appointed a Working Party comprising of senior officials who are to study the Report carefully and submit recommendations to a Committee of Cabinet Ministers. The Committee will in turn advise the Executive Council in regard to the re-organisation proposals to be adopted. The trend of the final recommendations at present under consideration is to divest the Corporations of as much political control and influence as possible, and to entrust their day-to-day running to the hands of officials who would not be political appointees. The same policy is being adopted with regard to the Subsidiary Companies and Committees under the corporations. Being commercial concerns, every step will be taken to ensure viability, and this is all the more reason why the administration of the Companies must be free from political interference.

A number of real properties in Lagos and Ibadan and other assets (*i.e.*, equity share in the Lagos Hotel Limited and the Lapal Properties Company Limited) were conditionally taken over by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board from the National Investment and Properties Company, Limited, in full and final settlement of liabilities totalling £10 million. The estimated annual rental from the properties, excluding the twenty-storey building at 8/10 Broad Street, Lagos and Ibadan precincts is about £300,000 annually. The total rent expected annually from all the properties acquired from the NIPC, when all the buildings are completed and fully let, is between £700,000 and £800,000 a year. This will, no doubt, improve the

position of the Marketing Board. The Marketing Board is, therefore, able to start all over again to rebuild its funds, which will be available for the use of the farmers, should the need arise in the future.

The Western Nigeria Marketing Board, as an Agent of the Western Nigeria Government, owns 3,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each (fully paid) in the National Bank of Nigeria, Limited, whilst £182,452 of the total authorised equity capital of the Bank of £3,250,000 divided into shares of £1 each are subscribed by a sizeable number of other shareholders. The Bank is thus a subsidiary of the Board, and the latter is very strongly represented on the Board of Directors of the Company, thereby being able to exercise effective control over the policy direction of the Bank.

Vigorous steps have continued to be taken since 1961, more especially during the past year, with a measure of success, to rehabilitate the finances of the Bank, to improve the quality of its personnel and *pro tanto* its efficiency, and to strengthen its competitive position *vis-a-vis* other Banks. Nevertheless, a considerable amount of reconstruction work still has to be done, and, in that connection, a number of drastic measures would probably have to be taken in order to create a firmer financial basis for the Bank's take-off into future posterity. It is gratifying that the Bank is now participating to a larger extent, and on a firmer footing than hitherto, in the financing of the country's primary products. The field from which the Bank has been able to draw its custom is also expanding with continuing improvement in the quality and the nature of the services provided by it. The alternative objective of my Government is to strengthen the Bank so as to assist young African businessmen, industrialists and contractors, with short or long-term loans, as the case may be.

During the past year, my Government examined the records of all Local Government Councils in the Region, and arranged for new management where it was found necessary to do so. A watchful eye will continue to be kept on the efficiency, honesty and dedication to service of persons charged with the responsibility of managing the affairs of these Councils.

My Government is committed to a programme of stabilising the finances of all Local Government Councils so as to enable them provide adequate services for the benefit of their respective communities. In this connection, it has been decided to refund to Rating Authorities the proceeds of tax

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collected in their areas, under PAYE, on incomes between £50 and £300. It has also been decided to improve the system of tax assessment and collection so that the incidence of tax evasion may be considerably less than it has been in the past. In the coming year, this new policy will be vigorously pursued, and in doing so, every effort will be made to insulate tax matters from party politics which has been one of the causes of ineffective tax administration in past years.

My Government will lay before you at this Meeting a Bill to amend the Local Government Law, Cap. 68, with a view to strengthening the hands of Rating Authorities to enforce tax collection from defaulters.

It is the settled policy of my Government to enhance the prestige and dignity of Obas and Chiefs. In pursuance of this, and by the Constitution which came into effect on the 1st of October, 1963, chieftaincy matters have been removed from the jurisdiction of the courts.

The Obas and Chiefs have expressed dissatisfaction with certain aspects of both the Chiefs Law, Cap. 19, and the Local Government Law, Cap. 68. It is the intention of my Government to set up a Committee during the year to examine these aspects in consultation with the Obas and Chiefs with a view to amending the existing provisions in so far as such amendments are compatible with the traditional dignity and status of the Obas and Chiefs and are not at variance with modern democratic concepts.

The Local Government Service Board has definitely found its feet in exercising the powers vested in it by law. During the next year, Deemed Customary Courts will be reconstituted as Customary Courts with new warrants. New Customary Courts will be established where such new courts are required and, furthermore, improved conditions of service for members of Customary Courts will be introduced. Hon. Members are well aware of the importance of Customary Courts as an arm of the administration of justice. It is, therefore, the duty of my Government to ensure that they have the respect of all people, and that justice is administered to all concerned without fear, favour or political bias.

Hon. Members will recall that a Fire Brigade Station was opened in Ibadan about a year ago. The Fire Brigade has proved to be a useful service, and during the last twelve months it has answered well over 200 calls from Government Departments and business

houses. My Government realises that it is essential that adequate fire protection services should be readily available in the other towns of the Region. Steps are, therefore, being taken to establish fire brigades in all parts of the Region as soon as possible. As a first step, a Brigade will be established in Ikeja during the coming year.

My Government continues to place great value on the training and the efficiency of the Local Government Police Force. For this reason, training facilities are provided at the Refresher School, Eleiyele, Ibadan, to which place the majority of our non-commissioned officers are sent. The training programme will continue until all members of the Local Government Police are properly trained. It is gratifying to note that the degree of co-operation between the Nigeria Police and our Local Government Police is very high. During the past year, the number of Police posts and detachments in the Region have increased considerably. A pilot scheme to recruit girls into the Local Government Police Force is being considered for Ibadan. This will eventually spread to the other parts of the Region if the experiment proves successful.

Hon. Members will be glad to learn that the School of Surveying in Oyo has now been re-organised for the training of students for Overseas examinations, and, in particular, for that of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in England. The School will be expanded during the coming year so that it may be possible to cater for students from other parts of the Federation. Topographical maps of Abeokuta, Ibadan and Colony provinces are now being drawn in Canada, under Technical Assistance arrangements. These are expected to be published during the coming year.

The Survey Division of the Ministry of Lands and Housing will continue to co-operate with the Federal Government, in connection with the mapping of the rest of the Region. As in the past, it will give priority during the coming year to basic surveys connected with Farm Settlements, Industrial and Housing Estates.

My Government will vigorously pursue its programme of planning and reconstruction of villages. Experience gained in research made into the construction of low-cost housing in past years will be put into practical effect. Construction of houses equipped with modern amenities will be encouraged in villages. In this connection, building materials and the necessary expertise will be provided by my

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

Government; and, the villagers concerned, who will be organised in convenient groups, will be expected to provide labour in the construction of the houses. Each house will cost as low as £200 for a two-bedroom *cum* sitting room equipped with modern amenities. The group will continue to function until a house has been built for every member of the group. Each member will repay in easy instalments, over a period of years, only the cost of the materials used in building the house for him.

Similarly, my Government will provide dwelling-houses at reasonable costs for workers employed in industries near to their places of work. In order that the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation, which is charged with the responsibility to increase the availability of dwelling-houses for acquisition by members of the public, and with the development and management of industrial estates in the Region, might be able to meet the increasing demands on its financial resources, its borrowing powers will be considerably increased.

Arrangements for the establishment of a Titles Registry in Ibadan have been in hand for some time. It is expected that these arrangements will be completed during the coming year. The Titles Registry will provide state guaranteed titles to land. This is expected to be an additional incentive to foreign investors and industrialists who may wish to establish in this Region. In addition, the creation of the Titles Registry will eliminate waste of money on litigations due to the dubious nature of some existing titles or to complete absence of any titles at all.

The memories of the catastrophic floods of 1963 are still with us. The damage that was done to Regional roads at that time has been estimated at well over £½ million. Much of the resources of the Ministry of Works and Transport during the coming year will be absorbed in the repair of the roads and the bridges damaged. The floods also affected the Ibadan Waterworks, and damages valued at £100,000 were caused. Active repair works are now being executed by the staff of the Ministry of Works and Transport. It is the intention of my Government to complete these repairs during the year.

Water supply projects often involve the construction of huge storage dams or gated barrages in order to guarantee the domestic and industrial demands of consumers throughout the year especially during the dry season when river floods are normally inadequate. Some of the existing water

schemes which have barrages or dams are Oshogbo/Ede, Abeokuta, Ikare and Oyo Water Supplies. The construction of the dam for Ogbomosho Waterworks was completed a few months ago.

During the next financial year, constructional work will commence on the proposed Water Supply Project for the City of Ibadan and the district of Aiyedade, including Ikire, Apomu and Ikoyi. This scheme is estimated to cost about £5.5 million. It will consist of a gated barrage, modern treatment and pumping stations, large diameter pre-stressed concrete raising mains, three five-million gallons pre-stressed concrete reservoirs and an improved distribution system. When the first phase of it is completed, the scheme will be capable of supplying nine million gallons per day. It will, after full completion, supply thirty-six million gallons per day. This supply will be able to cope with both domestic and industrial requirements of Ibadan.

Another important scheme to be commenced this year is the Shaki Water Supply Project which is estimated to cost about £0.5 million. A dam will impound the water required for Shaki, and, when completed, the supply will be capable of meeting the domestic as well as the agricultural demands of the people of the area. It will also be possible to irrigate crops such as cotton which is now grown extensively in the area.

Apart from the extensions of old water schemes, Badagry Water Supply will also be constructed during the year. Construction will also continue on the major projects for Ogbomosho, Ife/Gbongan, Ondo/Akure/Idanre and Ikerre Ekiti. On the completion of these projects, approximately 30 per cent of the population of the Region will have pipe-borne drinking water which will add immeasurably to the health standard of the population, and provide one of the basic needs for industrial development.

One important way by which my Government intends to strengthen the financial position of local councils and to help them to provide useful services for their respective communities is to assist in raising loans for the development of markets, motor parks and other revenue earning installations.

For the city of Ibadan, my Government has it in hand to give all possible help for the large scheme which the City Council has proposed for the development of Dugbe and Gege markets, for motor parks at the five main entrances to the city, for the building of an abattoir and for starting a municipal bus

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

service. The municipal transport scheme is a region-wide one which it is hoped to establish in all the important towns in the Region, in co-operation with the local councils of the areas. The scheme, as such, will not be in competition with road haulage schemes which link different towns and villages within and outside the Region. If efficiently run, the proposed municipal transport scheme will provide a much needed essential service, enhance the health of the communities and improve the general, social and economic conditions of the towns.

Planning activities continue with increased tempo for other Urban and Rural Water Supply Schemes in various parts of the Region. My Government is also taking active steps to establish a Water Corporation with the aim of improving maintenance standards and helping further expansion on Water Supply Projects throughout the Region.

My Government will consider, in collaboration with the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, a scheme for the extension of electricity to both Rural and Urban areas of the Region which do not at present enjoy this amenity.

Much has happened in this country and in the Region lately, which calls for some observation. In my extensive tour of Western Nigeria, I have found it as a fact that there is a common desire everywhere for unity and understanding. The people want to come together. They now eschew bitterness and recriminations. The clarion call is, therefore, for mutual understanding and brotherly love. The economic potentialities of our Region are great, and the resources which we can muster in order to realise these potentialities are immediately available. But, because of the discord, disunity and unnecessary strife prevailing among us, we have been unable to devote enough energy to the harnessing of our resources and to the enjoyment of the benefits of such efforts and labour that we have exerted ourselves to put up. Our losses in this regard are immeasurable, not only in our Region among ourselves, but also in relation to the people of other Regions who are able to work peacefully at home and at the Federal level, in order to improve their own lot, and to enjoy such amenities as they can have. I call for the unity of the people of Western Nigeria. Whatever grudges and differences some of us may be entertaining personally, should be subordinate to the desire for securing the unity, welfare and prosperity of our people. Of course, if we adopt the right attitudes to each other in our

own Region, only little effort will be required to cultivate true brotherly love and understanding with the people of other Regions. Yet, for the good of us all, and, to ensure the stability and economic prosperity of our Republic, no effort should be spared, for our part, in creating the right atmosphere for the pursuit and for the achievement of these conditions.

Hon. Members, such is my Government's programme during the coming Session. My Ministers are determined to play a worthy role in the affairs, not only of this Region but also of the Federation, and, I have no doubt that the people whom you represent will play their part in shouldering the heavy responsibilities which lie ahead of us. In the coming year, there will be ample opportunity for re-appraisal of old attitudes and for making necessary sacrifice for the unity and progress of our Region. I have no doubt that our people will rise to the occasion, and, that all of us will together join in the task of continued implementation of our Development Programme.

I now declare this Session open and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels".

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS

Mr N. A. Adibi (Ogbomosho North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

"That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address be formally presented by the Leader of the House and the Mover of the Motion".

His Excellency, Sir Joseph Odeleye Fadahunsi, deserves our heartiest congratulations for his Speech which was so ably prepared and eloquently delivered to the Joint Meeting of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly this morning. The Speech is first, among the best of its type, in preparation, quality, context and delivery, that I have ever heard, or read, for many years. It is highly objective, deeply thought-provoking, brutally frank and greatly challenging and is filled with bright hopes for the great future of Western Nigeria in particular and the Federation of Nigeria as a whole.

[MR ADIBI]

The picture of progress that His Excellency draws in reviewing the Government's achievements in the past, outlining its present aims, plans and policies in the light of our future goal in peace, progress, and prosperity is graphic and vivid enough for all to see, understand and appreciate. There are others, very few but unreasonably vociferous, who would refuse to see any good in others' achievements but their own.

In planning and achieving the good thing of life for the greatest number of our people, this present Government of the Nigerian National Democratic Party is second to none. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). The Speech is quite clear about this. There are, for example, sustained efforts to solve unemployment problems, which problems, however, are not peculiar to Western Nigeria alone; to improve continuously our trade and industries, to cater for the good health of our people and their social development; to improve the lots of our farmers of different crops; to improve our food production and nutrition; to enhance the glory of the office and dignity of our Obas and Chiefs; to improve the conditions of service of all grades of workers; to develop our Local Government Councils and to promote unity and understanding among the general populace of the Region. It is only a Government with good reflection and clear foresight, and which has the love of people it governs at heart, that can successfully plan and achieve for the people what this NNDP Government has been doing, and will continue to do, for many more years to come.

Mr Speaker, Sir, unemployment is a matter that agitates the mind of every one interested in the future of this Region as well as this country. This problem is receiving the serious attention it deserves from the Government. The emphasis is, rightly so, on land as the greatest single producer of our wealth. Back to the land we must go to get this wealth for our growth and development. The Government, in realisation of this, has introduced mechanised agricultural methods to make farming more attractive and profitable to many of our youths who, otherwise, may remain unemployed.

There are, Sir, Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes already established in the Region and, very soon, thousands of our youths will be gainfully employed. A new variety of cotton to be grown for domestic use and for export has been introduced; tobacco, maize and rice are being cultivated mechanically; efforts are made to increase

cocoa yields both in quantity and quality; encouragement is given to productions of poultry and dairy farming; co-operative weaving centres are being established all over the Region. All these, Sir, are bound to provide employment for thousands of our youths as the years roll on. Villages are to be planned and re-constructed to make them modern and attractive to country dwellers. All these go a long way to prove that the NNDP Government is fully alive to its responsibilities to the people and is vigorously pursuing its programmes meant to arrest and curtail unemployment in the Region. Surely, Sir, a Government with such progressive ideas and measures is worthy of thanks and praises from the people.

It is to be greatly hoped, Sir, that all of us should respond to His Excellency's appeal to school teachers, parents, religious leaders, the press and all, to help make our youths see the importance of agriculture in our daily life, and the wisdom in going back to the land. In this way can we encourage the Government to embark upon bolder schemes which will, in turn, help to further reduce unemployment, improve our wealth and raise our standard of living.

Our youths should also be encouraged to take to technical education. What our Region, and all other Regions for that matter, needs is to put things together or pull things apart in order to build, create and produce so as to make us really free, self-confident and productive to be able fully to utilise the immense resources of our land. We cannot afford to continue to suffer in the midst of plenty.

Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency, in his Speech solemnly called for the unity of the people of Western Nigeria. This appeal has come at a most appropriate time. With the creation of the Midwest Region, Western Nigeria becomes and remains a Yoruba Region. But the great pity of it is that Yorubas are divided and pulling in different directions with the result that we are rapidly going down from our former position of leadership and example. Not only that, we are losing a great deal of our fair share of the fruits of the Federation which we have all so strenuously laboured to build up.

Thanks to God that He has given us a leader who fully realises that unless we unite, the Yorubaland faces, in the near future, economic, social, and moral collapse from within. Should this happen, then it is good-bye for ever to the Yorubas as a race. Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Nigeria, is our man of the moment, the arch-priest of Unity. (*Government Benches: S.L.A.!*)

[MR ADIBI]

S.L.A.!) People say charity begins at home, we want a united East, a united North, a united West, and we can then hope for a united Federation of Nigeria. Chief Akintola went to every nook and corner preaching unity among the Yorubas. His labour is bearing fruits today. He finds an able assistant in the person of Chief Remi Fani-Kayode. (*Shouts of Power! Power!!*) He also has our respected Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran, and other members of the Cabinet as worthy lieutenants.

Mr Speaker, Sir, today the erstwhile UPP/NCNC Coalition Government has given way to a more united, virile, purposeful, dynamic and more progressive, Government of the NNDP. History is made today in Western Nigeria. The NNDP is unique, being the first of its kind in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Chief S. L. Akintola is, by the grace of God, the acclaimed leader of the new party that now controls the Government of this Region. He is our Abraham Lincoln in preserving the unity of the Yorubas in particular and of the Federation in general.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a new era has dawned for the Yorubas and Western Nigeria. There are others who will never want the Yorubas to unite as that will deprive them of the opportunity of receiving more than their fair share. To those people we would say: "if self-love and self-preservation can be considered as sin, then we are happy to be the most sinful". Yorubas are now united. People in cities, towns, villages and hamlets welcome the unity and greatly rejoice at it. There are glaring proofs that God himself blesses it. We shall immortalise the name of our leader and his able assistants. Generations yet unborn will sing their praises. The NNDP shall, by the Grace of God, grow from strength to strength. (*Government Benches: Amen*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to use the words of Abraham Lincoln, in his Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, to wind up my Motion:

'With malice towards none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work, we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds. . . .to all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations'.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor, for his Speech

from the Throne, so ably proposed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Ogbomosho North-East (Mr Adibi). In supporting the Motion, I must have to say that Western Nigeria is passing through a period of reconstruction.

In paragraph 6 of the Speech from the Throne, mention was made by the Governor of the problem of unemployment. I quote:

'Mass unemployment is not simply a Regional problem but a national one'.

The Government of Western Nigeria must be congratulated for the able way in which this problem of unemployment is being tackled. Job opportunities for school leavers are being provided through the avenue of integrated rural development programme, establishment of industries and the proposed launching of the school uniform project which will provide jobs for thousands of our young school leavers.

The Government of Western Nigeria must also be congratulated for its policy of encouraging Nigerians with necessary technical knowledge, capital and experience to participate in many fields of trades. For instance, a large area of high forest, which was brought under management by the Government, was allocated to Nigerians to exploit and easy granting of licences to indigenous produce buyers to buy directly and sell to the Marketing Board instead of being agents to foreign firms like U.A.C., John Holt, etc. In the produce trade, the Government of Western Nigeria must also be congratulated for the financial support given to the National Bank of Nigeria which, in turn, has been helping financially these indigenous produce buying agents.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to the question of Customary Courts in this Region, efforts must be made by the Government for the reformation and regrading of these Courts. I suggest that Grade C courts should exist and be charged with dealing only with matrimonial matters under native law and custom. All Grade B courts in the Region must be manned by legal practitioners and allowed to exercise appellate jurisdiction. Grade A courts should be allowed to exercise appellate jurisdiction. These reforms I believe will be both in the interest of lawyers and litigants.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in paragraph 86 of the Speech, the Governor mentioned the common desire of the people of this Region for unity and understanding. This has inspired me to say a few things about the political situation in Western Nigeria today. Critics of this Government have said, times without number, that the Government of Western Nigeria is

[MR OLAITAN]

unstable. This is an erroneous impression and I like to submit that political realignment in Western Nigeria does not mean the instability of the Government. Those whom it pleases God to put in power today are accredited representatives of their people. They were both duly voted for and elected by their various constituencies. I believe that the formation of the NNDP, which by the grace of God controls the Government of this Region, will foster a sense of unity and brotherly love among all the Yorubas. (*Cheers*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Party has been formed with the hope of uniting all the Yorubas and eliminating political bitterness in all its ramifications. I believe in the unity and progress of Western Nigeria. The newly formed Nigerian National Democratic Party must be allowed to remain to justify its existence and pursue this noble objective of unity. I honestly appeal to all, in the interest of our people, to sink all political differences, sense of frustration, feeling of failure to be in power, personal hatred, grudges and animosity and work together as a team to repair the damage done to our pride by the events of the last few years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the most outstanding achievement of the Government of Western Nigeria in recent times is in the careful handling of the Census issue and the controversy that followed it. In particular, the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, and his Deputy, Chief Fani-Kayode, must be congratulated for their shrewd sense of justice and their political maturity in the handling of the census controversy. If the census controversy had been handled in the way some puppet politicians had advocated, this Region again might have been thrown into another emergency, a political folly which could have brought untold sufferings to the masses of this Region and which could have made this Region a football to be kicked up and down in Nigeria's political field. No honest citizen of Nigeria is happy about the imbalance of power in Nigeria today. To my mind, the accuracy or non-accuracy of the census figures is not the chief cause of the imbalance nor is the cause of a tendency of one Region being too big as to be able to control all the other Regions, but the cause is the old colonial demarcation between Southern and Northern Nigeria. In the interest of unity our leaders must find a solution to this problem. Ways and means must be devised to give each Region proportional representation in the Federal Cabinet if this old colonial demarcation between the North and the South cannot be changed.

In concluding, I wish the Governor God's blessing and more successful years' tenure of office.

Question proposed.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move an Amendment to the Motion of Thanks. In so doing, I would like to ask that the words after 'House' to the end be deleted and the following words be substituted therefore—“regrets that His Excellency's Speech lacks concrete proposals for restoring economic stability to Western Nigeria which in the past used to be a model Government in West Africa”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one expects His Excellency the Governor to state his desire to see the new Government submit itself to a vote of confidence on the Floor of the House before it begins to make a plan for the administration of the affairs of the electorate of this Region. Otherwise the Government should have dissolved the House and sought fresh mandate before it could feel confident to cater for the welfare of the masses.

Mr Speaker: I should like to say at this stage that the Debate on the Motion for an Address would stand adjourned.

The Leader of the Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want you to make sure that each time we on this side want to make an Amendment we should be given the opportunity.

Mr Speaker: I am not ruling against the Amendment. What I say is that Debate on the Motion would not take place today until further notice.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that many of the Members on the Other Side of this House want to come over to us. I appeal to them to get up and come to this Side. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Chief Babatola: The point I am making is that the Government should either submit itself to a vote of confidence or to a free election before it can arrogate to itself the power to legislate.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I try an orthodox method by asking those on this side who support this Government to get up for all to see? (*Prolonged cheers as Members of the Government Benches stood up*).

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): This is not the time to do things by the orthodox way as the Premier has suggested.

It did happen within recent times that an hon. Member on the Government Bench swore by the dagger on one occasion, on the second occasion he swore by the key of his car and on the third occasion, the same man swore by the sole of his shoe but what happened? Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman proved perfidious in the most heinous and shameful way to his oath. (*Shame, shame from Opposition Benches*).

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: When a Motion of Thanks is moved by a Member on the side of the Government, what normally happens is that the Opposition may support or move an Amendment to it. That is the procedure in all Parliaments but I abide by your ruling, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Debate be adjourned so that people on this side of the House may have ample opportunity to speak on the Amendment.

Whether or not Members on the Government side like it, the inside of the Legislature is not the appropriate place to count on the support of the people. (*Interruptions*). We would have ample opportunity to test that in any other place. When my Friend, the Minister for Local Government, was on this Side, he had always adopted the method, particularly on occasions like this, when a Motion of Thanks is moved to His Excellency for the Speech from The Throne and I think we are here to do justice to all people. (*Interruptions*). This is not an occasion for jokes. When a serious business is before the House, I think Members on the Government Bench should be businesslike, should be manly enough to face the Debate. Why are they afraid of the power that we hold here? The power that we hold is brought about by the goodwill of the masses. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not prepared to cross swords with regard to the question of who has the support of the masses. The thing is this: when the time comes, whether my Friends like it or not, it will be the duty of the people of this Region to determine who actually should be entrusted with the power to rule them. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to have it on record that this is a serious moment for the Members on the Government Benches and as such they should think seriously before doing things. It is not enough to speak to the gallery. After all the Members of this House and all the people within the four corners of this House constitute an infinitesimal unit of the electorate of this Region and it is inappropriate that the man who holds an important position in the Government wrongly or rightly—I say quite wrongly—could get up and ask for support.

If that is the case let us get out and seek the support of the people. (*Interruptions*).

Chief S. L. Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand somebody said 'Ekeji Oye'. The fact, unfortunately, is that 'Ekin Oye' is not here, he is somewhere else.

May I appeal to my Friend, the Leader of Opposition, to be very careful; he should not try to twist the tail of a cobra. He started by saying that the feelings of the people of this Region should not be determined by the people within the four walls of this honourable House. Whereas, not long ago, only sixty-two people got together, under the cover of night, to determine the will of the people of this Region. Happily I have my witnesses on the Other Side. Only sixty-two people, including the Leader of Opposition, then wanted to determine the future of the people of this country. I demanded that this matter should be referred to the electorate. He refused and he got twenty-six people together, changed the figure to sixty-two, and was made Premier under cover of darkness. (*Prolonged laughter*). He is now trying to suggest that the electorate of this Region are the final arbiter. Who has ever denied that? (*Opposition Benches: Who made you the Premier?*) They did not make me anything. God made me what I am. Those who arrogate to themselves the right to make people what they are not are learning the bitter lessons elsewhere. I am surprised that the honourable Leader of Opposition was bragging about the masses. In the days of the Action Group, I was their mouthpiece. The fact is that even in politics some men have lost their sense of balance. (*A Member of Opposition: Yoruba Ronu*). Yoruba Ronu to follow a thief! Not Yoruba Ronu to push your leader to the gates of the prison and go back to your house to laugh. (*Prolonged laughter*).

You are making much of a play by a clannish comedian who is trying to twist issues. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I should like to listen to only one person at a time.

Chief Akintola: May I repeat again that those who asked us to go back to the masses should think twice. It was not long ago that my hon. Friend went to the Midwest to the masses. What did he win then? On the floor of this House recently we had fifteen out of thirty Members from Midwest. They went to the Midwest and even told us that out of sixty-five they were going to win forty-five. Out of forty-five what did he win? (*Laughter*).

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

When I became the Premier of this Region by the Grace of God, we won fifteen seats in the Midwest. Is your man a good or a bad man? When I was Premier of this Region, I met the strength of the Government then at about sixty and on the occasion that I went to the country as leader of the Government we returned to this House with not less than eighty Members. They better beware, this Friend of mine may be a very fortunate man in other respects, but most unlucky in politics. Has he ever won one election? (*Interruptions*). He is saying now that I will not come back here, he cannot be too sure. There was one man on this side before who never reckoned with God and we know where he is today. Nobody knows where I may be tomorrow, only God knows. (*Cheers*). Arrogance, unbridled impetuosity; all these things which they possess in abundance have carried them nowhere. They better devise a new way. By the Grace of God and the will of the people, when they talk of people outside, may I assure them of one thing, they may shout, they may clamour, do whatever they will, by the Grace of God and the power of the Constitution as vested in me, I am the one to determine when elections will be held. (*Applause*). It is not up to these people to dictate to me when to dissolve the House. Any time I dissolve the House some people entertain the hope of coming to power. On what manifesto? The manifesto of the N.I.P.C.? The Article of Association of the N.I.P.C.? Do they think the people are fools?

Mr Speaker, may I, Sir, talk in confidence with my good Friend, the Leader of Opposition. He was with me before but he deserted me and left me alone. How many of these people on the Other Side will follow him tomorrow? He thinks they are with him (*Laughter*). All the people on this Side cannot be bought. Only those who are there can be bought. All these simple people cannot be bought with money provided by the NIPC? May I say clearly, they should not waste their time thinking of an election since the life of the present Parliament lasts up till next year August. (*Cheers*). I, within my power, whenever I want to dissolve the House, will do so by the guidance of God at a time when they will score nothing. (*Prolonged interruptions*). He wants to win all the people. He is a worthless generalissimo and an unfortunate general and his followers had better desert his army because he will score nothing. Let them not deceive themselves, there will be no election until we have completed the work of reconstruction of this Region. (*Cheers*).

(*Debate on the Motion for an Address adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 3rd April, 1964.*)

Standing Orders

Copy presented of the Draft Standing Orders of the House made under section 28 (1) of the Schedule to the Constitution of Western Nigeria Law, 1963 (No. 26 of 1963)—*Ordered to be printed.*

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Free Passage to the House for Members

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House prays His Excellency to give directions that the Commissioner of Police shall keep, during this Session of the Legislature, the streets leading to the House free and open and that no obstruction shall be permitted to hinder the passage thereto of Members of the House.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee of Selection: New Members

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that hon. N. A. Adibi, hon. O. Fashola and hon. D. Atolagbe be members of the Committee of Selection.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn—(Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.20 p.m. until tomorrow, Friday, 3rd April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.10 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order (4) 2

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment until Monday, 6th April

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that at its rising this day, the House shall adjourn until Monday, 6th April, 1964.

On that day we are going to have visitors here so I implore Members to be here promptly so that the Business of the House can start at 10.00 a.m.

Dr S. D. Onabamiro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF BILLS

1. The Fire Services (Amendment) Bill;
2. The Customary Courts (Amendment) Bill;
3. The Interpretation Law (Amendment) Bill;
4. The Sheriff and Civil Processes (Amendment) Bill;
5. The Produce Tax (Amendment) Bill;
6. Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill;
7. The Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill;
8. The 1964-65 Appropriation Bill;
9. The 1963-64 Supplementary Appropriation Bill;
10. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill;
11. The Western Nigeria Housing Corporation (Amendment) Bill.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Finance:

(i) *Local Government*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law—Cap. 68: read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the Meeting.

(ii) *Casinos*—A Bill for a Law to make provision for the Licensing and Regulation of Casinos, for the imposition of Tax on Revenue from Casinos, in Western Nigeria, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith: read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the Meeting.

(iii) *Money Lenders*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Money Lenders Law—Cap. 78, read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the Meeting.

2. By the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:

(i) *Administrator-General*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Administrator-General's Law—Cap. 2: read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the Meeting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on Question (2nd April):

'That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition'.

Question again proposed.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday I moved in this honourable House the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne to the effect that the words after 'House' to the end be deleted and the following words substituted therefor:

'regret that His Excellency's Speech from the Throne lacks concrete proposals for economic and political stability in Western Nigeria which in the past used to be a model throughout West Africa'.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall impose on myself a restriction on the claim of the Governor with regard to the economic efforts of the

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Government. But I like to pose an amusing question, that is, did His Excellency refer to the late UPP/NCNC coalition or the newly born NNDP Government which has done nothing yet?

Be that as it may, I shall proceed. His Excellency speaks of "efforts to accelerate the pace of economic development" and says that "the work of reconstruction.....has been ably started". Mr Speaker, Sir, unless words have lost their meaning, I cannot see any evidence of economic development in this Region these past two turbulent years. May be His Excellency, in a light mood, played with words and wanted us to understand him by construing the imperative words to be their opposite. If so, "economic development" would then mean "economic retrogression" and the "work of reconstruction" would be interpreted to mean the "work of destruction".

Sir, every organised aspect of human life and activity has its postulates, and economic activity is not an exception to this rule. Are we, Sir, to accept as the basis of economic development in Western Nigeria an instability of the political set-up—a set-up which gave the Region an Emergency Administration, then an unelected UPP/NCNC regime now followed by a band of political careerists who go together under a borrowed and ill-suited name of "Democratic Party"?

Secondly, Sir, are we to agree that a Government, that dismissed wholesale all the elected local government councils only to replace them with care-taker committees of servile, corrupt and inexperienced persons, has provided an environment conducive to economic progress?

Or, thirdly, Sir, is it a prerequisite of economic development to divide the forests of the Region between two parties in coalition and corruptly award concessions of timber so that pockets of certain Members of the Government are enriched while the people, the electorate, are impoverished especially by the hasty large-scale exploitation of their forest resources? The efforts of the Government over the last fifteen months have been towards economic ruin rather than development.

Fourthly, Sir, all civilized societies agree that when people are driven to work like slaves, or under the spell of fear, they hardly can give conscientious and enduring service. What they give is a soulless service. For nearly two years now the people of this Region have been called upon to give loyal co-operation to unelected regimes. First

to Majekodunmi's Arbitrary Rule which sent people to restriction without even a mere pittance to keep body and soul together.

Mr Speaker: On point of Order. I don't think we should attack Majekodunmi in this House.

Chief Babatola: I have not spoken of Majekodunmi in isolation. I have linked him with the Emergency Administration. I only use the name as an epithet.

Mr Speaker: I think you can attack the Emergency Administration without mentioning the name of Majekodunmi. Will you please withdraw that name?

(Shouts of 'withdraw! withdraw!') from Government Benches).

Chief Babatola: As I have said I am attacking the Emergency Administration

Mr Speaker: Will you then please withdraw the name of Majekodunmi?

Chief Babatola: I withdraw the name of Majekodunmi but I still refer to the Emergency Administration.

The minority Government of two incompatibles then succeeded to the chaotic heritage of that illegal Emergency Administration. All the efforts of that Government were directed to buying weak Members into their fold until a majority was secured. Then followed internal intrigues in the Coalition set up. A solution was only reached last month when a new party arose from the Coalition to constitute the present Government with a reduced majority.

Mr Speaker, Sir, such circumstances of instability, of constant change, of intrigues and of unrest of mind on the part of the leaders of Government, do not constitute a healthy climate or give an assurance of economic development.

In paragraph 6 of the printed Speech, the problem of unemployment is referred to. This Region, more than any other, has been plagued with unemployment during the last two years. Retrenchment of local government workers has taken place at an unprecedented scale. This is largely due to the maladministration of public funds by the inexperienced members of caretaker committees. Even at the Regional level some laying-off of productive workers has taken place in favour of quislings who uselessly subserve the end of an unpopular regime.

These then are my grounds for the rejection of the claim of economic development made by His Excellency on behalf of his Government.

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

First, that the political life of the Region has been one of unsettlement and therefore could not have supplied a basis for development and/or re-construction for that matter.

Secondly, that large-scale malicious dismissal of local government workers could not have helped the economy at that level especially because the new hands employed in their stead were raw and unskilled.

Thirdly, that the forest resources, particularly timber, have been badly and corruptly exploited to the impoverishment of the tax-payers.

Fourthly, that a frequent change of unelected Administrations, none of which has ever done more than to search for its selfish-self-interest and self-security to the detriment of public wealth, could not have been a postulate of progress or development.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall leave the other tales of woe to many other people who have seen or experienced the high-handedness of a Regime that over-emphasises the power element of politics to the utter exclusion of the element of morality without which no Administration can claim to be democratic. Such matters as the administration of the Customary Courts, assessment of taxes and rates, appointment and deposition of chiefs, award of Government and local government contracts, award of scholarships out of public funds and Government's relationship with the University of Ife are matters over which the present Regime has incurred the disaffection of the general public.

Public morality has been set at naught. Public conscience has been wronged. There is no health in this Government and there is no hope of its ever becoming democratic. (*Government Benches: Aluko!*) (*prolonged laughter*). The only way to recovery and the only way to economic reconstruction and development is a dissolution of the Houses of Legislature and the exercise of the democratic right of election by the people. May God grant that, even at this eleventh hour, the usurpers of political power and authority may heed this call for dissolution or election.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): I beg to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne.

In doing so I wish to point out that His Excellency has omitted several important events which took place during the past year. It is on record that it is Chief Akintola's Government that is the first to

reverse the decision of the highest court of the land. When Alhadji Adegbenro won his premiership case before the Privy Council, a court where Chief Akintola had no influence to wield, Chief Akintola proceeded to amend our Constitution in order to make it possible for him to remain in office. He had not the required majority for such an Amendment in the House but the NPC Federal Government aided him to remain in office in spite of the ruling of the Court. One is not surprised at the support given to Chief Akintola by the leader of the NPC. Chief Akintola is on a special assignment of the NPC in the Western Region of Nigeria. We of the Action Group tried to challenge the validity of this Law in the High Court of Ibadan but up till today the case has not been listed for hearing by the responsible Court. It will be interesting to note that it is this same court that gave a ruling on an injunction brought by two expelled Members of the Action Group that accredited officers of the Action Group should not operate the Party's Account. Up till now the actual case has not been listed by this court for hearing. Everyone knows what has been the rewards of those who have helped Chief Akintola to fight the Action Group.

Mr Speaker, there is another point which I will like to touch in the Speech from the Throne. This is the appeal that school leavers should go back to the farm. I am not against people going back to the farm but what surprises one is that although Chief Akintola sends his own son to the most expensive college in the world, he wants other people to send their own children to the farm. Charity, people say, begins at home. Those in the Government should lay examples for others to copy. It is very easy for Chief Akintola to ask school leavers, after spending about fourteen years in school, to go back to the farm. This is an evidence that Chief Akintola wants the children of poor people to be drawers of water and hewers of wood for his own children. The people of this Region will now know that Chief Akintola and his NNDP members are their enemies.

The Government should have been busy pursuing a bold industrialisation scheme whereby school leavers can gain employments. There are still many sources to be tapped in the industrial field in the country. The Government will require a huge sum of money to finance any industrial venture but instead of the Government using the tax-payers money to create employment opportunities for the school leavers, this Government has embarked upon building cocoa stores costing over £2,000,000 at the industrial area of Ikeja. What Ikeja people want is not a cocoa store

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but more factories that will provide jobs for them. We don't need a cocoa store.

On the Census issue, although the Western Nigeria Government has accepted the figures as correct, up till now the details have not been made public. I am informed that a Committee set up by the NNDP is busy inflating the figures for certain areas and reducing figures for areas where the Party feels it cannot make an inroad. I am informed that Ijebu, Colony and Ondo Provinces' figures are being drastically reduced. I want an assurance from the Government that this is not so.

The leaders of the NNDP shout loudest about Yoruba unity but how can we achieve that unity when the Ijebus are treated as unwanted people in the Western Region? Since the return of Chief Akintola to the West early in 1963 the Ijebus, both in the Civil Service and in the Corporations, have been subjected to mass dismissals from the Boards and Corporations and those in the Civil Service have been denied their rights. Do all these make for unity?

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the only Ijebu man in the Cabinet, is not interested in the Ijebus. His only concern is to retain his portfolio so that he can continue making money on the allocation of forest reserves, but posterity will surely curse him.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Point of Order. Standing Order 27 (5) "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House".

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources is a Member of this honourable House and I see no reason why the hon. Member for Ikeja should continue to use offensive language about him.

Mr Speaker: Standing Order 27 (5): "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House". I do not know how offensive or insulting the language of the hon. Member has been in connection with references to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and, as such, I give him the benefit of the doubt. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

On the other hand, I refer to Standing Order 27 (6). "No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member". The hon. Member for Ikeja has imputed improper motives to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the discharge of his duty. I therefore call on the

hon. Member to withdraw the imputation of motive.

Mr Ositelu: In compliance with the Speaker's ruling, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker, I support the Amendment.

Amendment proposed.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Motion and against the Amendment.

Before I go on with my speech I want to call the attention of Members of this House to one or two insinuations that have been made about this Side of the House by the Other Side. Many people, and even some of the people sitting opposite, have said that many of us here were bought with money or that we are traitors. Mr Speaker, Sir, we were together for a very long time and we all knew how things were done. I remember they said that we decided not to come to any agreement with the other party because we got £4 million from the NPC and it was further said that I shared about £150,000 from the money. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would, however, object to any insinuation directed to me because I went and agreed with my people before I took any decision. I do not want to mislead my people by following any political party foolishly. I am on this Side of the House because I want happiness and progress for my people and the Region as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech which was ably presented by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Joseph Odeleye Fadahunsi. The Speech was well delivered and every one of us, I mean those who have the progress of this Region at heart, will support it wholeheartedly. Ever before Sir Odeleye was made Governor he has shown the ability to lead in his home town, Ijesha, and also in some parts of the Federation. Since he was made the Governor about a year ago, that is since the beginning of the reconstruction work in this Region, the Region has gained a lot of experience and advice from him.

On the problems of unemployment, I think my Government deserved to be praised for its bold step. I, myself, have interest in Agriculture and I keep poultry and I employ two boys who passed out of Modern Schools to be looking after my birds. I think in this way I am helping to reduce unemployment in the Region and if everyone of us can follow this type of example we shall be helping to reduce unemployment.

The next thing I want to direct attention to is the question of Tobacco growing in the

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Region. We all know that our farmers get more money by selling dry tobacco leaves to the Nigerian Tobacco Company, and this is good so far. The farmers in Ibadan, Oyo and Oshun Divisions live on what they are able to produce through the efforts of this Company, Nigerian Tobacco Company. I want the Minister of Agriculture to please help to appeal to the Nigerian Tobacco Company and encourage them to extend their activities to Ijesha land. I could observe that about a few years ago some Ijeshas produced tobacco leaves which turned out in Grade I. If tobacco plantation is established in Ijeshaland some farmers will automatically become independent growers and they will have opportunity to employ labourers who will be handling these tobacco leaves, and by doing so, they are solving the problem of unemployment.

On Education, the Government has shown the need to further the course of education in Western Nigeria. The only thing I want to say about it is that I want to appeal to the Minister of Education to help to maintain discipline in Schools all over the Region. If this can be done, I mean if the Minister can co-operate with the Principals of Schools all over the Region, we shall be able to train our boys and girls to be good citizens. The difficulty we experience at present is that if some boys disobey their Principals and they are dealt with, the Minister of Education will turn round and say that the boys are not guilty. By this I think the boys are being taught indirectly to show disrespect to lawful instructions in their colleges. It is my hope that the Government will see to this. The educational programme of the Government of the Region is very bold and encouraging and our boys and girls should be made to reap the benefits of this bold educational programme.

The next thing I want to touch is that I wish the Minister of Education to publish what the Government intends to do about Science teaching in Schools in this Region. It is expected that the Minister of Education will lay down in black and white at this Meeting what the Government intends to do about facilities for teaching Science in our Colleges. I know the Government has done a lot to help about Science, or development of Science teaching in the Region, but I expect the Government will continue to show interest in this very important subject.

I now come to the banking institution, the National Bank of Nigeria Limited. I thank the Government for the recognition given to this Bank. The Bank is one of the leading

national Banks we have in the country and, being our own set-up, it should be given a good support. It should be easy for our traders to get money on credit terms thereby facilitating their trading activities. That point is for the public, I mean the traders, who look for money to run their business.

I now come to the staffing of the institution. As the Government of this Region has supported the Bank, it will also be advisable to encourage the staff of this institution. The staff need to be encouraged, that is, their salaries should be increased. If the clerks are encouraged they will be able to do their work conscientiously and there will be nothing like defrauding their employers. Apart from that, Mr Speaker, Sir, some of them will make banking a career. We all know that if the staff are encouraged; if there is opportunity for advancement and for training facilities overseas or in Nigeria, they will not be looking for jobs here and there. I am therefore appealing to the Minister concerned to give the staff of the National Bank more money.

It is also to be noted that the Bank is giving loans or credit facilities to the people in the Region without discrimination. That is another achievement of this Government. The Bank is for the people of Western Nigeria and the credit facilities there should be used wisely to expand trading activities in the Region.

The question of Local Government Finances and the position of Obas and Chiefs in the development of this Region have been mentioned in the Governor's Speech and I think these are very interesting. The question of Local Government Councils should be looked into very seriously by the Government. I think it is when we learn from our past mistakes that we can gain. I have heard Members speak about elected councillors and it will be good for the Government to elect responsible people to these councils, people with mature experience people with substance and means of livelihood, so that they cannot tamper with the finances of the councils. On the composition of these councils Sir, I will suggest that at least half of the members of these councils in future should be chiefs and traditional members and the other half should be elected. The Government should take care to see that these people are not rogues and vagabonds. *(Laughter from the Opposition Benches)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am also saying that indiscriminate politicking has spoiled Western Region and this is scarcely done in other parts of the Federation of Nigeria. I will say Sir, that in the future we should be careful and make sure that immature people are not

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elected to the councils to rule. We should see to it that only mature people are elected to the councils.

Mr Speaker Sir, about our Courts, I think the Government is doing a lot about them and they need re-organisation.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have, once or twice, had to speak on the floor of this House on the role of the Local Government Police force. The part our Local Government Police is playing in the maintenance of law and order in this Region is very confusing. I do not know what power the Constitution has given them. I refer to my own area in particular. Mr Speaker Sir, my people are being molested by certain rascals who come there to harrass them whereas there is a unit of the Local Government Police there. I reported to an hon. Minister when he came there the other time. I know the hands of the Local Government Police have been tied because they cannot do anything when people's properties are being looted. Therefore, I would suggest that the powers of these Local Government Police *vis-a-vis* the Nigeria Police should be looked into by this Government and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should please set up an enquiry to probe this matter especially with regard to hooliganism and looting of properties.

Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, His Excellency's call for unity in this Region is worthy of consideration by all the progressive people of this Region. I am supporting His Excellency in this call and would appeal to everybody, irrespective of his political belief, to let us unite. I want everyone of us to know that without unity we cannot achieve anything. We do not say we want to rule for ever, but others should come forward so that we may unite. I want to remind particularly the hon. Member from Ikare that we are all one. Since I have been in this House, I have been the most consistent of all. This has been my position ever since I have been here and I have never left my position but people on the Opposite Side have rolled from this Side to the Other. (*Laughter from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker: When somebody rolls from one side to the other, it does not mean he has been bought.

Mr Adelegan: Mr Speaker Sir, those of them on the Opposition Benches who got money know themselves.

Mr Speaker: I do not know when Mr Adelegan was bought.

Mr Adelegan: Mr Speaker Sir, the West has been disrupted enough, some people

say election is the solution to the present state of things in the West. I disagree Sir. (*Opposition Benches: You know you will fail!*) In any case, Sir, if I go to my constituency I will win. They cannot defeat me there. This is a question of reasoning; this is a question concerning the welfare of Western Region. It does not concern either Ojo or Aina alone. It is no use misleading the people and I want everybody to appeal to his own conscience. It is not good to spread ugly rumours about one another's political parties by calling ugly names like "Domonu, etc". At the worst they will go to the polls and win. But I know they will not co-operate with the Federal Government and the Federal Government will kick them out again. They know the Gambaris are trying to rescue us from Ibo domination.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: On point of correction, the Hausas, not the Gambaris.

Mr Adelegan: It has been said in very respected quarters that the South should form one block and face the North. If they do not want the North, they should say so but if they do not want the North, who will save us from the Ibos? They don't want us to co-operate with the Hausas but they co-operate with the Ibos. Personal hatred will not help us. It is only when we speak with one voice that we can be respected. I do not hate anybody but I know that it is when we speak with one voice that we can achieve what we want.

Mr Speaker Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support. (*Interruptions*).

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker Sir, I ask for the protection of this honourable House. The Member for Ekiti North-East (Mr Akerele) said that I look like a Fulani.

Mr Speaker: That is not bad, you are still a Nigerian. (*Laughter*).

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East): He is very slim, his nose is pointed and he is very light in complexion. (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Planning looks like a Fulani gentleman, but he is not a Fulani. (*Laughter*).

Mr I. A. Olukoju (Owo South I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the Motion on the Speech from the Throne. I do this because the document read by the Governor from the Throne is a mere document which can be produced by any other person in his position. It is true that the

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Speech has so many pages but I find it difficult to see any concrete proposal in the Speech.

In the course of the Speech from the Throne, a lot of time was devoted to proposals on Agriculture. These are mere proposals and at least for the past one year, when the UPP/NCNC Coalition was in existence in this Region, there has not been any concrete thing done as regards those proposals on Agriculture. And we know that Western Nigeria in particular, and Nigeria in general, is mainly agricultural. God knows that in course of time those proposals in the Speech from the Throne may be executed by a different set of people elected through a fair election.

During the Emergency Administration, Mr Speaker, we heard of the song of reconstruction by the Administrator, and at the end of the Administration what we saw was the birth of Egbe Omo Yoruba and the launching of Olofin; perhaps that was the reconstruction. That disappeared for some time and the coalition Government took up in January 1963. Again the song of reconstruction started. The Ministers would go out and say that they were doing reconstruction. The Premier would relay over the radio that he was doing reconstruction, only to construct a Yoruba Party and to reconstruct their pockets. Up till this moment, Mr Speaker, I have not seen anywhere in this Region where a mile of road has been tarred since that time, and they are doing reconstruction. Even in Ibadan, which is the Regional capital today, you can see for yourself whether there is reconstruction or destruction. This song continued with the reconstruction of the UPP at that time which of recent died a natural death. The energies exerted during those periods were useless and rendered useless by the people themselves.

It does not end there. Again in the Address from the Throne, reconstruction has been mentioned and when the NNNDP was launched, the word "reconstruction" was conspicuous again. I would say, Sir, that in my own area, Owo South I constituency, comprising Oka, Irekari and Ikamarun districts, which the Action Group Government improved, the improvements are there today. In my own constituency, the Action Group Government started a project for water supply for Ifon, Irekari and Ekamarun Districts. The work is there today still uncompleted and it was started in 1961. In Irekari District the Action Group tarred twelve miles of road, leaving about a few more miles to complete the road from Idoani

to Owani and Idogun. The work is still uncompleted up till today, and they are doing reconstruction in this Region. In Oka, work was started on water supply in 1961, and as soon as the Emergency came and after the Emergency Coalition Government, there was no mention of anything of the work again; the whole thing remained as it was. I know it does not affect my area alone. I want to know from them, when they talk of reconstruction, where are they doing their reconstruction? May I mention, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I can understand them. Instead of doing reconstruction in the streets for the masses to see and enjoy they will tar their own sitting rooms. And if I go a little beyond my own area to the constituency of our hon. Minister of Education, his home town is just ten miles from my own home town, it was the Action Group Government which started the work of electricity supply in that town, and went to the stage of fixing bulbs for the electricity supply in 1961. Up till now the bulbs are there, and the work has not progressed further, yet they are doing reconstruction. They have got to prove to this Region what type of reconstruction they are doing.

So, Mr Speaker, I would say that the Speech presented from the Throne is a very fine, lengthy document, but a worthless one which, like the UPP/NCNC Coalition Government, or the present NNNDP Government, is only popular on Ibadan radio.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Amendment. (*Cheers*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr S. O. Akerele): Mr Speaker, I rise to speak in support of His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, which was well and ably delivered.

I also have to congratulate and praise the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, and his Deputy, Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, and the entire Members of the Government for their effort in seeking a solution to the problems of the Government of this Region and for bringing peace and tranquility to the people. The fatherly role of the Obas and Chiefs in a desperate attempt to bring about the much desired unity amongst the Yorubas is commendable and a step taken in the right direction.

The formation of the Nigerian National Democratic Party marks an important milestone in the political evolution of Nigeria in general and of the Western Region in particular. Let me now assure the critics of our great Party, that the new Party is already formidable as it enjoys the overwhelming support of the people of this Region who are fed up with the

[MR AKERELE]

Action Group and its allies. It has come to stay and by the grace of God we are sure of contesting and winning all elections right from local to the federal level.

In the Speech from the Throne His Excellency recounted, amongst other things, the achievements of Government with regard to the Local Government Police. The Government is reimbursing all Local Authorities with a certain percentage of the total cost of establishing and running of the Local Government Police. By way of observation, many local authorities find it difficult to pay for their own share of the obligation and, in consequence, in order to meet up this obligation, much strain is caused to their financial situation. The Government cannot afford to have this essential service stopped, for the Police on their part are endeavouring to justify the confidence which Government reposes in them for keeping law and order by being loyal, faithful and efficient. It is because of their presence that many atrocities are not perpetrated by enemies of peace in this Region. Since, therefore, many local authorities are financially handicapped, I sincerely implore Government to take over full responsibility for at least the payment of salaries of the Local Government Police Force in this Region. Something should also be done to revise and increase the salaries of the Local Government Police. In order to keep the morale of members of the Force it is considered necessary that Government should organise a scheme whereby the most promising and efficient amongst them are given chances of receiving overseas training to make them more efficient and useful as is done in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Western Nigeria Local Government Police uniform is perhaps the best in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is smart, neat and well cut, but the only object of criticism seems to be the cap. The opinion generally is that it does not fit with the other paraphernalia; it is therefore strongly suggested that something be done to explore the possibility of designing a new and more suitable cap.

It will indeed serve to reduce mass unemployment of the School Certificate holders if they can be recruited into the force as Cadet Sub-Inspectors.

One more point about the Local Government Police. The Government's proposal to recruit women into the force is highly commendable, but it will be timely if it is implemented without any further delay. In order further to keep the morale of the Local

Government Police, it is considered necessary to create a post of Deputy Superintendent-General of Police, and such post must be filled by the senior Local Government Police officer.

Government's plans to supply good drinking water to all towns and villages in this Region are well known. They are known to include Illa and districts. They are yet at the proposal stage as far as my constituency, Illa, is concerned. This delay is causing my people untold hardship, and people are suffering from all sorts of water-borne diseases by drinking unwholesome water. We shall be happy if this NNDP Government looks graciously on my people so that pipe-borne water can be extended to Illa and districts during this financial year.

It is my people's wish also to have electricity supply. Ikirun, a distance of about twenty miles away, is enjoying electricity. We desire that this be extended to Illa for the purpose of providing light and industrialising the area. We also lack hospital facility, the nearest Government Hospital being at Oshogbo. In cases of emergency most people cannot afford to travel the long distance and the consequence is always serious. So I have been asked by my people to ask Government to provide cottage hospitals to supplement the one at Oshogbo.

The Illa-Orangun chieftaincy tangle has already sowed seeds of discord amongst the populace, because of disagreement on the appointment of an acceptable candidate to the throne. The most popular choice is Prince I. A. Adebayo; and if there is any doubt on the part of Government, I humbly recommend the holding of a plebiscite to clear the air.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity offered me to speak. I beg to support the Motion.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Amendment and oppose the original Motion on the Governor's Speech from the Throne.

In supporting the Amendment I have this much to say. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is high time the people on the Government Side stopped to deceive the people of this Region. They always come to the floor of this honourable House to say "Hosana" to the people of this Region and when they get out they begin to say "crucify them". They come to the floor of the House with their empty boasts, deceptions and pretences. This Government will speak of gigantic plan for agriculture, for weaving industry and general reconstruction in the Region; they will ever speak of unity among the Yorubas but when they get out it is

[MR OLANIYAN]

struggle for power. Mr Speaker, Sir, these people headed by Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier, are the worst of men and the enemies of Yoruba unity.

In 1960 when Chief Akintola was dismissed by the Action Group, he went out to tell people that Chief Awolowo, the Leader of the Action Group by the Grace of God, was an enemy of Oyo and Ibadan people. He said because Awolowo is an Ijebu man he hates the Oyo and Ibadan people. He also said that this innocent man developed Ijebu Province better than other Yoruba Provinces. He said that the Government, of which he was the head, never remembered the Oshun and Ibadan people. This is to suit his purpose during the time he was launching his late UPP. This Premier then spoke well of the Ibos, who are now regarded as the enemies of the Yorubas, because they saved him from drowning. After Okpara had saved Akintola from political ruin he turned against the Ibos. His eyes were opened to see that the Ibos take more than a lion's share of the Federal Government's amenities. This is another campaign to attract the Western NCNC men to his still-born party—NNDP. This same man deprived some Yorubas of their daily bread, yet he claims to be an advocate of Yoruba unity. Yoruba people in this Region will never trust, follow or respect, any person who by tyranny rules. The University lecturers are Yorubas and Ogunde is a Yoruba man. These people lost their means of livelihood because they cannot follow the crooked ways of some politicians.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Premier preaches Yoruba Unity. He tells us of his ambition to lead the Yorubas, but this Region will not forget that Chief Akintola led us to this state of poverty and wretchedness. This Afonja of present day history betrayed his Leader as Judas did Jesus. The great and innocent Leader, Chief Awolowo, was imprisoned through a person who claims to be a Yoruba man. Can those of us who remain in the Action Group and who are true Yorubas pardon traitors and join hands with them to work? No!

Mr Speaker, Sir, I know the deities of this Region are working against the evil doers. In the words of Shakespeare: "The evils that men do live after them". I beg the indulgence of hon. Members to refer to the Bible story of Cain when he killed his brother, Abel. The only punishment given to Cain for the murder committed was a bell tied round his neck. Wherever Cain went the bell would ring. Our hon. Premier committed a sin against his leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, His punishment is that he cannot freely move in the

country or in the Region without police escort sounding a siren in front of him.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is high time we went for a general election. Why are they afraid of a general election? If they win, it is alright. Mr Speaker, Sir, the people of this Region are against the present Government.

Last year there was flood which destroyed properties and crops as referred to in paragraph 24 of the Governor's Speech. The roads were spoilt, many parts of the Region were cut away from the others. There is no money in circulation, there is extremity of rain, extremity of poverty, et cetera.

I will appeal to the Government of Western Region to consider the people who are the protectors of their master so as to increase their salaries—I refer to the policemen. The Premier cannot move about if not for the protection offered by the Police. Also the Federal Government should increase the salary of the Nigerian Policemen who preserve the lives of some corrupt politicians.

The Government Whip (Mr O. Fashola): I wish to tell the hon. Gentleman that it is not only that Side of the House which is fighting for increase in the salary of the Police, we on this Side are also fighting for the increase.

Mr Olaniyan: I like to tell the Government that my area, Ibarapa East, has been forgotten. I am speaking for my people. Even it is impossible for us to travel to some places in the area because the bridges have been carried away.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr J. G. Adeniran): Though the floods washed away roads in Ibarapa, the Government has done its best to bring everything to normal and the roads and bridges are now well constructed.

Mr Olaniyan: The people of my area need Rural Water Supply and a very good hospital.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment.

Sitting suspended at 11.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.25 p.m.

Mr J. O. Kehinde (Ede-Ejigbo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Motion that this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature, and that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

[MR KEHINDE]

In doing so, Mr Speaker, I wish to remark that the Address is the simplest ever presented in this Legislature. It deals with bold items of development and gives definite answers to the common problem of unemployment.

The Speech from the Throne gives a call for self-help. It is commonly believed that man is the architect of his own fortune and that one's destiny is in his own hands. Little wonder therefore the symbol of the ruling party in this Region, the God-sent party, the party that shall remain here and hereafter, the common man's party, the Yoruba man's saviour, the NNDP, is the hand. More grease to the elbows of the founders.

"Morning shows the day". What this Government stands for is shown in the White Paper, "The New Political Alignment in Western Nigeria". Those who have not seen the light, let them read this White Paper. The Yorubas are an indigenous set of people in Nigeria and the largest ethnic group in the whole Federation. Why then should they not take their place in the affairs of the country? Those opposing or amending the Governor's Speech, are they not Yorubas? Have they ears, can't they hear? Mr Speaker Sir, I wish more copies of "A New Deal for Western Nigeria" be printed and circulated round the Region and perhaps the uninformed will see the light and have a change of heart.

In the light of the result of the Census, His Excellency should be praised for the way the census result was handled. The usual political trick of making this Region a scape goat by certain people, by a certain party from a certain Region, has been foiled. The wisdom of examining the Six-year Development Plan

in the light of the Census is most welcome and applauded. There is much wisdom in a wise saying—"United we stand, divided we fall".

The Governor's Speech states categorically that this Government will co-operate with other Governments of the Federation to find practical solutions to the question of unemployment. We wish this plan a success. The Integrated Rural Development Programme, which was started in Eruwa, should be made to spread to all the parts of the Region if possible. Our children are to be encouraged to take up agriculture after school. I hope this would be better done if agriculture takes a prominent position in the school syllabus. Agriculture, on the Time Table once a week, does not help the children to believe that agriculture pays.

Finally, I beg to remind the Government of my call for development in Ejigbo and district. The Government approved pipe-borne water for the district since 1962 but nothing has been done to date. I pray that electricity be extended to the district.

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

(Further Debate on the Motion for an Address adjourned till Monday, 6th April, 1964).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn. (Chief J. O. Osuntokun).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.35 p.m. until Monday, 6th April, 1964 at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to a Resolution of the House this day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.10 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 33.

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Standing Order No. 33 be suspended this day to allow the hon. Minister of Finance to complete his Budget Speech.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of—

“A Bill for a law to appropriate the sum of fifteen million, four hundred and four thousand and thirty pounds for recurrent expenditure and twelve million, seven hundred and fifty-four thousand and twenty pounds for capital expenditure for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five”.

I have it in command from His Excellency, the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

One of the most beautiful and moving passages in the Holy Writ draws a long catalogue of some men of the earliest times who, on the strength of faith in what they believe to be right, took momentous decisions which altered the course of history. This famous passage defines Faith as the assurance of things hoped for and recited how the early fathers, by faith in the course of action they pursued and also faith in the never-failing power of Providence to sustain their cause, changed the course of ancient history.

And now again, several centuries after those phenomenal demonstrations in the power of faith in a just cause, we—the Government and people of this Region—have been the central figures in a drama in which, at one of the greatest cross-roads and momentous crisis in the history of this Region, we have by faith chosen to follow on the course which we have pursued during the past fifteen months.

For it was by faith that the two parties which then came together to form the coalition Government of this Region decided to work for the salvage and the re-construction of this Region after one of the darkest periods in its history and in the face of imponderable odds. But imbued with the highest ideals and intentions as the NCNC/UPP coalition Government was, it became clear as time went on that a coalition Government, because of the inherent limitations of compromise, make-shift and perpetual seeking after a *modus vivendi* to operate, cannot be a suitable political machinery for solving the problems of a Region struggling to emerge from the abysmal depths of penury into which it had been plunged.

It is for this reason that all men of goodwill, men of vision and foresight, men who put the happiness of the entire people and the welfare and prosperity of this Region above political pettiness and squabbles, decided to come together and work for the salvation of this Region believing truly that in unity only lies strength. And so by Faith was born the Nigerian National Democratic Party, a fusion of all honest and well-intentioned political parties in the nation having as its common objective the unity of our nation and the welfare and happiness of the entire people of this Region within that national unity.

And so, Mr Speaker, Sir, by faith we have come a long way from the gloomy day of that morning in April last year when I stood up at this very spot in this august House to make my first Appropriation Speech as Finance Minister. That was a time when detractors and pessimists excelled one another in forecasting the collapse of this Government; to them, the impending fall was a matter of

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weeks. In order to achieve this end, every engine of the law was set in motion, every trick that ingenuity can devise and rascality execute, every weapon designed to forestall and defeat the ends of justice and fair play.

But today this Government of the Nigerian National Democratic Party has continued to wax stronger than ever and has remained unshaken and unshakable. (*Cheers*). Mr Speaker, Sir, this is as it should be for was it not John Milton who once said—

“Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let Truth and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter”.

But, Sir, may I say that in our hour of vindication, it has never been the policy of this Government to exalt over our political opponents. We believe that in the task of re-construction all hands are needed on the deck. We believe that the rancour and feuds generated by the episodes leading to the dark period in the annals of this Region should be totally sunk in the limbo of oblivion in the interest of the welfare and progress of the entire people of this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not in my nature to bear malice or to live in ill-will. I hold the same principle of life with Charles James Fox who described his maxim as *Amicitiae Sempiternae, inimicitiae placabiles*—my friendships are perpetual, my animosities disappear with the occasion. The same principle, Sir, is true of all my Colleagues here on this Side, with whom I associate. (*Hear, hear*).

I therefore seize this opportunity once again to stretch our right hand of fellowship to everyone, irrespective of class or creed, to rally round with us, with love to all and enmity to none and forgetting all acrimony, to join hands together in the great task of re-construction and nation building.

And now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall turn my attention to our financial fortunes and the general consideration of the economy of this Region. Naturally our minds go to those few products which form the mainstay of this Region and as always, the word that springs to the lips is cocoa. In my Budget Speech last year, I mentioned how our production of this crop had more than doubled over the past years. I also mentioned how, in spite of the phenomenal increase in the production of cocoa, the incomes derived from it by the farmers and by the Government have not shown a corresponding increase. Indeed,

as I said on the occasion, the trend has consistently been in the downward direction.

I regret to say this year again that the outlook holds out no hope for any jubilation. The hope of a new deal for this crop which producing countries have cherished since 1957 when the Cocoa Study Group of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations first addressed its mind to the question of an International Price Stabilisation Scheme for cocoa, has recently received a big jolt. After six years of discussions and negotiations on the formulation of a suitable scheme which would *inter alia* protect the foreign exchange earnings of producing countries whose economies are largely dependent upon the export of cocoa, the United Nations Negotiation Conference met in Geneva in August 1963 to give final consideration to the draft International Agreement drawn up for cocoa. The Federal Republic of Nigeria was at this Conference strongly represented by a delegation which was led at the beginning of the conference by my Colleague, Dr the hon. S. D. Onabamiro, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and later, after the Minister had returned to Nigeria, by our worthy friend, Chief F. O. Awosika, Chairman of our Marketing Board and now also Chairman of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company.

It is a matter for deep regret to say that the Conference broke down due to conflicting views and irreconcilable stand taken by delegations from the exporting and the importing countries as to what constituted a fair and reasonable World Market price for cocoa. At the moment, it is difficult to predict whether negotiations would be reopened on the matter and if so, whether such negotiations would have any better chance of success than the previous one. One thing is certain however. The producing countries, realising the unique place of cocoa crop in their economy, will not take the defeat lying down.

Even though we emerged unvictorious from the duel, yet we are far from being subdued. After all, he that will sup with the devil must have a long spoon. All possible areas of collaboration will be exhaustively explored by producing countries to protect their common interest. In fact, the ball has already been set rolling. The Cocoa Producers Alliance met in Douala in January to consider what measures could appropriately and effectively be taken by member-countries acting in concert to ensure suitable and better prices for cocoa following break-down of negotiations last September.

[OBA AKRAN]

In this battle for economic survival, the Government of this Region is at one with the other producer countries in the effort to protect our common interest. Indeed, I am glad to say that we have gone a stage further in attempting a long-term solution to this problem. We consider that an effective solution to this intractable problem of price stabilisation lies in devising ways and means to correct the basic imbalance between world supply and demand, especially, through increased consumption and through a properly regulated system of supply. To this end, the Government of this Region has under active consideration, measures for stimulating the local consumption of cocoa-based products and is also exploring suitable measures whereby cocoa, as well as some of our other main export crops, can be stored and preserved for longer periods. No pains and efforts will be spared to ensure fair prices for our main economic crops.

Mr Speaker, Sir, even when we shall have done all that is humanly possible to place the cocoa trade in as favourable a position as possible, I am afraid that we shall not have solved our long-term economic problem. Year after year, Finance Ministers have stood up in this House to bewail the fate of cocoa in the World Market. But I think the time has now come that we should learn from the lessons of history and cease the annual lamentation over our main export trade. We can only do this, Sir, by breaking loose from the shackles of our existing economic circumstances and revolutionising the trends of our economy.

In order to achieve this economic emancipation, it is essential that we take cognisance of certain basic facts. In the first place, rising levels of *per capita* consumption have gradually transformed the composition of demand for goods and services in the developed countries whilst also technological changes have resulted in the more economical use of new materials and the creation of synthetic substitutes. The effect of this is that the growth in import demand of the advanced countries for most primary products has lost the momentum of earlier decades. Consequently, our primary export products are no longer in great demand overseas as they used to be. In the second place, when cognisance is taken of the magnitude of the problem of under-employment and low productivity confronting us as in most other under-developed countries, it is clear that foreign trade, no matter how favourable the trends in external demand, cannot

constitute the main road to economic development.

To me, Sir, what the ultimate objective of our economic goal should be is clear enough. It is to construct industrial economies as diversified as those which now exist in the advanced countries. We live in a country where labour is abundant but capital is scarce. There is unlimited scope for industries that are predominantly labour-intensive. We have to take into consideration the circumstances of our history and background in embarking on an industrial programme because our industrial structure must be influenced by such factors as our natural resource endowment, the role of foreign trade in our economy, the accidents of history and the particular genius and tastes of our people in the field of manufactures.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the view I am trying to present is, when viewed on the national plane, an attempt to find a solution to the perennial headache in our Balance of Payments position. Over the past ten years, Nigeria has continually experienced a deficit in her Trade Balance. This deficit has in turn exerted pressure on our level of reserves. In considering this problem, there are four necessary factors to take account of—volume of imports, volume of exports, price of imports and price of exports. A rise or fall in any of these four factors will undoubtedly affect our Balance of Trade. From the observations I have made earlier on about the situation in the advanced countries of the world today, our relative position reveals that of the four factors I have just mentioned, future indication is that unless we take dynamic action to break loose from the shackles of our existing economy and develop along properly planned industrial lines, our volume of imports will continue to increase whilst our price of exports will continue to fall. Perhaps this fact is best illustrated if it is remembered that while the price of cocoa has continued to diminish year after year, the prices paid for chocolates and other cocoa-based products have never shown a corresponding decrease. Added to this, the volume of chocolate import trade has continued to increase. That, in short, is the tragedy of our economic situation today.

But I am glad to say that this call of mine is not the lone voice of a man crying in the wilderness. Already all the Governments of the Federation have sensed the impending economic doom. At the meetings of the National Economic Council over the past one year, discussions have centred around the problems of our Balance of Payments and of unemployment. Consideration of these two problems points to one unmistakable goal.

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This goal is the development of labour-intensive industries along properly conceived lines designed to reduce our dependence on consumer goods imports. Thus our economic watchword should be export-promotion industries, import-substituting industries and domestic-capital goods industries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this, to my mind, is the long-term solution to our economic ills. Already the axe is laid on the tree and there should be no looking back. While I am on this important subject, Sir, I should like to say a few words on a great scheme which we have launched, designed to be the handmaid and the precursor of this economic emancipation. I refer, Sir, to our Integrated Rural Development Scheme.

The Integrated Rural Development Scheme is not just another agricultural scheme. Neither is it just another Farm Settlement Scheme under a new name. It is in fact the first step towards the realisation of the economic dreams which, a few moments ago, I have attempted to depict before this House. It is a scheme designed to revolutionise the face of this Region. A silent revolution is indeed taking place before our very eyes, having as its goal the solution of the problems of unemployment, the industrialisation of our economy and the production of food and primary products on such a scale as will bring a decent standard of living within the reach of the masses of our population.

Indeed, Mr Speaker, Sir, the scheme is a bold answer to the problem of deficit financing for the development of the country without the often-dreaded concomitant of inflation. Sir, I am neither an economist, nor am I a specialist in fiscal matters. But I have not failed to keep my eyes and ears open in order to learn how other nations in plights similar to the ones facing us today, have emerged victorious at different periods in the annals of their economic tribulation. With due deference to our economists and specialists, I think no one would seriously dispute the fact that given a strengthened domestic economy in which a terrific drive is made towards the output of food and other agricultural products with opportunity of employment and productivity, this country can safely increase the currency in circulation to harness abundant labour now wasting and thereby quicken the tempo of our development. Our youths will be usefully and gainfully employed on the land. The products of their labour will not only provide the basic necessities of life but will also supply

materials for rural industries in fulfilment of our economic battle-cry of export-promoting industries, import-substituting industries and domestic-capital goods industries.

If we succeed in this great venture, as I am confident we would, we shall have gone a long way to revolutionise the face of this country and avert an economic doom, the hand-writing of which is already becoming visible on the walls. For no longer shall we behold the harrowing spectacle of our youths and school-leavers roaming about the cities in search of clerical jobs. No longer shall we stand with cap in hand at the doorsteps of the so-called civilised nations for the crumbs that may fall from the master's table. Fortunately, we are already blessed with the tools for our economic emancipation. Labour is abundant and the land is there to be developed. Indeed, I think at a time like this, our schools should re-echo the words of that famous poem:

'No man is born into the world, whose work

Is not born with him; there is always work,

And tools to work withal, for those who will;

And blessed are the horny hands of toil'.
(Cheers).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will now turn my attention to a review of our accounts and of the financial position of the Region. It is customary to take the accounts two years back but on this occasion I wish to dwell mainly on the financial situation during the financial year which has just come to an end and then unfold before the House our financial circumstances for this financial year. My reason for departing from the customary practice will no doubt be obvious to this House. It is because a good part of the 1962-63 financial year was over-shadowed by the Emergency period and the events which came in its train. I can therefore see no useful end in attempting to analyse the accounts for that period. The Emergency came with a bang, totally unexpected and it naturally brought with it emergency expenditure totally unforeseen when the budget for that year was being drawn up.

It is no use crying over spilt milk. After all, desperate diseases require desperate remedies. The only significant point to which I would wish to make reference in so far as the accounts for the financial year of the emergency period were concerned is the remarkable gesture of assistance rendered by the Federal Government to this Region in her hour of tribulation. Financial assistance

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to the tune of £5 million was given by way of Treasury Bill loans to this Government during the time. In making this loan assistance available to this Region, the Federal Government was well aware of the financial situation of the Region at the time and it knew quite well that this Region was in no position to repay the loan in the immediate foreseeable future. Nevertheless, the Federal Government, in its efforts to promote the unity of the country and of its good name abroad, did not hesitate to make this generous loan assistance. Realising that this Region would require some time to settle down to accomplish the task of reconstruction, the Federal Government has very sympathetically treated £3 million out of this loan as hard core.

I am sure that this honourable House would want me to express openly on this occasion the appreciation and gratitude of this Region to the Federal Government and in particular to the Prime Minister, the Right hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, under whose leadership and guidance the Federal Government has continued to play a leading role in the interest of national unity and progress. In this connection too, I would wish to pay tribute to the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, and to place on record our appreciation of his untiring efforts in the interests of this Region.

Turning to the financial situation for the year which has just come to an end, our accounts show that we have been more fortunate on the capital budget side than on the recurrent. Hon. Members may perhaps recall that in my last year's Budget Speech, I indicated that estimated surplus in respect of our recurrent budget was likely to be about a little over £½ million. As for the capital budget estimates, I drew a gloomy picture showing that the end of the financial year might find us with a debit as high as £2.7 million. Even though the accounts for the year just ended have not yet been closed, the indication now is that we shall manage to break even on the capital side and for the first time throw off the burden of huge deficit in our capital account. I shall presently explain in greater detail the circumstances of our capital budget during the year.

As I have just mentioned, the accounts on the recurrent side have not turned out with the hope of any surplus as envisaged when the Estimates were drawn up. Instead of having an estimated surplus of about £½ million, the indication shows clearly that when the accounts for the year are finally closed, we shall have overspent by about

£.9 million. Thus whilst Revised Estimate of revenue now stands at about £19,074,480, it is estimated that expenditure will go up to about £19,926,220. This is obviously not at all a happy state of affairs because, as I shall explain later on during the course of this speech, the recurrent budget is the most sensitive part of a Government's annual Estimates for it is from it that the outside world is able to judge whether a Government, to use a native metaphor, has been eating with the ten fingers. In this particular case, the reason for expenditure totally swallowing up revenue and even showing a deficit as high as £.9 million is understandable. It arose out of the event of the separation of the former Midwest area of this Region early in August last year. As anyone with some experience in budgeting on a large scale will readily appreciate, the fact that a quarter of the Region was sliced off does not mean that it will necessarily follow that a quarter of Government expenditure will automatically be correspondingly reduced. Nothing can be more true than the simple economic statement that it costs as much to feed one as to feed two.

Immediately the Midwest area was excised, the Treasury lost no time in mounting up a gigantic exercise to review the expenditure of all Ministries and Departments with a view to reducing the rate of their expenditure to reflect the fact of the Region's reduced size, both physically and financially. In spite of the various control measures taken to force down expenditure to within three-quarters of the original Estimates, it has turned out that the economy target could not be attained. Governmental annual expenditure cannot, like regulating fan speed or gas fire, be switched to low or medium at will, especially in mid-stream. Indeed, I think that the Treasury as well as various Government Departments and Ministries should be congratulated for exercising such great care that the deficit was confined to under a million pounds. It was originally estimated that expenditure for the year would be £22,096,580. In the end, expenditure has been brought down to £19,926,220.

Let me, however, hasten to assure the House that although the accounts for the year just ended showed a deficit of £.9 million, there is no cause for alarm whatsoever. Our Balance Sheet shows that at the end of the year there was a surplus of about £2.8 million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This is due to the fact that the financial year opened on the 1st of April, 1963 with a balance of £3.6 million in the Fund. In spite of the slight deficit

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during the financial year therefore, it was still possible for the accounts to show a credit balance of about £2.8 million at the beginning of this new financial year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to underline the significance of the financial statement which I have just explained to this honourable House. I would like, if I may, Sir, to repeat the financial statement I have just made. I said that our Consolidated Fund in which our recurrent budget accounts are kept, showed a surplus of about £2.8 million at the end of the financial year on 31st March, 1964. In other words, we have opened this new financial year with a credit balance of £2.8 million. (*Cheers*). I have underlined this statement and repeated it for I would want it to be dinned into the ears of our detractors whose stock-in-trade is to spread rumours that this Region is in financial distress and cannot find money to pay salaries to its staff. I know that this factual financial statement will fall into deaf ears in certain political circles. Nevertheless, I make the statement for the whole world at large to see and to judge between truth and falsehood. (*Cheers*).

Looking generally at our revenue position in respect of our main economies during the financial year just ended, the position has not altogether been discouraging. Indeed, while we expected the worst to happen in respect of our main export crops, there has been a slight boom in trade which has yielded substantial increase in revenue. This is in respect of export duty and sales tax on produce. While it was estimated that a revenue of £5,419,050 will be received during the financial year from this revenue head, it turned out that Revised Estimates showed a figure of £6,225,170, an increase of £806,120. This is no doubt due to increased volume of production of cocoa. Increased production also meant increase in revenue from sales tax. Thus, while it was originally estimated that sales tax on cocoa would be about £600,000, Revised Estimates showed that we might realise up to about £680,000. The same is true of palm produce on which there is an increase of nearly £80,000 over the original estimates. The prospects in the World Market for cocoa during the last year were not altogether too bad and it is to be hoped that this encouraging prospect will not be short-lived.

Our revenue from import duty has unfortunately shown a short-fall. This is no doubt due to a general slackening of trade which had become noticeable since the previous year and has still continued. The

duty increases which came into force in 1962 together with the promotion of import-substitute industries have also had the combined effect of reducing our general import revenue. But when all these interplay of forces and factors which I have explained are taken into consideration, the net result has been a slight increase in our estimated revenue.

On the capital budget side, hon. Members will recall that in my last year's Budget Speech I indicated that the end of the last financial year might find us with an estimated deficit of about £2.7 million. This unpleasant situation was largely caused, as I mentioned in my last year's Speech, by the fact that we opened the last financial year with a debit of £1.1 million which in turn had been the consequence of the financial year 1962-63 being heralded with a deficit of about £5.5 million in the capital development fund. This is obviously an unhappy situation whereby our capital fund has for the past three years shown such a large deficit at the beginning of each financial year. This clearly illustrates the fact that this Government, like all the other Governments of the Federation and indeed like any underdeveloped country in a hurry to catch up with the advanced countries, has not got sufficient resources of its own to undertake and accomplish its Development Programme. Whilst every possible effort is being made to mobilise resources from all internal sources, it is obvious that a considerable portion of the funds required for development purposes will have to be found from external sources. I shall later during the course of this Speech explain why it has not been possible to procure funds as we would immediately require for the execution of our Capital Works Programme.

In the midst of these difficulties at finding resources to finance our Development Programme, one consideration has been uppermost in my mind. This is that whilst every effort is being made to attract external aid and whilst no pains will be spared to continue to mobilise our internal resources, we should in the meantime avoid carrying huge deficit in our capital budget. As I mentioned a little while ago, our capital budget accounts have for the past two years opened with huge deficit. Apart from the depressing effect of such a state of accounts, there is also the fact that it does not make for a realistic estimate of actual work-programme achieved if the Statement of Accounts opens with a huge deficit and closes with a similar load of debt.

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Faced with this sort of situation, I have during the course of last financial year attempted to relate Capital Works Programme to available resources with a view to doing away, as much as possible, with the heavy load of deficit in the accounts and thereby presenting a realistic Estimate reflecting what we may reasonably hope to achieve each year in our Development Programme. Thus, although the Estimates showed that the year was opened with a deficit of £1.1 million, that it was hoped to execute capital works to the tune of £9.9 million and that the consequence of this would find us with a deficit of £2.7 million when the year ended, we have in fact so adjusted our programme that while we may not have been able to undertake capital works to the value of £9.9 million, we can, however, justifiably be proud of having wiped off the load of deficit and, what is more, we have executed capital works to the tune of about £6 million.

During the course of the year, we have kept before our minds the state of our actual resources and the nature and size of resources by way of loans, grants and any other form of external assistance which could reasonably be expected to materialise. As I shall show later on in this Speech when I come to present the Capital Budget for this financial year, we have kept to this same principle of keeping our feet as much as possible on solid ground and avoiding building too many castles in the air. It is one thing to hope for assistance forthcoming and it is another thing for the hope to materialise into actuality. Francis Bacon once said that hope may be a good breakfast but it is a bad supper.

And now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I will take the House through the Estimates for this new financial year 1964-65. The Draft Estimates are already laid before the House and I shall refer to various sections of the Estimates as I go along. I shall start with the recurrent budget. The most remarkable fact about our recurrent budget which cannot have failed to attract the attention of this House is the significant reduction in both the recurrent revenue and the recurrent expenditure. Whereas estimated revenue for last financial year was about £22.7 million, we now have our revenue falling down to £18.9 million for this financial year. Similarly, whereas expenditure for last financial year was estimated at £22.09 million, we are now estimating to spend £16.504 million as recurrent expenditure this financial year.

The reason for this fall in both the revenue and the expenditure must be obvious to the

House. This is because what previously constituted the Midwest area of this Region has since graduated to form a separate Region of its own. I referred to this matter a short while ago. With the separation of the Midwest, it is obvious that our revenue must show a shortfall. As I mentioned earlier on during the course of this Speech, we now receive three quarters of the revenue which used to come to us from the Federal Government by way of Statutory Payments. The remaining one-quarter goes to the Midwest. The effect of this element alone is that whilst we realised about £16.6 million from statutory payments when the Midwest was with us, we now expect just about £13.5 million from this element of our revenue. The details of this are shown under Head 309 at page 19 of the Draft Estimates before the House. Besides this marked shortfall, hon. Members will also appreciate that all the other sources of revenue which we used to receive from the Midwest area will no longer be forthcoming. These include revenue from income tax, licences, earnings of Government Departments and revenue from Government properties, fees and a host of other miscellaneous sources of revenue.

With our revenue in the state I have just described, the obviously sensible thing, of course, is that our expenditure should also reflect the fact of the Midwest separation and should show a corresponding decrease. I must say, Sir, that even though this sounds perfectly sensible and simple enough, I found to my surprise that it is not all that easy to reduce expenditure in various Ministries and Departments of Government to a proportion that will take off as much as twenty per cent from what they were accustomed to live upon. At first sight, the idea of finding it difficult to cut down so considerably might appear as another demonstration of the validity of Parkinson's Law that bureaucracy multiplies itself even in the face of diminishing responsibility. But when one comes to look at the whole situation more closely and to attempt the exercise of making an actual reduction in the Estimates, one finds that the position is not all that easy. This is because apart from the Ministry of Midwest Affairs which now no longer exists, the fact of the separation of the Midwest area has not produced a significant decrease in responsibility when viewed in a Regional context. All our Ministries and Departments continue to function as before with perhaps just a little less of the work-load. In a few Ministries like Education and Agriculture whose responsibilities are related in scope to the geographical area of work, there may be no considerable difficulty in showing significant

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decreases in their existing expenditure. But the same principle cannot be applied in the case of a good many of our Government Departments whose responsibilities cannot be evaluated in terms of geographical and physical considerations. There is therefore a genuine and formidable difficulty in attempting to relate expenditure to our reduced revenue.

Although the decrease in our revenue has been caused in the main by the separation of the Midwest area, there is another little factor which has further decreased our revenue by about £.65 million. This is the fact that this Government, fully conscious of the role which local government can play in promoting the welfare and happiness of the masses of our people, decided a few months ago to increase local government council revenue by turning over to them all taxes collected under the PAYE system in respect of persons earning from between £50 to £300. Even though this decision has led to a further decrease in our already reduced revenue, we feel happy and proud to be able to strengthen our local government councils in this way in order to make them an effective instrument of development at local levels. (*Cheers!*) After all, it is said that charity begins at home. We have always believed that there can be no true and enduring independence at the national level if the practice and procedure of self-government is not properly inculcated and sustained at its foundation which is the local level. Self-government, in order to have any meaning for the masses, must begin at the local government level where people learn the art of planning their own development and catering for the happiness and welfare of the people in their immediate locality and in their own way. It is therefore the policy of this Government to continue to devise ways by which to make our local government bodies true and worthy instruments of progress and development.

From the fore-going, hon. Members will appreciate why I have presented for our recurrent budget this financial year an estimated revenue of £18,854,890 and expenditure of £16,504,590. The revenue estimate is not altogether disappointing when considered in the light of our present size. In fact, as I mentioned earlier on, the prospects are fairly bright as a result of increase anticipated on export duty and sales tax on produce. Even though there might be a continuing shortfall in our General Import Revenue, the prospects, on balance, are still favourable.

In respect of recurrent expenditure for this financial year estimated at £16,504,590,

we have arrived at this figure, as I explained earlier on, by insisting on Ministries and Departments showing sizeable reduction in their estimated expenditure for the previous years in order to reflect the fact of our present reduced state. Accordingly, several Departments have had to reduce their previous year's expenditure by as much as twenty per cent. Indeed, great credit should go to our Ministry of Education for the significant economy exercise they undertook in offering savings of up to thirty per cent on their previous year's Estimates. Other Ministries like Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lands and Housing, Works and Transport, and Departments like Audit, Public Prosecutions and the Legislature have co-operated and responded admirably to the call for savings on previous year's expenditure.

But even when every encomium has been showered on the willingness and ability of our Departments to contain themselves within the present limit imposed on them, we still need to admit the fact that the trend of our recurrent expenditure, as at present patterned, can still show further considerable savings if we are frank and honest enough to examine the grounds of existing policy on certain services. In this connection, I would again this year repeat the observations I made in my Speech last year in connection with our annual recurrent expenditure on Education. As I pointed out then, recurrent expenditure on education was swallowing over forty per cent of our total recurrent budget. I observed then that even though no one in his right mind would doubt the continuing importance of expanding our education services, yet the time had come when we, the entire people of this Region, should come forward to relieve Government of part of the burden of social services. Admittedly, it would put some burden on all of us but I think it is a sacrifice which our people would not hesitate to make in the interest of our progress and development. Knowing the good people of this Region as well as I do, I have never had any doubts in my mind that they will rise to the occasion, appreciating the onerous burden that Government has borne on their behalf all these years, and willingly agree to share part of the burden with Government. I only take education as an illustration. There are other fields in which it is desirable that our people should bear some part in the social services for which they clamour but which Government has hitherto solely shouldered.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you may perhaps wonder why I make so much about the necessity for showing as much savings as possible on our recurrent expenditure by making our people

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to bear part of the responsibilities for the services which they need so much and for which Government has hitherto ungrudgingly but painfully played the role of Father Christmas. The reason is that the more we spend on recurrent expenditure, the less surplus margin we shall have to devote to our Capital Works Development Programme. If I may, Sir, I should briefly like to expand on this. An important source of revenue on which we rely every year for financing our Development Programme is the surplus we are able to make on our recurrent budget. In these days when free grants and other similar assistance are hard to come by, the surplus from our recurrent budget has always formed the most dependable source of revenue for financing our Capital Projects. It therefore follows that if recurrent expenditure were so high as to completely swallow up recurrent revenue, there would be no surplus available to transfer to our Capital Development Fund and we shall be the worse for it.

There is, Sir, another equally important reason why it is of vital necessity that we keep down our recurrent expenditure to enable substantial savings to be made in the recurrent budget. The reason is that hon. Members are no doubt aware, this Government, like all the other Governments of the Federation and indeed like all under-developed countries hastening to catch up with progress, has not got resources of its own to finance entirely its Development Programme and therefore has to look round for loans to finance part of its Programmes. These loans have to be re-paid under a given number of years and at a given rate of interest. It is therefore essential that provision be made in our annual Estimates for servicing every loan that is taken to enable repayments to be made of both the principal and interest when the time is due. Again, it is from our recurrent budget that we have to make provision for servicing these loans. In this connection, I invite the attention of Members to Head 325 of the Draft Estimates before us, under which provision is made for servicing all the loans which this Government has hitherto taken for financing its Development Programme. It is therefore obvious that the larger the volume of margin surplus of recurrent revenue over expenditure, the better will be our capacity to provide for the servicing of loans. In other words, if our recurrent expenditure soars up so high as to completely drown the revenue, we shall be unable to raise loans to finance our Development Programme since we are left with no

capacity for making provision for the amortisation of the loans.

In the interests of our progress and development to which we are all committed, I would once again appeal to the people of this Region to be ready to bear their part of the sacrifice for providing social services, knowing fully well that the sacrifices they so bear will yield rich dividends that will be a pride not only to themselves but also to posterity in the achievement made in transforming the nation to a modern and advanced State.

And now, Sir, I should like to turn my attention to our capital budget for this financial year. If hon. Members will turn to page 149 of the Draft Estimates before you, you will find a summary of the various sources by which we hope to raise revenue to meet our capital projects during the year. One thing which I am sure will strike you on looking at this summary is the fact that we are having no surpluses whatsoever to transfer from our recurrent budget into our capital funds.

Hon. Members may wonder why this should be the case in view of the fact that I mentioned a little while ago that the last financial year closed with a surplus of about £2.8 million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in which our recurrent revenue is kept. The reason is that the surplus of £2.8 million represents the barest minimum requirement for recurrent expenditure during the first few weeks of a new financial year when revenue for the year has not yet started to flow in. This opening credit balance of £2.8 million is therefore our mainstay for expenditure during April and May.

While I am on the question of surpluses in the recurrent budget, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the Financial Statement at Page 12 of the Estimates Book. As I have just mentioned, you will find that this new financial year opened with an estimated credit balance of £2,751,867. You will also observe that revenue for this year is estimated at £18,854,890, and expenditure at at £16,504,590, thus giving an estimated surplus of £2,350,300 at the end of this financial year. Together with the credit balance of £2,751,867 with which this financial year was opened, it is thus estimated that there will be a total estimated surplus of £5,102,167 in the Fund at the end of this financial year.

I should like to make some observations on this financial position. At first sight, it would appear that we are comfortably well-off financially, to be able to budget for over £5

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we have thus far made. Of course, I have during the course of this Speech dropped quite a number of hints on the various factors making for draw-backs in our speed of execution. I have dilated on various factors of our recurrent budget limiting the extent to which we can find money either by way of loans or by our own resources for financing Capital Works. When it comes to looking for external loans upon which we depend for at least 50 per cent of the Programme, we have continued to make slow but steady progress during the year. (*cheers*). As I explained in my Budget Speech last year, there is a lot of detailed work required to be done between the preparation of a plan and the actual financing of any part of it by foreign donors. Preliminary surveys have to be carried out before any foreign donor would consider dipping his hands into his pockets.

Another problem in the way of finding external aid for some of our projects is the line drawn by certain foreign donors between what they call the off-shore and on-shore contents of any particular scheme. Situated as we are in a land of agrarian economy we are bound to have a considerable number of our projects to be connected with agricultural developments and programmes. Unfortunately such schemes, by their nature, do not fall under the category of projects with appreciable off-shore contents which only find favour with such donors. We have therefore encountered some difficulties in trying to sell a number of our development schemes. I should like to pay tribute to the United States Agency for International Development for the increasing interest they are taking in our Development Programme. Even though we find their speed in coming out with positive measures of aid to be tantalizingly slow, yet we are happy that they continue to show interest in our problems. As I mentioned a little while ago, the Agency has given firm assurance of assistance for executing Ibadan Water Supply Scheme. It has also indicated interest in quite a large number of water supply projects and discussions and negotiations are in progress. We only wish the U.S.A.I.D. will appreciate that we are a nation in a hurry and that they will therefore accelerate the present pace of negotiations which show interminable delays in processing.

Besides the U.S.A.I.D., we have also during the course of this year held useful discussions and set negotiations in progress with members of the World Bank Mission. The Mission has particularly expressed

interest in our road development programme and they are already about to embark on a preliminary survey exercise into our road development projects. Encouraging indications of interest have also been received from the Canadian and German Governments under their technical assistance programme as well as from a few other overseas Governments.

When it comes to the question of raising loans generally to finance our capital projects, I should say that we have never been in want of finding lenders. But we have been naturally anxious to obtain loans, the terms of which are sufficiently comfortable that the re-payments will not break our back. We have therefore always run after soft loans such as the U.S.A.I.D. or the World Bank are willing to offer. A young under-developed nation as ours has every cause to be cautious as to the type and size of loans it accepts. The problem is not that there are no loans to raise. Indeed it is no exaggeration when I say that there is hardly any week when at least two or three financiers or firms, each willing to offer anything between £10 and £20 million, do not interview me in the office. But then comes the question—what shall we have to pay for these loans? Invariably their terms of re-payment are hard and the acceptance of such loans cannot but bring hardship on us. Therefore even though financiers and contractors swarm around us, dangling millions of pounds before our eyes and prepared to release them for the mere asking, we have to stop and ask ourselves what shall we have to pay for these? I remember an old French proverb which says that let things be ever so good, yet if they are dear I have no pleasure in eating them. The articles may be exquisitely dressed up, but often the cost spoils the relish.

But, Mr Speaker, Sir, much as we are all anxious to fulfil our Development Programme, by making use of every available assistance from foreign countries, I think it of utmost importance that we should at the same time pause to reflect on the economic consequences, some of which are already becoming obvious, of our relations with some so-called donor countries whom we are no doubt expected to regard as our benefactors. I am sounding this note of caution lest, in the pursuit of foreign aid and technical assistance, we discover too late that we have in the process been economically annihilated.

The facts are plain for all to see. We are admittedly an under-developed country in search for equipment, capital and technical

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expertise to develop our country and catch up with civilisation. The foreign countries tell us that they are able and willing to supply these things in form of loan assistance. By the very nature of our economy, we depend largely on the money which our main export crops fetch in the overseas market to re-pay the foreign loans. But we have continued to receive rude shocks from the deliberate action of our foreign benefactors who stuff the overseas markets with alternative products to our great detriment. The result is that while our output production has shown phenomenal increase over the years, the income we derive from them has, on the other hand, continued to show diminishing returns. Each succeeding year finds us poorer than the previous one. And, as I mentioned earlier on in this Speech, the painful paradox of it all is that the price of chocolate and other cocoa-based products manufactured from our cocoa product has not fallen by a single cent.

The outcome of this iniquitous trade between us and the consumer countries who pose as our benefactors is that, as we are left with lesser capacity each year to pay for the technical assistance we receive from them, we are compelled to become perpetually indebted to and permanently dependent on them. Mr Speaker, Sir, If I may ask, is this the Western concept of foreign aid to underdeveloped countries? Frankly speaking, we would prefer to do without assistance from foreign countries but enjoy the satisfaction that we receive just and fair prices for the fruits of our labour. (*Cheers*).

Indeed, the process of economic enslavement does not end at the overseas market. It is sometimes carried right to our midst in our own country here. There have been instances when certain of our foreign benefactors have brought in their own capital to compete in the same field of industry with our indigenous entrepreneurs who are striving to expand and improve our domestic economy by their modest resources. In no time the result of the unequal combat becomes obvious. Our poor Nigerian enterprise is driven to the wall and choked out. Our efforts to improve ourselves in our own home are again stultified.

I refer to these matters in order to underline the need for caution on our part in the pursuit of foreign aid and technical assistance. Surely, this state of affairs cannot continue for ever. I believe that it will one day build up to a point where the cumulative effect will produce such reaction as will shake the

entire world. But I call attention to it now whilst there is still time for a change of heart.

When all is said and done therefore, we still come back to be faced with the realisation that our own salvation must come from our own hands and that we must pull ourselves together to raise as much as possible from our internal resources. In this regard, we are happy that we have a Federal Government which is alive to the problem and is up to the task. I wish to pay special tribute to the efforts being made incessantly by the Federal Minister of Finance to raise internal loans by way of Development Stocks for the financing of our Development Programme. The last stock closed only last January and arrangements are already afoot for the floating of the next one. I often ask myself that but for the vigorous measures which the Federal Government is taking in season and out of season to raise these loan Development stocks, where would all our Governments be in the execution of our Capital Works Programme. As an illustration of what I mean, we have during the last financial year obtained from the Federal Government through this internal stock loans a sum of £4 million. Similarly, other Governments of the Federation have benefited from these arrangements. It is to the great credit of this Government that this Region has obtained maximum co-operation from the Federal Government as well as from all the other Governments of the Federation. It is to the great credit of this Government that we have broken away from the policy of haughty disdain and isolationist attitude of the past. What does anyone gain by taking glory in always being the odd man out? What has this Region to gain as a member of the Federation if it is always at loggerhead with the other member-governments?

This Government has therefore reversed the policy of haughty arrogance and isolationist attitude of the former days (*Cheers*). We have sought to strengthen the bonds that unite all of us and in co-operating with the other Governments, they in turn have co-operated with us. We have therefore enjoyed the benefits of co-operation and our Development Programme has in turn benefited immensely from this mutual co-operation. We have demonstrated in positive action the truth of those famous lines of John Donne when he wrote:

“No man is an island, entire of itself;
Any man's death diminishes me, because
I am involved in mankind;
And therefore never send to know for
whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.”

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I think I speak the mind of this House when I say that it is the policy of this Government to continue to promote mutual co-operation with all the Governments of the Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I am now done. It only remains for me to christen the Budget before launching it. I should like it to go down in history as the Challenge Budget. (Cheers). All through the course of this Speech, I have highlighted various factors which offer a challenge to us and I have attempted to suggest what the response to each challenge should be. I think it was Professor Arnold Tonybee, reputed to be the greatest living Historian, who propounded the theory of Challenge and Response. It is to the effect that the response which every nation offers to the challenge that faces it determines the fate of that nation. I now ask us—what will be our response to all the challenges facing us today? The persistently downward trend in the price of our main export crop in the World Market is a challenge; the persistent adverse trend in our world Trade and Balance of Payments is a challenge; the terrifying rate of increase of unemployment among us is a challenge, the almost inexhaustible wealth of labour calling for exploitation is a challenge, the development of the potentiality of our land resources and raw materials for industries is a challenge; the provision of basic human necessities and modern social amenities to our teeming masses is a challenge. Faced with all these various challenge of our time, what is going to be our response? We are called upon to choose this day.

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

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion so ably proposed by my energetic Colleague and resourceful Oba. Oba C. D. Akran is well endowed with many excellent qualities some of which I crave the indulgence of the hon Members to mention here and now. He is as constant as the 'Northern Star' in the discharge of his duties; (*cheers*) he is very co-operative with his colleagues; his comprehensive ability enables him to understand the complex nature of his work while his co-ordinating skill fits him well into the central hub of the wheel of governmental machinery. You will, no doubt, agree with me that the Government has demonstrated unparalleled

wisdom in appointing a "wizard" of finance to take charge of the Treasury. (*Cheers*).

By now, Sir, we, the Government and people of Western Nigeria, have completed two years out of the six years of the 1962-68 Development Plan. At this time last year, I promised that I would let you know what progress had been made in the implementation of the Plan during 1962-63. In fulfilment of that promise, a Progress Report on the execution of the Plan during the first year of its existence will be placed before hon. Members as a White Paper during this Session so that you may see for yourselves how we have performed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the execution of the Development Plan has encountered certain problems in the last two years. Although I shall later have an opportunity of telling you more about them, I can now say that in the first year the problems were mainly shortfall in foreign aid anticipated, shortage of executive capacity particularly of the middle grade type, and rising cost of the equipment, material and labour necessary for the implementation of many of the projects in the Plan. As if these were not enough, in the financial year 1963-64, this Region was afflicted with floods which damaged not only our roads and bridges but also farm crops. My hon. Colleagues in the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources may be able to give accurate assessment of the losses so far suffered. Such damage to roads and bridges has the effect of putting back the hand of the clock of progress in the field of fairly well built infra-structure. The ravages caused by the great flood have necessitated increased expenditure on roads and bridges.

Another problem which still plagues the Region, as it does the entire Republic, is the growing rate of unemployment from among the class of primary and secondary modern school leavers. Furthermore, as a result of the Population Census, we now know that we have to plan to feed many more mouths than hitherto. In 1952, the Nigerian Government made the first scientific and demographic attempt to count the people of Nigeria. We all know the result, and, according to custom all over the world, census is undertaken every ten years. Therefore, in 1962 another count was undertaken. That one became so controversial that it had to be abandoned and jettisoned and a new count re-ordered in November, 1963. The result of the 1963 count is already out and Western Nigeria, which used to have a population of 4.8 million after the separation of the Midwest, now has 10.2 million. (*Cheers*). This

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shows that we have had an increase of over 110 per cent; the Midwest 66 per cent increase; Eastern Region 71 per cent increase, Northern Region 74 per cent increase and Lagos about 106 per cent increase. The greater increased percentage in Western Nigeria is understandable because our people stay at home farming on their lands or engaging in petty trading. The only community of Western Nigeria who do a lot of migration, if I may say so, are the Ogbomoso and Okemesi people who are found in large numbers in Ghana. The lesser increased percentage in the Midwest and in the East is also understandable. The Eastern Region is hard pressed for land and the little land they have is not all that productive. Quite a number of them have to look for their living elsewhere. I am sure that the people of Eastern Nigeria origin in the Northern Region will not be less than 3 to 4 million. They are also found in large numbers in Western Nigeria.

I have analysed the result of the census in order to anticipate those who think Western Nigeria Government ought to reject the census. I ask, what moral right have we, with the greatest increased percentage, to reject the census? In fact, I dare say that the result benefits us more than any other part of the Federation because even after the separation of the Midwest we will still be entitled to one-fifth of the revenue accruing from the Federal Government. How well then does the present Budget take care of this large number of people?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend now to go into the details of our experience regarding the Development Plan and its execution: the problems encountered, the achievements made, and the suggestions for the future. I hope I shall have ample opportunity for expatiating on these later in this Session when I present to this honourable House the first Progress Report on the Plan.

What about the other problems, with special reference to unemployment? Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure this honourable House that this year's Budget, assuming all other conditions remain the same, is equal to the task of meeting the challenge. Amongst the measures proposed to meet the great problem of unemployment, particularly among primary and secondary modern school leavers is the now well-known Integrated Rural Development Scheme to which a handsome capital allocation of £600,000 has been made in the Estimates for this financial year.

My Ministry, in conjunction with other Ministries concerned, is also giving

thought to the possibility of direction of labour, and to this goal the Government has already applied for an expert on this field. The Government is thinking of this possibility because the question of unemployment is sometimes misunderstood in the sense that there are able-bodied men who can lay their hands on gainful work provided they are so directed but who would not do so and would rather roam about the streets in abject poverty. For instance, the building of roads can be done by direction of labour.

Again the opportunities for employment open to our youngsters are not often fully utilised. What I have in mind is that our youngsters, particularly in the West here, have not been making use of the opportunities offered by the Nigerian Armed Forces. The Army recruits every month in Ibadan, in Enugu, in Kaduna, but the sorry story is that at least 40 to 50 per cent of those recruited in Ibadan, meant to serve the whole of Western Nigeria, are non-Westerners. All that this means is that our boys are not coming forward to seize this opportunity open to them. The Nigerian Air Force also recruits young men every month, but how many of our boys do take advantage of this? The same thing with the Navy which recruits grammar school leavers as Cadets and sends them overseas for training which may last three to four years at times but if you have a look at the record of the recruitments, it is the same situation you meet in the Army that you also meet in the Navy. The Nigerian Air Force offers ample chance to young able-bodied men and women but what we find is that most of these recruits come from other parts of the Republic and I must say that this is not due to the fault of any Government of the Federation but due to lack of foresight on the part of our boys and girls who see nothing attractive in the Nigerian Armed Forces. Today when the Nigerian Police Force, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force are all being rapidly Nigerianised, the sky is the limit for any young ambitious man or woman, who cares to take interest in these establishments. As a matter of fact, the Nigerian Forces, when I say Forces I mean all the four arms who maintain peace in the country, offer one of the finest opportunities to anyone in the world today, and the way our Forces carry out their responsibilities particularly in foreign countries, like the Congo and Tanganyika, should be a pride to every citizen of this great country.

The Regional Manpower Committee has also made recommendations to the Government indicating other measures that could be adopted to solve this very important problem in collaboration with the other

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Governments of the Republic and through the instrumentality of the National Manpower Board. Adequate provision has also been made to repair the great damage done by the floods of last year with special reference to Ogunpa and other flood-ruined areas. It is also very important to stress here that members of the public should also learn to help themselves, that is, they should not wait for the Government or the Local Government Councils to do this or that before they engage on what I refer to as communal labour. If, for instance, we want to develop our local dispensary or our local maternity centre or to build a road connecting two villages, it will gladden the heart of the Government to see our people coming forward and doing this job themselves. Later on, of course, the Government will turn round to say: "well done, here is a token grant to prove that the Government appreciates the great efforts which you have put in in building your dispensary or maternity centre or your road".

For a permanent solution of all our problems, however, there must be a balanced growth in the economy. Agriculture and Industry must grow simultaneously; there must be profitable and employment-creating industrial establishments; education must be geared towards producing not only graduates and other professionals but also middle grade technicians to man agricultural, industrial, commercial and tertiary industries. Increased investment in these sectors cannot but give filip to our economic progress and raise the standard of living of our people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, adapting the United Nations economic and functional principles of classification to the capital Budget, I wish to X-ray the structure of the Capital Expenditure for the financial year, 1964-65.

Hon. Members may recall that this honourable House approved a total capital expenditure of £11.7 million on development and other capital expenditure for 1963-64. From available statistics, projects worth just over £7 million were executed during that financial year. From what I know it seems that more than half of the capital expenditure went to projects like education, roads and bridges.

According to the Estimates now before hon. Members here present, we are budgeting for a capital expenditure of £15.5 million. This capital budget is conveniently divided into two parts. The first part is an amount of £11.2 million which we are called upon to vote. The second part deals with capital which is expected to come from external aid sources; this second part is £4.3 million.

It is significant to observe that agricultural projects, industrial projects and other economic services are tied mainly to domestic sources of finance. I think this approach is a realistic one if reasonable achievement is not to be thwarted by lack of funds, should foreign donors fail to help.

About £4 million of the £4.3 million just referred to is planned for social and administrative services. But this needs not alarm hon. Members because over 40 per cent of the £11.2 million to be voted has also been earmarked for Administrative and Social Services, so that Social Services in particular may not be solely dependent on foreign aid. If the foreign aid component is realised, this year's Capital Expenditure will be a big improvement over that of the previous year. That will be great indeed. But if on the other hand foreign aid is not received on the scale anticipated, we shall not be worse off than in the past year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now invite you and the hon. Members to come along with me to analyse together the projects for which they are called upon to vote £11.2 million (minus foreign aid component) for the implementation of the declared development objectives of Western Nigeria. Total capital expenditure allocated to primary production is £1.8 million. It is intended that this sum should be devoted to research, the development of veterinary and poultry, fish farm, farm settlements and farm institutes, development of tree crops and cotton cultivation with a view to increasing agricultural productivity both for domestic food and export crop requirements. The need for balanced diet has been very well looked after as well. The amount earmarked for industrial production equals £779,500; projects involved are provision of textile equipment, settlers production units, tools and equipment for young co-operative artisans, credit to private industrialists and participation in International Trade Fairs. For other economic services a sum of £3.7 million is budgeted to enable research and other services to be carried out for accelerated rate of economic growth. The capital expenditure here includes provision for construction of roads and bridges and the Ogunpa drainage scheme. Other items of expenditure will spread over resealing and bituminous surfacing of the existing roads, construction of new link roads and bridges to facilitate the process of total transformation of the entire agricultural sector of the Region from a subsistence to a monetised agricultural economy. If anticipated foreign loan materialises, community and social services will consume £8.5 million.

(CHIEF OSUNTOKUN)

But where this is not so there will still be £4.2 million to be expended for the supply of water and electricity, medical and other social amenities. General administrative expenditure will be around £2 million if aid is received, otherwise this will be a little over £1 million.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the analysis just made, it is clear that Administrative, Community and Social Services account for over 40 per cent of this year's proposed Capital Vote. It may be said that this is a rather large slice in the Vote and it may even be argued that in view of the priorities laid down in the Plan (Agriculture, Industry and Technical Education) this percentage should be reduced. But hon. Members will understand that it is consistent with Government policy to spend as much as possible in these areas of Social and Community Services (which do not appeal to private investors) in order to encourage greater participation in the "economic" areas by private enterprise. After all, it is Governments's determined policy to provide the lead, the incentives and the environment conducive to development so that the people themselves can participate to the full in the process of economic planning and development. I am convinced that the 1964-65 budget is on the right path and opens the field of investment to the private sector and I hope that sector will accept the challenge.

I would like to remind hon. Members at this stage that we are still in a period of reconstruction in this Region. We are slowly but surely removing the political and economic odds that have been thrown up during the 1962 crisis and which have hitherto retarded our economic progress. We have not been able to adhere as strictly as necessary to our Plan priorities due partly to inadequacy of foreign assistance and partly to the ravaging floods of last year which had necessitated the diversion of funds into reconstruction of roads and bridges. But we are resolved to face our task with courage and assiduity in the interest of all our people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have made efforts in this speech to summarise the achievements and difficulties of the past two years in the execution of the Plan; I have also examined the current year's Budget briefly. I leave the question of filling in the details to my hon. Colleagues on subjects relevant to their respective portfolios. But before I do that I should like to suggest to all the Governments of the Federation, particularly the Federal Government, to examine and study the method which is known as Operation Boot-

strap which the Island of Puerto Rico employed in the 1940s in solving its economic ills. Today Puerto Rico is one of the wealthiest and happiest nations in the world. It is full of investments, and Americans and Canadians in particular are rushing millions and millions of dollars into Puerto Rico every year because of the special tax system which is operating on the Island and which allows the investor to take back his profit without paying any tax on it. This may sound odd or probably unorthodox as far as the theory and principles of economics are concerned, but the millions and millions of dollars which pour into the Island every year by way of investments offer jobs to thousands and thousands of Puerto Ricans who, of course, pay tax to their Government. The same situation is happening in Switzerland. I should also like to ask the National Economic Council to study the methods by which the Germans rose from economic weeds in 1930s to become one of the wealthiest nations before the second world war. And now Western Germany has again risen from the ruins of the second world war to become one of the wealthiest nations today. By what magic has Germany been able to perform all these? The Federal Government and all the Regional Governments must lay their heads together to borrow a leaf from all these methods and operations which have succeeded wonderfully in other lands.

My Colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance, has presented to this House this Government's Budget in such an excellent way that I am left with no choice except to endorse what I am sure hon. Members will agree is a realistic Budget.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion (*Applause*).

Question proposed.

(*Debate on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill adjourned till Thursday, 10th April, 1964 pursuant to the Standing Orders.*)

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on Question (2nd April)—

"That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition'.

Question again proposed.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks moved on the Speech from the Throne. I shall endeavour to avoid repeating what has previously been said and shall highlight the points raised in the order in which they occur in the printed Address.

In paragraph 1 of the said Speech, His Excellency stated that the last twelve months have witnessed a gigantic work of reconstruction in this Region, and that the great but pleasurable burden associated with efforts to accelerate the pace of economic development in this part of the Federation of Nigeria is still with us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to differ. The true fact is that if any work of reconstruction is undertaken at all as alleged, it is to entrench the hon. Premier and his minions in office at all costs—fell, foul, filthy and fraudulent—and at the expense of the tax-payers and to the utter neglect of the development or progress of the Region. The hon. Premier is obsessed with the problem of clinging to office even though he knows fully well he no longer enjoys the confidence of the masses. This is evidenced by the fact that he could only tour a few parts of the Region and then only under the protection of heavy police guards and his party thugs. The hon. Premier has reared two political parties in quick succession within the past twelve months. The still-born UPP was prematurely interred whilst the NNNDP was exhumed after its demise over twenty years ago—even though the hon. Premier was one of those accessory to its death! The stark fact is that the hon. Premier knows that he is an unwanted Premier in the Region. He is rightly regarded as an impostor holding his office by the grace of the NPC.

The only solution, Mr Speaker, Sir, to the problem is to create an atmosphere wherein genuine work of reconstruction can be begun in this Region. And how can this be done? Mr Speaker, Sir, this can only be done by making all the existing political parties in the Region go through the purgatory of a general election immediately after this Budget Meeting. To dawdle and temporise on this issue is to perpetuate misery and bitterness in the Region.

The case for a very early election is irresistible when one remembers that a party which is unknown to the populace before the present House was constituted cannot in all conscience claim to represent the people. It is a fraud on the electorate of this Region. And this is the case with the hon. Premier's two parties—the UPP and

the NNNDP. It is therefore imperative that the present House be dissolved forthwith and fresh elections called.

Mr Speaker: The House here is made up of Representatives of the people and the hon. Members here are elected by the people.

Government Benches: Shame! Shame!

Alhadji Adegbenro: Even if they change their political labels so often.

Mr Speaker: They change with their people's consent. (*Laughter*).

Chief Akinyemi: Who made Chief Akintola Premier? He was made Premier by people throwing chairs. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Awopeju: In paragraph 3 of the Speech from the Throne, it is revealed that the Recurrent Expenditure Proposals should reflect some decreases on the ground that two Provinces had been excised from the West to constitute the Midwest Region. This may not be politic in view of the increase in the population of the Region according to the recent Census figure. If the figure is accurate, commonsense would then dictate that the Recurrent Expenditure Proposals should be pegged at the present figures if they could not be increased. Says Emerson:

“The true test of civilisation is, not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops—no, but the kind of man the country turns out”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we were told in paragraph 8 of the Speech that it is the intention of the Government to embark upon the promotion of a balanced development of urban and rural areas, and they hope, through it, to dam the rapid population drift from rural to urban areas. This is very laudable provided every political division will benefit therefrom. It is lamentable that no division in Ijebu Province would appear to come up for consideration either in this Scheme or in any of the other diverse schemes enumerated in the Speech. The Speech, to say the least, reflects the inveterate hate and disregard of the Regime, headed by the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, for those parts of the Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, the report in paragraph 15 of increase in the number of farm settlers from 800 to 1,200 is commendable but not laudable enough having regard to our present population of over ten million.

I now take you, Mr Speaker Sir, to paragraph 16 of the Speech from the Throne.

[MR AWOPEJU]

The benefits of mechanisation, according to paragraph 16 of the Speech, are alleged to offer much attraction to farmers in various parts of the Region. This is plausible and heartening, but the snag is that these benefits are conveniently concentrated, according to His Excellency's Speech, in parts of Oyo and Oshun Divisions. Why not extend them to Abeokuta and Ijebu? (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to be satisfied on this question.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the unprecedented floods of 1963 came up for mention in His Excellency's Speech in paragraphs 19, 24, 29, 30 and 77 at least. The catalogue of miseries, damage and tribulation caused by the floods are still lingering fresh in our memories as to require no recapitulation. The floods did not happen for nothing; they show that the elements themselves abhor the Regime headed by the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola! The Egyptians appreciated the ten plagues were beyond human creation and Pharaoh's magicians admitted the plague of lice was inhuman. They told Pharaoh "This is the finger of God", yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them. Mr Speaker, Sir, the very elements resented this Regime, and revolted against it. Will the hon. Premier read the handwriting on the wall? (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). Let him not harden his heart like Pharaoh. Let him not regard this as mere superstition as Julius Caesar did to his regret and detriment. It is true that—

'When beggars die there are no comets seen.
The heavens themselves blaze forth
the death of princes'

This was the warning of Calpurnia to Caesar. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would urge the hon. Premier, either to resign immediately, or ask for the dissolution of Parliament forthwith. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). Let him now sing his "Nunc Dimittis" and go when the going is not yet too bad.

Mr Speaker, Sir, paragraphs 39-41 of His Excellency's Speech show Government's appreciation of the need for a bold and more intensive skill of regeneration. This need is clamant and no efforts should be spared until the problem is tackled.

The extension work envisaged at Lantoro in Abeokuta according to paragraph 48 of the Speech is welcome. Mr Speaker, Sir, as a wave of "Demon-crazy" or "Demo-crazy" is spreading over the Local Government

Councils in the Region, I suggest one political Asylum be sited at Ogbomosho for this particular disease of "Democrazititis"!

Mr Speaker: Are you referring to the Odemo of Ishara?

Mr Awopeju: No, Mr Speaker.

In paragraph 52 of the Speech from the Throne it is stated that Government appreciates all the difficulties and handicaps which the staff and the students of the University of Ife are currently having to contend with. It avers that Government is looking for funds to erect buildings at the acquired site in Ife, and to move there soonest possible. It is deplorable that the Speech offers no solution to the problems confronting the University as to the Staff cum Authority relations and fails to guarantee academic freedom of conscience and of expression as known and practised in civilised places in the world. Particularly lamentable is the incident culminating in the dismissal of Professor V. A. Oyenuga and the concomitant resignations of Dr A. A. Fayemi, Dr O. I. Odumosu, Dr S. A. Aluko, Mr M. A. George and others, all in protest against this unwarranted and unwarranted dismissal. The dismissal of Dr Oyenuga was animated by spite and was dictated by the hon. Premier who will never have the courage to admit it. The dismissal is a cardinal sin to the students who are deprived of the service of a brilliant, experienced and conscientious academician with a flair for thoroughness and hardwork. It is an unparalleled act of political vendetta by the powers that be in this Region and for which posterity will never forgive the authors and their offspring.

Mr Speaker: I will like to appeal to the hon. Member not to refer to such matters that will appear to interfere with the internal working of any University.

(*Government Benches: Shame! Shame!*)

Mr Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, one is to agree with Thomas Jefferson when he wrote:

"The unsuccessful strugglers against tyranny have been the chief martyrs of treason laws (and prejudices) in all countries."

Mr Speaker, Sir, anyone reading the assurances given in paragraph 65 of the Speech will be immensely delighted at the promises therein contained, *viz.*, that the incidence of tax evasion will be lessened and that efforts will be made to insulate tax matters from party politics which has been

[MR AWOPEJU]

one the causes of ineffective tax administration in past years. These are fine words indeed; but fine words they say, butter no parsnips. It is distressing to remark that it is precisely what the Government seeks to avoid that turns out to be the regular, feature of most Local Government Councils' taxation policy. For instance at Ilishan the mode of tax assessment by the Caretaker Committee there is both inequitable and iniquitous. Action Group men were arbitrarily assessed while the UPP/NCNC, now NNNDP, men were under-assessed. The figures are in my possession but I will not waste time giving them now.

Paragraph 67 of the Speech offered to enhance the prestige and dignity of the Obas and Chiefs. One should ask whether this would be done by intimidating them and cowering them into submissiveness and thus directly or unwittingly making them Organising Secretaries of the NNNDP. Mr Speaker Sir, the sooner our Obas and Chiefs hands off partisan politics the better, otherwise they will rue their actions. Verb. sap.

Reference to paragraph 74 of the Speech, I now want to "praise Caesar not to bury him". I shall praise the plan of the Government to build cheap houses costing about £200 each for workers. Mr Speaker, Sir, let us hope that these will not be concentrated at Ogbomosho alone. We want them at Shagamu, Iperu and Ikenne.

In paragraph 78 of the Speech, Government promises to launch these projects in many areas in the Region. The sooner these are launched the better. One is only constrained to sound this note of warning, namely; that people do not want water supplies which are not regularly in service. Our experience in Remo is that the water supply is consistently intermittent. This is presumably to punish the people in the Division for their loyalty to the Action Group and its leadership. Be it noted that this includes the constituency of the hon. Speaker.

"Deep malice makes too deep incision", said Shakespeare.

Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 23—

"Subject to paragraph (2) of this Standing Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject".

The hon. Member has been speaking for more than thirty minutes.

Mr Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency in paragraphs 86 and 87 of his Speech made a most fervent appeal for unity, understanding and brotherly love. This should be the appeal of every or any lover of this Region. I congratulate His Excellency for this appeal. We should all proceed to work and act on the appeal. It calls for a very sober reflection by all of us. But the Augean stable must be cleansed. All of us must undergo some sort of purification, as a condition antecedent to the pursuit of these ideals. Necessary atmosphere is needed for them to thrive. Love is a two-way traffic. Unity is a desideratum, but certainly not union of political parties.

The purification needed is a General Election in the Region. But this is a horrible nightmare to the hon. Premier whose imposition on the Region is the bane of the people. The hon. Premier knows he cannot win an election in this Region. He knows he is running his last lap as Premier of this Region. God knows that. He is in the doldrums. He cannot move freely about. Whenever he is compelled to go on any tour he has to be heavily guarded by armed police and his political thugs. This was the man who, three years ago, was the darling of the youths—our dear SLA (*Cheers*). He has now been christened names which are unprintable. The *de facto* Premier of the Region is the Commandant of a battalion of thugs and rascals who are veritable political juggernauts carrying out despicable acts of beatings, looting, mauling and damage to property in their train.

Their stock-in-trade and strategy are ruthless dissolution of AG controlled councils, thuggery, violence and all forms of victimisation and oppression. They relish in inspired Votes of Confidence in the NNNDP and declarations for the Party. They turn the WNBS and WNTV into propaganda forums for invidious and sordid campaigns against political opponents and parties. Chief Awolowo is made the butt of nefarious and false attacks when they know fully well he could not answer them back. Let my good Friends remember Shakespeare in Cybeline:

"Though those that are betrayed
Do feel the treason sharply, yet the
traitor

Stands in worse case of woe".

[MR AWOPEJU]

Nobody knows more than the *de jure* and the *de facto* Premiers that all these inspired Votes of Confidence and declarations for the NNNDP are done by the Councils and individuals out of fear and awe to save their skin or jobs or retain the loans held of the Government or any of its agencies. They hate their leaders to the core, and, as described by the psalmist. They delight in lies: They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly'.

Let us admonish these NNNDP leaders in the words of David:

'Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually. Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good, and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue, God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, He shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living'.

These are the words of Psalm 52 verses 1 to 5.

For the sake of peace, unity, understanding and brotherly love let those concerned stop all acts of victimisation and thuggery, remembering the words of Shakespeare in Richard II:

"For violent fires soon burn out themselves;
Small showers last long, but sudden storms are short;
He tires betimes that spurs too fast betimes;
With eager feeding food doth choke the feeder:
Light vanity, insatiate cormorant,
Consuming means, soon preys upon itself".

Mr Speaker, Sir, we of the Action Group will never succumb to hooliganism, victimisation or any enticements. We shall be at peace with all, our political opponents inclusive. But if we are provoked or attacked, we shall defend ourselves effectively on the basis of two eyes for one. We shall never assume the offensive. We are firm, we are resolute, we are not despondent and we can never be bought. We spurn any filthy lucre and say like Josiah Quincy in his "Observations on the Boston Port Bill, 1774":

"Blandishments will not fascinate us, nor will threats of a 'halter' intimidate.

For, under God, we are determined that wheresoever, whensoever or howsoever we shall be called to make our exit, we will die free men".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks. I am grateful for time allowed. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (Mr I. A. Adelodun):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion that this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature.

Any right thinking person would note that the Speech contains all projects embarked upon by the Government of this Region. Many have just been started, many have been completed and some are nearing completion.

His Excellency referred to the Midwest Region which had been carved out of this Region. The remainder is mainly and purely inhabited by Yoruba-speaking people.

At this juncture I must praise our dynamic, energetic, God-given and God-fearing Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, leader of the Nigerian National Democratic Party, who now, by the Grace of God, controls the Government of this Region and his powerful, clever Deputy, both of whom campaigned vigorously right round this Western Region for the census count. The resultant effect of their effort made the census figure for Western Nigeria swell up to 10.2 million which has beaten every other past record in census count in this Region. This in itself is an indication that we have a very lucky man as Premier of this Region.

We thank God that we do not live to regret the departure of the Midwesterners. It is of course disheartening that the result of the census figures which should have brought joy to every true son and daughter of this Region had led some of our good Friends to the Opposition Bench. They have deserted this noble and honourable Government Bench. Let these people reconsider and retrace their steps back to the Government Bench before it is too late. The NNNDP has its door always open to all lovers of Yorubaland. It is the only saviour of this Region from eternal servitude.

The Governor's Speech also contains the different ways and means the Government has devised in combating unemployment in this Region.

[MR ADELODUN]

In His Excellency's Speech reference was made to the NIPC, the cankerworm which had eaten deep into the financial fabric of this Region. We must repeatedly thank the Government of this Region, the Premier and his Deputy who had fought relentlessly to recover about £10 million out of £11 million cleverly embezzled by a few leading members of the Action Group. These properties and money recovered will go a long way to help in furthering developments and reconstruction in this Region.

Paragraph 67 of His Excellency's Speech from the Throne contains the fact that it is the settled policy of the Government to enhance the prestige and dignity of Obas and Chiefs in this Region. Nobody grudges this policy. Many of these Obas and Chiefs are made prescribed authorities of their areas. There is no harm in making them so if only they will make use of these offices to the best interest of their people. It is of course advisable that there should be some measures by which to check some prescribed authorities who may be power-drunk and thereby misuse their powers. I have reported a case of that nature to the hon. Premier and his Deputy and I am awaiting their impartial verdict over the issue. Such powers however should not be used arbitrarily.

Damages done by the catastrophic flood some time last year and what the Government is doing by way of reconstruction were mentioned in the Address. This opportunity will be seized to remind the hon. Minister of Works and Transport, Chief A. O. Adeyi, of the six bridges washed away in Okeho/Iganna District Council area. He too suffered some difficulty when last we were on tour of that area together.

On behalf of Shaki people, I thank the Minister of Works and Transport, Chief A. O. Adeyi, and the Government for executing Shaki Water Supply Project which is estimated to cost about £0.5 million. I must, at this juncture, also mention that that of Okeho-Ilero-Iganna is overdue. In fact there was provision to the tune of £90,000 in 1962-63 Estimates for water supply to Okeho township, but such provision was nowhere to be found in 1963-64 Estimates. I hope it will be in the 1964-65 Estimates.

Another striking point in the Speech of the Governor from the Throne is the call for mutual understanding, oneness and unity of the people of this Region. Is this what our Friends on the Opposition Benches are up against? This is the time of God to bring about the unity of all the people of this Region. This has been ushered in by the

newly launched party headed by Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier, and his illustrious Deputy, Chief Fani-Kayode. This is the age of re-birth, the age of re-awakening in this Region. Anybody fighting against this newly launched party is fighting against all natural rulers, all eminent people and all who stand for progress, prosperity and welfare of this Region. I am afraid if such people are not fighting against God who is ready to redeem all Yorubas from eternal servitude and cheating.

(Opposition Benches: What happened in Ilesha?)

Mr Deputy Speaker: On point of order. I heard one hon. Member asking 'What happened in Ilesha?' A proverb says 'Charity begins at home'. I would want hon. Members to please leave Ilesha people alone. The people of Ilesha are capable of looking after their own affairs in the Ilesha way. Please leave Ilesha alone. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Adelodun: Most of the people on the Opposition Benches are boasting of winning an election. I wish these our opponents remember that it was just some days ago after the successful launching of this party, the NNDP, that the Leader of Opposition boasted of the backing of thirty of the Members of this honourable House. Chief Akinyemi, the ex-Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs, boasted of the backing of twenty-five and that with such a condition in view, the Premier would not attempt to summon the Meeting of the House. The Meeting had been summoned and the Government has nothing less than fifty-eight out of ninety Members. *(Hear, hear)*. Now their argument shamelessly shifts to the dissolution of the House and to fresh elections. A dissolution of the House and fresh elections would come whenever the Premier determines. And I can assure them that as they have been defeated on all other previous occasions, in the same manner will they be defeated woefully because God is evidently on this side of the House.

The Member for Remo Rural, Mr Awopeju,.....

Mr Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member is from Remo North.

Mr Adelodun: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. The Member for Remo North asks why Government did not make provision for certain things as is being done in Oyo area. How many millions of pounds did the rubber plantation at Ikenne cost? I should tell him this is Oyo's time; this is Ogbomosho's time.

Alhadji Adegbenro: We thank him for that statement which is an eye-opener to the people from other places.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I will want it to be Ilesha's time.

Mr Adelodun: If he had gone through the Governor's Speech carefully he would have seen many provisions made for Ijebu area. But he did not say anything about those.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor of this Region, Sir Odeleye Fadahunsi, GCON, KCMG, for his excellent Speech from the Throne.

Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to join in the congratulations to His Excellency the Governor of this Region for his gracious Speech from the Throne.

This Speech really catalogued the achievements of this Government since the attainment of our Republican status. These achievements have been remarkable in many ways. The Speech also listed the plans and proposals of the Government in the past financial year, and all the plans and proposals of the Government in the coming financial year, and all these plans and proposals are designed to raise the standard of living of our people. I have studied the Speech as carefully as I can and have found in it some words of inspiration. Here and there we have some points that are of interest.

The Speech is a masterpiece. It contains more useful information, it is comprehensive and brilliant.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the first time His Excellency the Governor of Western Nigeria has delivered his gracious Speech from the Throne since Nigeria attained Republican status. We must extend our sincere thanks to the Almighty God that blessed our eyes to see and witness these changes. Glory be to Allah. Hon. Members will agree with me that apart from the fact that the gracious Speech really covers a lot of grounds, it has enabled hon. Members of this House to survey most comprehensively the past year's activities of the Government. It also places before them Government's policy in this financial year.

So many points are of interest in the voluminous Speech. I will only confine myself to five important aspects of the Speech. And for these I sincerely ask this

honourable House to support this Motion of Thanks to the Governor.

First, Government's proposal on siting and expansion of more industries in this Region. Secondly the expansion and improvement of agriculture. Thirdly, proposal to combat unemployment and provision of social development schemes for the people of this Region. Fourthly, the educational advancement in the Region and fifthly, political situation in relation to the unity of the Federation as noted in paragraph 86 of the Governor's Speech from the Throne.

Mr Speaker, my first point on industries is the honest, consistent policy of this Government to industrialise Western Nigeria. For instance, I refer hon. Members to paragraph 56 of the Governor's Speech from the Throne. With your permission, Mr Speaker Sir, I quote—

"In order to create in the country conditions for improving our balance of trade, and to provide employment opportunities for the men and women of this Region, we have invested in the development of Industrial Estates and entered into partnership with Overseas Companies in order to establish industries in certain parts of the Region".

This was the reality of the good intentions of this Government to make life more lucrative to the people of this Region. I hope Egbado Division will not be forgotten when industries are being sited by this Government. Mr Speaker, Sir, just recently the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, hon. Bello, signed an Agreement for the setting up of a £1.5 million jute factory. This will surely provide employment for many people. Mr Speaker, whereas some Members of the Opposition always accuse this Government of doing nothing in the interest of the people of this Region economically, this will convince them, I am sure, that apart from the fact that the Government faces the problems of reconstruction for obvious reasons, it also finds sufficient room to cater conveniently by dint of hard work and intelligent reasoning for the benefit of the people of this Region.

The second point is based on the expansion proposals in the field of agriculture. It is obvious that the NNDP Government is highly interested in the expansion of modern agriculture for the benefit of farmers and the people of this Region, just to improve their lot and to encourage our young school leavers to be modern farmers thereby increasing compulsory food production for the people of this Region. Higher yielding

[ALHADJI OPALEYE]

seeds are distributed for farmers by the field staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in order to further remove the three "H's" which are the elements of human race; they are "hunger, hatred" and hardship".

This honest intention is conspicuously and practically readable and obvious in the Speech from the Throne. Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I quote from paragraph 9 of the Speech from the Throne:—

'Considerable propaganda has been conducted in various parts of the Region and Local Authorities have been requested to make free offers of land for the schemes. I am pleased to inform hon. Members that the response all around has been overwhelming; about twenty-eight sites in different parts of the Region have been inspected by the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to determine their suitability; machinery has been bought and tractor operators have been trained. This, it is expected, will facilitate the use of mechanical equipment for the heavy operations of land clearing and preliminary soil cultivation. Two of the sites already inspected are now at an advanced stage of development.'

On the Floor of this House last year I appealed to this Government for urgent need of pipe borne water for my constituency. I am today happy to announce that my people through me express their profound gratitude to this Government for providing Ado-Odo with water. (*Opposition Benches: Nobody has ever sent that message.*)

We want more areas in Egbado Division to be given pipe borne water. I am sure Chief J. A. O. Odebisi, Member for Egbado North-East, and Chief E. A. Fadairo, Member for Egbado North-West, though they are in the Opposition, will join me in expressing thanks to the Government for providing pipe borne water for the people of Iboro, Imasai, Jiga, Ilaro, plus £40,000 for Ilaro Water Improvement Scheme.

I hope this Government will fulfil her promise to provide water for the following places in Egbado Division—Igbessa, Ajilete, Ilobi, Owode, Igan Okoto, Ebuṣe-Ibora, Iwoye, Yewamota, Ipake, Owo, Ijofin, Agosasa, Oke-Odan, Ipokia and Idiroko.

Furthermore, Sir, Mr Speaker, I strongly appeal to the Government, through the Minister of Finance, Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran to repair the tarred road from Abeokuta via Ibese, Ilaro, Ado-Odo to Badagry. Last year, the floods did a lot of

damage to this very important road. Also bridges on Otta-Lagos-Ajegunle-Ado-Odo road need Government attention.

As mentioned in the Speech from the Throne with the permission of the Speaker I quote—

"85. My Government will consider, in collaboration with the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, a scheme for the extension of electricity to both Rural and Urban areas of the Region which do not at present enjoy this amenity".

I strongly appeal to the Government to provide Ado-Odo and Badagry with electricity during this financial year because the Experimental Rural Electrification Scheme has failed to meet the needs of the people of Badagry. I feel that extending electric wiring through Ilaro to Badagry or through Otta via Owode or Ajegunle to Ado and Badagry will be more economical than the present experiment.

My fourth point of support for the Motion is the educational advancement scheduled for this Region as noted in paragraph 50 of the Speech from the Throne. On the question of free primary education we have noted with joy that it is the intention of this Government to continue the free primary education. I hope the question is now clear to those who politically have doubts. They will surely stop the false alarm from the opposing camp.

I humbly appeal to the Government to consider increases in the salaries and condition of service of untrained experienced teachers of voluntary agencies and local councils all over the Region. These teachers are in many cases better than some certificated teachers in the practical teaching of children in schools.

It is most unfair on the part of voluntary agencies and local councils to continue dismissing these categories of teachers under the cloak of modern certification, especially those teachers who had put up more than ten to twenty years in the teaching field whereas there is no pension or gratuity benefits for them. I humbly appeal to the sympathetic, dynamic and popular Minister of Education, hon. D. K. Olumofin, who is also my friend, to use his good offices to effect immediate action and stop the voluntary agencies and local councils from the wicked termination of experienced teachers from the teaching field. Mr Speaker, Sir, I honestly feel that such termination will surely increase our problem of unemployment and if nothing is done to arrest this act by the Government, many Nigerians will be discouraged from taking to teaching as a profession and this

[ALHADJI OPALEYE]

will in turn lower the standard of education of our children all over the Region.

My fifth point is on Western Region political situation as in paragraph 86 of the Speech from the Throne. His Excellency the Governor has mentioned that people of this Region should unite—as one race, with the Speaker's permission, I quote—

“Much has happened in this country and in the Region lately, which calls for some observation. In my extensive tour of Western Nigeria, I have found it as a fact that there is a common desire everywhere for unity and understanding. The people want to come together. They now eschew bitterness and recriminations. The clarion call is, therefore, for mutual understanding and brotherly love. The economic potentialities of our Region are great, and the resources which we can muster in order to realise these potentialities are immediately available. But because of the discord, disunity and unnecessary strife prevailing among us, we have been unable to devote enough energy to the harnessing of our resources and to the enjoyment of the benefits of such efforts and labour that we have exerted ourselves to put up. Our losses in this regard are immeasurable not only in our Region among ourselves, but also in relation to the people of other Regions who are able to work peacefully at home and at the Federal level, in order to improve their own lot, and to enjoy such amenities as they can have. I call for the unity of the people of Western Nigeria. Whatever grudges and differences some of us may be entertaining personally, should be subordinate to the desire for securing the unity, welfare and prosperity of our people. Of course, if we adopt the right attitudes to each other in our own Region, only little effort will be required to cultivate true brotherly love and understanding with the people of other Regions. Yet, for the good of us all, and, to ensure the stability and economic prosperity of our Republic, no effort should be spared, for our part, in creating the right atmosphere for the pursuit and for the achievement of these conditions.”

I think this has brought me to say something about the political situation in this Region today. The NNDP which is obviously noted for unity of the Yoruba race in particular, and the Federation as a whole, has come to stay as a major political party in this country and by the Grace of God will continue to rule this Region.

Let us all, Action Group, NCNC and NNDP, be in the same boat in order to remove jealousy, bitterness and recriminations among us. It is only then we can help ourselves and those in trouble among us.

Those Ibo NCNC Members of Parliament in the Federal Government who always deceive the Action Group leaders by inducing them to abuse the Hausas definitely go behind and sing praises of the NPC. These Ibo NCNC Ministers in Lagos refused to resign from the Federal Government whereas their party rejected the Census figures. I humbly appeal to the Action Group of Nigeria to beware of the NCNC. Their alliance is that of the cat and the mouse. That NCNC Party has no principle.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask who will be the NCNC Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition? Hon. Adeoye Adisa, Member for Ibadan, who has control over two NCNC Members, hon. Obadara and hon. Oyewole, or Chief Akinyemi, Member for Ikeja, who has control over hon. Ebubedike, Member for Badagry, the only Ibo Member of this House. I think Mr Speaker will decide.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I warn the Action Group members to remember the number of times this planless NCNCers had disappointed the Action Group. That Ibo party is noted for deceit and political bread and butter game. The following are some of the dangerous disuniting measures planted by the NCNC into the Federation—

(i) The NCNC together with the NPC formed the Federal Government and yet the NCNC is persistently accusing the same Government of lack of dynamism and accuses the NPC of ignorance. May I ask, Mr Speaker Sir, can this make for unity? No.

(ii) It was the NCNC that sent Eyo, Action Group Member in Eastern House of Assembly, to prison in the Eastern Region. How do you want Eyo to feel in prison with this unholy alliance?

(iii) It is also the NCNC that incited the Ibadan University Undergraduates into an unnecessary and illegal protest procession.

(iv) The political trouble in the West today is part of the strategy of the NCNC.

(v) It was Dr Okpara, Leader of the NCNC, who gave the clarion call in 1961 that law and order had broken down in the West in order to bring the NCNC to power and kill the Action Group.

[ALHADJI OPALEYE]

But today, the NCNC has changed colours, crossed the carpet into the Action Group and says it is playing the role of a big saviour. Is that the way to bring peace, happiness and unity to this country?

(vi) I refer hon. Members to the Speech of the hon. Federal Minister of Finance, Chief hon. Okotie-Eboh, on the floor of Federal House. I hope the Action Group will learn from this speech, for since his speech, no word has been heard from the leader, Dr Okpara, despite the hullabaloo of Chief Akinyemi.

(vii) It was the NCNC who put Chief Akinyemi, Member for Ikeja, in the family way, whereas he is a man, not a woman; his pregnancy has put him in the Opposition. I wish him safe delivery. (Amen). (laughter).

(viii) It was the same NCNC who ordered Chief Akinyemi to resign from the Cabinet whereas hon. Akinfosile and other NCNC Ministers in the Federal Cabinet refused to resign and Dr Okpara kept quiet right from the day the Premier of the North, the Sardauna of Sokoto, spoke from the North.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Yorubas are no fools, we know what is going on and by the Grace of God we will bury our hatchets and come together. The Ibo NCNCers are the greatest enemies of the Yorubas, the greatest enemies of this country, the most tribalistic and hypocritical.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the NCNC formed a coalition with the NPC in the Federal Government, coalesced with the UMBC and NEPU in the North, with UPP and Action Group in the West and with Action Group in the Midwest. A party with so many husbands. When the NCNC was coalescing with UPP in the West, it was for the unity of the Western Region. When it is in coalition with the Action Group it is also for the safety, unity and stability of the Western Region.

The NCNC in its move for unity supported the creation of the Midwestern Region to be carved out of Western Nigeria. The NCNC is also crying out now that the Northern Region should be cut into three Regions, but it will be disunity of the Federation to create a COR State. When a Motion to this effect was listed on the Order Paper for debate, the NCNC managed to have it deleted. Hon. Members will clearly see from the points I have enumerated that the NCNC Ibos in particular are all out for the disunity of this country.

To test the genuineness of AG/NCNC alliance, the following should be noted:—

(i) Tell hon. Dr Okpara to invite AG to join his Government in the East as Nigeria is one country. This will show the public his faithfulness and honesty of purpose to AG.

(ii) Tell hon. Osadebay, the architect of AG/NCNC alliance, to appoint hon. Oye, the only AG Member in the Midwestern Legislature, a Minister in his Government.

(iii) Convince Dr Okpara to invite AG to join the Federal Government.

(iv) Tell Dr Okpara to make possible the creation of a COR State.

These conditions will be impossible for Dr Okpara. The AG has been deceived during the Midwest Elections and the AG was used as a ladder to climb to victory by the NCNC.

They should think twice, the NCNCers are unreliable, they are the greatest enemy of their party and all other political parties in the Federation and the most noted and popular in the field of bread and butter politics.

The only avenue left for the Action Group now is to seek for the unity of the Yorubas. Let us come together as sons of the same father, settle our differences as one race, in order to forget the past and think of the future so that we may together help those of us in trouble, fight for better living of the people of this Region and the Federation as a whole rather than stand disunited as horses for Ibo-NCNC to ride about.

Finally, Sir, I appeal to this Government not to forget Egbado Division in the distribution of amenities because the Egbados stand firm by this Government, and are strong supporters of the NNDP. (Opposition Benches: Name some of your supporters there).

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir I support the original Motion.

(Further Debate on the Motion for an Address adjourned till tomorrow, Tuesday, 7th April, 1964).

ADJOURNMENT

Business of the House

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until tomorrow, 7th of April, 1964.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

If there are any private Members' Motions which are due they will be taken tomorrow. If there are none, the Second Reading of 1963-64 Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be moved and then the Debate on the Motion for an Address of Thanks to His Excellency for His Speech from the Throne will continue.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.37 p.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday, 7th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 69

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provisions of Standing Order 69 be suspended this day to enable the House to go through all stages of the 1963-64 Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF BILLS

1. Western Nigeria Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill.
2. Western Region Sports Council (Amendment) Bill.

1963-64 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of 'A Bill for a Law to make supplementary provision for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1964, additionally to that made under the 1963-64 Appropriation Law'.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section

26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

The necessity for this Bill and the Supplementary Estimates which support it arises primarily because the process of Government is a continuing one. New problems and new situations arise during the course of a financial year which could not have been anticipated when the original Estimates were being prepared and which cannot be deferred until another year without detriment to the public good. Government therefore has to meet each situation as it arises and to make such additional provision as would ensure that the activities of Government are not hampered by lack of provision.

Before I go into the details of the additional provision covered by the Supplementary Estimates before us, I should like to assure the House that the mere fact that the House is being called upon to appropriate additional funds does not necessarily mean that new money to the tune of the amount being appropriated will in fact be required. This is a most important point which is seldom known to the public. The Treasury, as the controlling organ of Government's approved expenditure, has kept a vigilant eye on the state of public funds in relation to various departmental activities. The Treasury has therefore always insisted on Departments quoting savings from items of existing approved expenditure for the purpose of financing new ones not already approved by the Legislature. It therefore follows that in a good number of cases, expenditure on new items are met from existing approved provisions in the Estimates. No additional funds are therefore required but, nonetheless, since the new items or projects were those not already approved by the Legislature, they have to be presented to this House for approval.

Of the total supplementary expenditure of £9,263,880 which is covered by this Bill, recurrent expenditure accounts for the sum of £1,443,190 as shown under the First Schedule. The remaining expenditure of £7,820,690 falls under Capital Works as shown under the Second Schedule in the Bill. As I shall shortly explain, we need not be terrified by the huge sum of £7,820,690 of additional expenditure under Capital Works. The fact is that the actual additional expenditure involved is only £1,459,190.

Taking first the recurrent expenditure under the First Schedule, I should like to draw the attention of hon. Members to some of the items in the Bill. An additional provision of £670,770 is required under

[OBA AKRAN]

Head 336 to implement Government decision to improve the financial position of our local government councils by transferring to them the proceeds of P.A.Y.E. tax on incomes between £50 to £300 per annum. We are all aware of the financial difficulties confronting local government councils and we are conscious of the fact that the foundations of a true democratic welfare state are best laid at the local government level. In presenting my Budget Speech yesterday, I dwelt at length on the importance of local authorities to our community as a nation. It is our hope that local authorities will appreciate the encouragement which Government is giving to them and will live up to the ideals expected of them as the custodian of the welfare and happiness of their people.

Another significant item which requires mention is the provision of £385,690 under Head 331. This is to meet the grants due to Local Police Authorities in respect of their expenditure in the financial year 1961-62 and also the excess expenditure incurred on local police services during the period of Emergency when Government had to meet all expenditure relating to the maintenance of Local Government Police. I trust that this honourable House will not hesitate to approve this expenditure as we are all aware of the importance of maintaining law and order in our society.

Hon. Members will no doubt be interested to note the additional provision of £98,360 required under Head 345 to meet the payment of arrears of salaries to Members of the Legislature during the period of the Emergency. I venture to hope that the House will wish to approve this provision as otherwise I fear it may form a case for surcharge action.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I should now like to turn to details of supplementary provision for Capital Works appearing in the Second Schedule to this Bill. As I mentioned earlier on, the actual supplementary expenditure for which the blessing of this House is being sought amounts to £1,459,190 even though a figure of £7,820,690 is shown in the Bill. The reason for this is that the sum of £6,361,500 shown under sub-head 4 of Head 705 will not require to be voted for expenditure. This amount is reflected in the Estimates for purely accounting purposes. The background to it is that the Western Nigeria Marketing Board assigned to this Government the long-term loan of this sum of £6,361,500 which the Board had made to the Federal Government. This sum was at the time

credited to our revenue and for regularising accounts, it is necessary to reflect it on the expenditure side. The inclusion of this sum in the Estimates is therefore merely a book-keeping exercise and no physical transfer of cash is involved.

About half of the total actual supplementary expenditure of £1,459,190 is required so that capital projects such as urban water supply schemes, buildings, roads and bridges already in progress might be completed during the financial year. A substantial proportion of the additional provision is also required to meet the financial requirements of statutory corporations and to implement the integrated rural development programme about which I spoke at length in my Budget Speech yesterday.

A substantial proportion of the additional provision of £118,500 shown under Head 721—Premier's Office, is required in connection with the arrangements being made for the publication of a Government daily newspaper in this Region. It is meet and proper that this Government, like the other Governments of the Federation, should give adequate publicity to all its activities designed to improve the welfare of the people.

The total actual supplementary expenditure both in respect of recurrent and capital items therefore amounts to £2,902,380. It is mainly for this additional expenditure that the blessing of this House is being sought. I do not wish to take the time of this House any further since the various items of recurrent and capital expenditure have been explained in detail in the Supplementary Estimates which is the subject of this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I therefore beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

HEAD 320.—GOVERNOR

Question proposed that the sum of £2,700 for Head 320.—Governor—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 321.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question proposed that the sum of £141,040 for Head 321.—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

[CHIEF ADIGUN]

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 323.—MISCELLANEOUS

*Question proposed that the sum of £5,000 for Head 323.—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 327.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*Question proposed that the sum of £74,600 for Head 327.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Question proposed that the sum of £6,230 for Head 328.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*Question proposed that the sum of £15,280 for Head 330.—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

*Question proposed that the sum of £385,690 for Head 331.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 333.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

*Question proposed that the sum of £9,260 for Head 333.—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 334.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

*Question proposed that the sum of £5,600 for Head 334.—Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question proposed that the sum of £11,190 for Head 335.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East): It is surprising that Government has to incur extra expenses in respect of this Ministry which is expected to be a revenue-earning Ministry. It appears that instead of being

revenue-earning this Department has been squandering funds.

Oba Akran: I do not think that is quite correct, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Question proposed that the sum of £670,770 for Head 336.—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 338.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

*Question proposed that the sum of £1,800 for Head 338.—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 339.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

*Question proposed that the sum of £5,750 for Head 339.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 340.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Question proposed that the sum of £4,000 for Head 340.—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Babatola: Does this sum include the provision to air-condition the Houses of Legislature?

Oba Akran: I do not know where this rumour about air conditioning came from. I have not heard it before; I am just hearing it for the first time. To air-condition a place like this will cost far more than the provision which has appeared in the Supplementary Estimates.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 342.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

*Question proposed that the sum of £840 for Head 340.—Department of Public Prosecutions—stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 344.—JUDICIAL

*Question proposed that the sum of £4,200 for Head 344.—Judicial stand part of the Schedule.**Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 345.—LEGISLATURE

Question proposed, that the sum of £98,360 for Head 345.—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule.

[OBA AKRAN]

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 347.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed that the sum of £880 for Head 347.—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

TOTAL, FIRST SCHEDULE

Question proposed that the sum of £1,443,190 as Total, First Schedule, stand part of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Question proposed that the sum of £27,450 for Head 701.—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question proposed that the sum of £205,000 for Head 702.—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLY

Question proposed that the sum of £261,350 for Head 703.—Urban Water Supply—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 704.—RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Question proposed that the sum of £95,880 for Head 704.—Rural Water Supply—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 705.—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the sum of £6,661,500 for Head 705.—Other Capital Expenditure—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 708.—SPECIAL MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £28,080 for Head 708.—Special Medical Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

PART II.—OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

HEAD 721.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question proposed that the sum of £118,500 for Head 721.—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, sub-heads 1 and 4—Midwest Plebiscite

Expenses. As the Federal Government was responsible for these expenses, I think that this Government should ask for reimbursement from the Federal Government.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, it appears that the hon. Member does not know that the Midwest was part and parcel of this Region and as such this Government had every responsibility to expend money on it. I know that the responsibility for the plebiscite was not limited to this Region alone but this sum is what we had to spend.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 722.—THE TREASURY

Question proposed that the sum of £33,000 for Head 722.—The Treasury—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £288,500 for Head 724.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed that the sum of £19,350 for Head 726.—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. O. Obadara (Ibadan North-West Suburban): Mr Chairman,..... (interruptions.)

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Because the hon. Member is not audible enough, I am not sure he is complying with Standing Order No. 2 (1) which says that the Business of the Legislative House of the Region shall be conducted in English.

Mr Obadara: Mr Chairman, Sir, May I.....(interruptions).

Mr Kotoye: Point of Order, Sir, Mr Chairman, Standing Order 3 (2) says a Member may sit only on the seat allocated to him.

(Government Benches: Let him go back to his seat).

Mr Chairman: I think the hon. Gentleman has got to go back to his seat.

(Government Benches: Shame, shame).

Chief Babatola: The hon. Gentleman is sitting where the Leader of Opposition has allocated to him.

(Government Bench: No, No, No).

Mr Chairman: I do not agree that the hon. Gentleman has been allocated any particular seat but because all Front Benchers may sit anywhere on the Front Bench, I think he can now go back to where he was.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, Order No. 29 (1). During a sitting, all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum. Hon. Oyewole does not comply with this Order, because he is not well dressed as his *buba* underwear is not buttoned.

The Minister of State (Education) (Mr A. Ajibola): Point of Information, Mr Chairman. Hon. Oyewole is only a Member for Ibadan but he does not represent Ibadan people. Therefore he is nobody in Ibadan and he should walk out. (Laughter).

Mr Chairman: Hon. Members should be properly dressed. (Laughter).

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £13,000 for Head 727.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Chairman, I would like to make some comments on this Head. According to the explanation of the Minister of Finance, this money was set aside to buy printing machines. I thought that this Government had enough machines and that the buying of more press machines is superfluous and unnecessary. The case was made worse by the printing of the newspaper called the *Daily Sketch* which is a complete waste of Government revenue. We have enough machinery for the publication of Government business and services. We have gone all the way to buy a press to the tune of £13,000 for the printing of a paper which is completely useless; its title is printed on a red background and we all know that red denotes danger.

All the other papers published in this country have white background, indicating peace. This paper should be scrapped. (interruptions). Are we showing that the new party is going all out for blood, murder and arson? It must be scrapped; it is a waste, and the money should be used for other developments.

If I had this Supplementary Estimate before this time, I would have filed a Motion to ask that the machine be sent back or the buyers be surcharged. (interruptions).

Oba Akran: The hon. Gentleman does not know what he is talking about. For an hon. Gentleman to claim that £13,000 is sufficient to set up a printing press to print a Newspaper is an indication of a woeful lack of knowledge. I do not think it is proper for the hon. Gentleman to have questioned this now because when we were considering the Vote under the Premier's Office, I spoke about this Newspaper. It does not cost £13,000 to set up a printing press. This press is for the Government Press; they are not the people printing this paper at all.

Mr Kotoye: Point of Information. It is deplorable that a school teacher with some experience does not know that the background colour of the *Daily Sketch* is not red but purple. (Laughter).

Chief Babatola: The colour is not purple; it may not be red, but it is not purple.

Mr Speaker: I think we are fully assured that there is nothing red about the newspaper.

Oba Akran: I have already given an explanation. The machine is to augment the machinery of the Government Press here and it will help them. They are doing wonderful work in that place.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 728.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that the sum of £1,500 for Head 728.—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 731.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question proposed that the sum of £5,000 for Head 731.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 732.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question proposed that the sum of £15,000 for Head 732.—Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Olusa: Mr Chairman, here too we have contravened a biblical injunction for mere show of vanity. The Government of this Region set aside such a huge sum of money for vanity, for earning a good name abroad, for a mere fight, a bestial show, squandering money—about £15,000 of the people's money. There is no reason why this Region should waste the people's money for mere vanity.....(Interruptions).

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): I have known my Friend for a long time and I know he hates anything social.....(laughter). My Friend, Sir, as I have said, does not believe in anything that will lead to the welfare of the people. He is complaining of the £15,000 spent on the Gene Fuller/Dick Tiger fight and incidentally, he was there on that night. He was one of those who cheered Dick Tiger to victory. Why must a person of his calibre who took interest in a thing like that come now to complain?

I don't think we need waste any time on this particular item. It was a fight which made the whole Federation so happy. The mere fact that such a fight was staged in Nigeria, and especially in Western Nigeria, is a matter of great joy to everybody here and, in addition, the fact that Dick Tiger won the fight was a great credit to the people at home and abroad.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman Sir Members on this side of the House would not oppose this item as such and it should not be taken that because one person on this Side opposes it, it is the opinion of a particular party. In the same manner we may have people on the other Side who oppose this item.

Mr Olusa: I am not opposing Dick Tiger's fight. What I am saying is that the fight should not have been financed by Government, and Tiger could have won all the same without our wasting public revenue on it. The Government sponsored the fight only for mere show of vanity.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Chairman, Sir, when this fight was to be staged, Government gave a guarantee that the Government would contribute towards the success of the fight. I hope that my hon. Friend is not suggesting that the Government of this Region should rescind its previous decision to contribute towards the cost of the fight. And if the other Governments in the Federation fulfilled their pledges there is no reason why any hon. Member of this House should suggest that this Government should fail to fulfil its pledge.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 735.—MINISTRY OF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed that the sum of £3,990 for Head 735.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, we on this Side of the House feel that we

should have been able to spend more money on this Head, particularly on Item 4, instead of spending money on buying machines. We should have more laboratories and more factories in this Region. May I ask the Minister, through the Chairman, where this laboratory will be built?

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): Mr Chairman Sir, I thank the hon. Member. I can assure him that when next he comes here I will be able to give him good news. The laboratory may be sited in Ado-Ekiti

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 736.—MINISTRY OF
WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Question proposed that the sum of £42,590 for Head 736.—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

GRAND TOTAL

Question proposed that the grand total of £7,770,690 stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman Sir, I have an amendment to make to the figure shown as grand total. I move that the figure £7,770,690 be amended to read £7,820,690.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the grand total as amended stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

THE MONEYLENDERS (AMENDMENT)
BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Moneylenders Law.

In moving the Second Reading of the Bill, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the Objects and Reasons for the amendments as published with the Bill.

The Moneylenders Law was enacted to protect the public from unscrupulous moneylenders and accordingly it lays down strict conditions to be observed by moneylenders. It would appear, however, that the Law is operating hardship on a class of companies which, even though they may come within

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the definition of moneylenders under the Law, are engaged in a type of moneylending which is non-usurious. These companies are really interested in development projects and lend money to development companies only. They are public corporations set up for the purpose of making development capital available for projects which do not always attract any, or sufficient, capital from ordinary industrial or commercial sources. It is considered that the taking out of a Moneylenders Licence and the strict observance of the conditions imposed by the Law, even if practicable, would not be appropriate to the status, objects and operating methods of these companies. It is therefore felt that the only solution to the problem is in the granting of exemption from the provisions of the Law to these companies.

Although I am in sympathy with these companies I do not consider that the granting of absolute and unconditional exemption to them would be in the best interest of this Region. The solution to their problem would appear to be an amendment to the existing Law so as to enable the Governor-in-Council to make exemption from the provisions of the Law granted under section 2 (d) thereof subject to such conditions as he may deem appropriate.

Mr Speaker Sir, I respectfully invite the attention of hon. Members to sub-clause (1) of the new Clause 2A of the Bill the purpose of which is to confer on the Governor-in-Council power to make exemptions subject to such conditions as he may deem appropriate. These conditions may be specified in the Order containing the exemptions or in a subsequent Order or otherwise, for instance, by correspondence or private agreement with the person or body corporate concerned. Sanction is provided in the event of the breach of any condition by any person or body corporate to whom an exemption has been granted and such sanction is to be found in sub-clause (2) of the new Clause 2A rendering any contract or purported contract in breach of such condition null and void and of no effect whatsoever. Further sanctions in the form of penalties for a criminal offence arising from any breach of such conditions are to be found in sub-clause (3) of the new Clause 2A in the Bill. These penalties are similar in their terms to the penalties provided for in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of section 5 of the Moneylenders Law, Cap. 78.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Mr A. B. Bello: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr Olusa: Mr Chairman, I am not opposing this Clause but I wish to appeal to my Friends, those who are in power today, not to discriminate when applying the law. The conditions given in the Bill give the Minister concerned the power to favour his supporters and to discriminate against his opponents.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I am not surprised because the person who has dabbled into this Debate is not conversant with the Law. This Bill was published when the Action Group Government was in power in this Region. The proviso which we have in section 2 (b) of the Law gives the Governor in Council absolute power to make exception to any Corporation and I refer the hon. Member to section 2 (b) of the Law as it exists today. Anybody or Corporation exempted from this Law shall not be covered by this Law. The original Law allows the Governor in Council exemption to anybody without condition. That is the Law we find and that is the Law which the democratic Government of this Region, the NNDP, wants to amend. (*Cheers*). As I have said, Mr Chairman, the Bill was published during the Action Group regime and I do not know whether the view of the Opposition is that the Bill published by them when in power should now be scrapped. If that is what they want, they should now tell us.

Clause 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill, which I have the honour to present, is non-controversial as it is designed to assist local government authorities in this Region in the collection of rates. For some

[MR KOTOYE]

time now, there has been great anxiety about the unhealthy financial state of local government councils, and it is my belief that hon. Members will receive any proposal which is designed to improve the present unsatisfactory situation with enthusiasm.

As hon. Members are aware, under the provision of section 255 of the Local Government Law, ratepayers can be prosecuted if they refuse to pay any rates. Experience has shown that it is not always easy to prove the fact of refusal especially since the onus of proof is on the Rating Authority.

Special and other rates have been collected with some ease up to now because the provisions of the Income Tax Law have been invoked in enforcing payment. Under this arrangement, it is conceivable that a counsel to a rate defaulter arraigned before a court under the Income Tax Law, while agreeing to pay the income tax element, would avoid payment of the other rates by pleading that he has not refused to pay.

This Bill is, therefore, designed to rectify the situation and to protect councils against such taxpayers as deliberately refuse to pay rates by making failure to pay rates an additional ground for inflicting penal section on rate defaulters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Mover of this Bill started by saying that the Bill is not a controversial one. I disagree entirely with him because it is a clever way of luring the people to believe that by inserting the words 'or fails' immediately before the word 'refuse' is something that will gladden the hearts of poor ratepayers in this Region. I would recall to mind the episode or the crisis which arose in regard to the tenement rates in Egba Division, from where the hon. the Mover of this Bill comes. He is not from the township, of course, he comes from Owode which is a village in Egba Division.

Mr Kotoye: Owode is a town, please.

Alhaji Adegbenro: It is unfortunate, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the substantive Minister of Local Government is not here, however, the second-half of the Minister of Local Government is here.

Mr Kotoye: A stronger half.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I have always been given to understand that a half is not as strong as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the present Minister of Local Government, Chief Remi Fani-Kayode, was the champion of the agitation against the payment of tenement rates in Abeokuta. At that time the Action Group decided, on recommendation of the Abeokuta Urban District Council, that tenement rating is the best solution to the acute financial problem of that Council. It appeared the Council collected about £35,000 every year for the operation of the water scheme. What did we find? My Friend, the present Minister of Local Government, was then the Leader of Opposition and he championed the agitation against this proposal. He even went to court on it and got as far as the High Court (*Interruptions*).

Mr Kotoye: Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir. Is it not cowardly to accuse an hon. Member who is not present in the House?

Mr Speaker: Order. The Leader of Opposition made reference to the fact that the substantive Minister of Local Government is not here. As a matter of fact, if the substantive Minister of Local Government is not here, his deputy, that is the Regional Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, should deputise for him. (*Cheers from the Opposition*). But it is not good to refer to Chief Fani-Kayode in person. I mean that his professional business as a lawyer should not be attacked on the floor of this House.

Alhaji Adegbenro: In any event, the present Minister of Local Government first incited the Egbas not to accept the tenement rates.

The Government Whip (Mr. O. Fashola): Standing Order 73. Absence of Member. Any Member who is prevented from attending a meeting of the House shall acquaint Mr Speaker as early as possible of his inability to attend. (*Laughter from both Sides.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to know from you whether the Leader of Opposition, hon. Adegbenro, reported to you why he was not here yesterday. (*Prolonged laughter and jeers from the Opposition Benches.*)

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman from Ibadan South-West has got to be informed that the Point of Order does not arise. (*Laughter.*)

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, my point is that apart from Ibadan, which

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

is a commercial city, Abeokuta and Ilesha, I cannot see from all records available any tenement against which a levy to the tune of £100 may be levied by any Rating Authority. If anybody fails, may be for financial reasons or other handicap, to pay immediately the rate levied on him under this Law, he is subject to a fine of £100 or goes to jail for one year. It is quite a different thing if he refuses to pay, that is challenging the rating authority. I concede that anybody who refuses to pay rates levied on him, maliciously or otherwise, ought to be penalised and be punished for it. But if the penalty is so obnoxious or so bad, then any citizen who has not refused to pay should be given time to pay. But because our Friends on the Government Bench will like to send to jail all the prospective candidates of the Action Group for the coming election because they cannot pay the rates levied by the Government, this provision has been inserted.

Mr Speaker: It may apply to me. (*laughter*).

Alhadji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, you are not as poor as the people for whom I am speaking. You are rich enough, you can pay your rate, there is doubt about that. You are exempted from the provisions of this obnoxious Bill.

But I am speaking for thousands of the people of Western Nigeria who cannot pay the rate at a given period, and the period under the Local Government Law used to be twenty-eight days. The clever device by many of the caretaker committees now set up throughout the Region is to serve demand notices on tax payers or rate payers only a couple of days to the time when the notice expires.

Mr Kotoye: Is he confessing to the House what he used to do in those days? (*prolonged laughter*).

Alhadji Adegbenro: I am sounding a note of warning that a pattern is being set by this Government and I am sure, by the Grace of God, that the shoe will certainly be on the other foot tomorrow. This pattern will certainly bring very serious reflection of action on the Government that would have just left office. I do not like people to feel that in order to score a political point or in order to win converts we should try to oppress the already oppressed people the more, and that is why I am trying to say that the words 'or fails' ought not to be inserted into the Law.

People who refuse to pay rates are liable to punishment. No responsible people, whether in the Government or in the Opposition, would try to condone refusal of people to pay their due share of the running of any local authority. I had the greatest honour of having been in charge of a series of local government councils in this Region for many years and I did everything that was humanly possible for me in my position as Minister of Local Government to see that people were not arbitrarily assessed but that they were assessed according to their capacity to pay. I see that this Bill is a clever way of lumping everybody, high or low, rich or poor, into paying rates which are not normally their due share, and once a rate is levied the law does not say what other processes to take so as to remedy once's grievances. All that we are told is that as soon as one fails to pay within the time limit he is bundled into jail.

The Region is already a police state and people are suffering, and if this is not going to be the last straw that breaks the camel's back, I humbly ask you, Mr Speaker, to withdraw this Bill, and I should have thought that the Mover of this Bill, particularly this Government, should have given due consideration to the plight of the people of this Region because of their deplorable plight since the past two years for want of the wealth due to them in the past and the scarcity of money to pay their due share for the running of the local authorities to which they belong. That is the reason why we on this Side are opposing this Amendment Bill.

If there is no ulterior motive behind this Bill, I humbly ask that the Bill be shelved and that will be an indication of the sincerity of the Government of the day to show that the people are not going to be victimised simply because they refuse to pay to rating authorities. But if that is not done, then their days are numbered. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Mr O. Fashola: On point of information. When hon. Adegbenro was the Minister of Local Government he told the people of his constituency not to pay rates because he was the Minister of Local Government. Now that he is not in the Government he is afraid. If he goes to his constituency he will find that seventy-five per cent of the people have paid their taxes while twenty-five per cent have not paid. If this Bill is passed into law, those people will be under fire. (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr O. O. Gbolahan (Oyo North-West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want Government to

suspend this Bill until Chief Awolowo is out of the prison. It is my plea that this Bill be suspended until Chief Awolowo will be out of prison when we will have money to spend, when we will have money to pay the rates. That is my only plea.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members on the Opposite Bench should have listened attentively to the hon. Minister of Local Government when moving the Second Reading of the Bill. The difficulty of the Law, as it stands, is that it is not at all easy to know the mind of the tax defaulter. You cannot know whether the defaulter has refused to pay or not. If I go to court and I tell the court that I do not have the money to pay there is no means whereby the prosecutor can find out. If a tax defaulter goes to court and says that he has not got the money, there is no means of deciding whether he has the money or not.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my Friend, the Leader of Opposition, is afraid because of the use which he himself made in the past of this particular provision of the Law. May I inform the House that there was an occasion when some people paid their rates in the month of February of a particular year. In the month of August these people were taken before the customary court on the instruction of the Leader of Opposition. (*Shame! Shame! from Government Benches*). Mr Speaker, Sir, these two chiefs, who were my clients, paid their rates in the month of February and in the month of August they were taken to court. It was alleged that they refused to pay their rates at the time it was demanded. Each of them was at least seventy years old and they were sent to jail, without option. That happened when the present Leader of Opposition was the Minister of Local Government, May I say Sir, that the Leader of Opposition is now afraid that the use which he made of a similar provision of the Law might now be used against his person by the present Government. May I say, Sir, that this Government has no intention to victimise anybody. This Government is out to correct the evils and the misdeeds and atone for the wickedness of the Action Group Government. So, it is the intention of this Government to correct the past mistakes and the only way of proving the good intention of this Government is to make this Amendment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): I disagree entirely with the hon. Minister. Before anybody is brought to court, there should be a reason for it and that if you have

any reasons you should be able to prove them.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Standing Order 27 (8).—

"The conduct of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, members of his family the Governor, Members of the House and Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion; and in any amendment, Question to a Member or remarks in a debate on a Motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order".

Mr Speaker: The Point of Order raised by the hon. Member is overruled.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in reference to the Objects and Reasons given as far as this Bill is concerned Sir, I can assure you that this Government, this NNDP Government, I know their tricks, wants to find faults with our people. Not only that, it tries to drag people to the courts. The men who have drafted this Bill have their own opinion about it. The NNDP Government which is now ruling this Region today have no supporters, they know that. Their intention is to coerce people by force. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Olowofoyeku: Point of information. This Bill was made when the NCNC/UPP Government was in power and the hon. Member was one of us.

Mr Oyewole: In answer to that, Sir, I can assure the House that I have never been a Member of the Cabinet and only a Cabinet Member can know what is going on in the Cabinet. Whether this has been made before or not, I cannot know. It is just this time that they bring this thing out and we are here to oppose it. We know their mind. Wherever they go, the people will hail on them. Whether they praise them or they beat them, or they welcome them, they know. Many of them are not happy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I really oppose this Bill.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not the intention of the Government to drag to court any person and if that were so, it will only fall on people who do not pay their tax and I hope everyone of us will pay our rate.

Mr Oyewole: Ibadan people are always prepared to pay tax.

Mr Fashola: Are you an Ibadan man? (*Interruptions*).

Chief Layonu: He is a degenerate son of Ibadan.

Mr Oyewole: I would like the hon. Minister to withdraw that sentence. I am not happy.

Mr Speaker: It matters not where anybody comes from. So long he has been voted for and elected to this honourable House he represents that constituency in the House.

Mr Oyewole: With these few observations, I can assure the House that this Bill is a trap and we shall tell our people to find ways to avoid it.

With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): We are opposing this Bill because the Government wants to hide under this Bill to punish our people. For instance, this year, not less than 900 tax-payers in Eti-Osa District of Ikorodu Divisional Council, who could normally not afford to pay more than the flat rate, have been assessed an amount ranging from £7 10s to £15 by this Government. I have already spoken to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government about this wicked tax assessment and he has promised to keep a vigilant watch over the Management Committee. The use made of Management Committees by this unpopular band of carpet crossers to harrass the innocent people, who refuse to be bought to their side, to produce tax receipts for five years when they know that it is not easy for people to produce those tax receipts is well known. Ministers, even my Friend, the Minister of Local Government, cannot produce two years' tax receipts and yet his people in this Region go about demanding tax receipts for five years and when people fail to produce tax receipts for five years, what happens is that they are dragged to court, fined and asked to pay again what they had paid once. I am sure the Minister of Local Government, hon. Kotoye, is a Christian even though he is not considerate at times. It is no use asking somebody who cannot make £2 a month or £24 a year to pay £15. There is a Law, a provision in the Local Government Law of this Region, whereby when people are assessed they must pay the full amount before they appeal. I appeal to the Minister of Local Government in all seriousness to tell the various Management Committees in this Region not to use tax as a weapon of oppression. I am aware that it is not the intention of the Minister of Local Government that innocent people in this Region

should be harrassed by the Management Committees, but these Committees go out of their way to do what the Regional Government does not ask them to do. I know that there is nothing that this Government cannot do. *(Interruptions)*.

Chief Olowofoyeku: This Government cannot make a man a woman!

Mr Ositelu: The point I am making is that there is nothing mischievous that this Government cannot do. There is nothing criminal that the Government cannot do.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether it is proper for the hon. Member to say that this Government is capable of a criminal act. It is imputing motives. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: The language is unparliamentary.

Mr Ositelu: As I said, my appeal to the Minister of Local Government is to keep a watch on the various local councils.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, before I reply to the points which have been made by the Members of the Opposition, I want first of all to express my thanks to the Leader of Opposition and the hon. Member for Ikeja North for re-affirming their belief that tax defaulters ought to be punished.

There is this other point which I want to make and that is that Opposition Members have argued in a most dishonest manner against the main provision of the Bill. I will prove my point. The aim of this Bill is only to confer on the Rating Authority the very same power which they have in dealing with tax defaulters at the moment. This very provision was introduced by the Action Group, under the leadership of Alhadji Adegbenro as Minister of Local Government, in order to deter tax defaulters effectively.

Perhaps hon. Members on the Opposition Benches were not listening to me; I will like to recapitulate. The provision of this Bill seeks to confer powers which will enable us to prosecute rate defaulters in the same manner as tax defaulters are being prosecuted under the very same Law sponsored on the Floor of this House by Alhadji Adegbenro, then Minister of Local Government. If there is anything evil in the present Bill, and I submit that there is nothing evil in it, it is no more evil than the very Law which Alhadji Adegbenro, as Minister of Local Government, provided for dealing with tax defaulters. *(Interruptions)*.

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The other point I want to make is this: that the Opposition have not been fair to the Government in their criticisms. For the first time in the history of this Region, we have taken assessment of rates and taxes and the collection of rates and taxes entirely out of the realm of party politics. (*Interruptions*). I repeat, again, that for almost eleven years during which the NCNC Opposition was accusing the Action Group of using the issue of tax assessment for the purpose of furthering their interest, that party failed to meet the criticism of the NCNC Opposition but now we have done it.

(*An Opposition Member: Where were you then?*)

We came to power by the vote of our own supporters and the will of God from above.

We did not even wait for anybody to complain or grumble before we decided to introduce a machinery whereby the Regional Tax Board, wholly composed of Civil Servants and Officials and independent persons not holding Action Group cards or NNNDP cards, is now responsible for tax assessment. How can we reconcile all the groanings and wailings of the Opposition about the misuse of power under this Law with the fact that those who are going to use the power are Civil Servants and independent citizens?

Another point I want to make is that Members of the Opposition ought to be possessed of a good deal of responsibility even when criticising Government Bills. In this respect they have actually failed in the discharge of their duties. We have shown that the Law which we are seeking to amend has created a loophole whereby clever citizens in the Region can avoid payment of their rates without being punished. At the moment, if a man fails to pay tax, we can take him to court and all we have to prove is that he has failed to pay tax. He will be dealt with. If a man fails to pay his rate as opposed to tax, as in the case of the hon. Leader of Opposition who about a year ago failed to pay rates in Abeokuta until he was asked by the Secretary of the Local Council, then he should be penalised as a tax defaulter is penalised. He is one of those exploiting the very weakness and the loopholes in the existing Law. The Attorney-General has rightly pointed out that the Leader of the Opposition is afraid. I believe he is afraid, but I can assure him that this is a God-fearing Government and a Government installed by God. We have no intention of turning ourselves into Ministers of "Terror", we have no intention of turning ourselves into Ministers of "Harrassment".

All these appellations were acquired by the hon. Leader of Opposition when he was sitting on this Side of the House. I challenge him, in the days when he was sitting here, his accusers always came to this House with voluminous documentary evidence, and facts of arbitrary assessment. (*Interruptions from Government benches*).

Dealing with the point made by my hon. Friend from Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) I want to explain that the Law, the Income Tax Law, stipulates not only the production of tax receipts for the past five years but even for the past six years; so that if tax officials have asked for tax receipts for five years, I think we should congratulate them that they are doing their work well. All he has said now is that they are demanding receipts for the past five years so they are still acting within the Law.

Mr Oyewole: Can he produce the receipt for the last two years?

Mr Kotoye: He asks whether I can produce the receipts for the last two years? What he is not aware of is that for the past two years I have been paying my income tax under the Pay As You Earn system.

Mr Ositelu: Where is the receipt?

Mr Kotoye: What is wrong with the Opposition is that having lost power, they have also lost the power of being able to know. If they have not lost the power of knowing, they will know that if a man pays his tax he gets a receipt. There is always a counterfoil in the office which issued a tax receipt and if the Local Government Officials were to question somebody, all he needs to do is to walk to the Ibadan City Council Office or Abeokuta Urban District Council Office or Egba-Owode District Council Office and demand the counterfoil to show as proof of having paid his tax.

Once more, Mr Speaker, I wish to make it clear that the simple aim of this Bill is to confer on the Agencies who are at the moment responsible for the collection of rates the very same power which Alhadji Adegbenro had conferred on them in respect of collection of taxes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1.

Mr Kotoye: I beg to move that the signs, word and figure "(No. 3)" in clause 1 of the Bill be deleted.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Kotoye: I beg further to move that the figures "1963" in clause 1 be deleted and the figures "1964" substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I observe that the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, hon. Kotoye, is now trying to enact a law to amend the Local Government Law in order to punish the common people. In all our honest endeavours to see that people in the various constituencies throughout the length and breadth of this Region pay their due rates and taxes in time, we find that efforts are being made all around by those who would like to coerce other people to support a political party for which the people have no liking at all, and this is another way of trying to compel people to declare allegiance to that political party. In any event, time will tell, but I would like to say that apart from Abeokuta town there is no other place in this Region where tenement scheme for payment of water rates has been introduced. People in Abeokuta have cried aloud that they would not like tenement rates system for paying for their water, and we of the Action Group thought that, on the recommendation of the Abeokuta Urban District Council, that was the only solution to the problem and we insisted that the scheme should apply. It was applied, and the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government was a party to that decision but since his change of political colours, he has done everything possible to becloud the issue in Abeokuta town by pleading that the people should no longer accept the tenement scheme. If he had not said this on the Floor of this House, I would not have mentioned it. When we come to cross swords on the political field in Abeokuta, and in Egba Division for that matter, and particularly in Owode town, we shall settle the matter. (*Interruptions from Government Benches*).....Owode village and District has a population of 80,000 people, unfortunately, my Friend does not live in that place.

You know all these constituencies and in that particular place, the Action Group Government introduced pipe borne water system for the people many years ago and people have been used to buying water and now I

have it on record and I am reliably informed that the intention of the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government is to ask the Owode people, instead of buying water, to start to pay the tenement rate and because of the poor show which he got the last time he had a meeting there. He issued a circular letter cleverly worded that he and the Minister of Local Government would like to speak to the people and that they should bring along three members of their village to the meeting at Owode and the purpose of the meeting was said to be to discuss matters relating to the establishment of a Secondary Grammar School and also to discuss the question of water scheme for other villages around that area. But what did he tell his people when he got there? He told them of the launching of the new political party to which he now belongs and that he would like the people in the interest of unity and understanding to embrace this all-embracing political party. Unfortunately for my Friend, the *Bales* and the villagers started to leave one by one. (*interruptions*).....I do warn, Mr Speaker, that my Friend, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, should be courageous enough to own up when it comes to discussing this question of dragging people to court because they cannot afford to pay, even though they have no intention of refusing to pay at all.

Mr Chairman: The Leader of the Opposition has got the privilege of speaking and he has spoken at length and obviously, I shall not be doing justice if I disallow the Minister of Local Government from speaking.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will not take all the length of time that the Leader of the Opposition has taken in trying to salvage his already sunken reputation in Egband on the Floor of this House. One thing I want to assure him is that I do not need to build my reputation in Egband from the Floor of this House.

The simple point I want to make is that Alhaji Adegbenro knows very well that today all those who are suffering in Egband are putting the blame on his head. That is why he is trying to distort and twist facts in order to blackmail us from discharging our duties. We have no reason to fear any person or group of persons in discharging the duties which God has imposed upon us.

The other point I want to make is that he gives the impression that he knows Owode. He is a stranger in Owode and gives the impression that he is even a stranger in Abeokuta. That is why he lives right on the

way to Egbado and the people of Egbado are going to disown him very soon. (*Interruptions*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: I was voted in as Second Member for Egba Division from Owode in 1951.

Mr Kotoye: The last point I want to make is that in Egbaland, there are no villagers. Every true Egbaman is a town-dweller. All the villages in Egbaland are inhabited by people who have their homesteads in Abeokuta. I come from Igbein, my ancestors were amongst those who actually brought Egbaland to where it is today (*interruptions*) and what is more my own ancestors have also been among the War Generals of Egbaland.

Alhaji Adegbenro introduced the tenement rates scheme in Egbaland. He introduced it with all the evils he could think of. Today, this God-fearing Government has taken all the evils out of Egbaland, and I can assure him that the whole of Egbaland is behind this Government of the Nigerian National Democratic Party. *Cheers*).

Clause 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with Amendments, read the Third time and passed.

ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Administrator-General's (Amendment) Bill.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Administrator-General's Law, Cap. 2, so as to correct a clerical error whereby section 54 (1) of the Law at present refers to the "Minister" as the authority having power to make rules under the Law whereas both sections 35 (b) and 52 of the Law refer to the "Governor in Council" as the authority having power to make such rules. The object of the amendment would be to substitute a reference to the Governor in Council for the reference to the Minister in section 54 (1) of the Law.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee. (In the Committee).

Clause 1.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the figures "1963" be amended to read "1964".

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

PRODUCE INSPECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of "A Bill for a Law to amend the Produce Inspection Law".

Members are aware of how much our economy depends on cocoa. The great efforts being made by this Government in concert with other Governments to improve the marketing of this valuable product has been covered fully in His Excellency's eloquent Address to the two Houses. It is only necessary to say that because of the increasing competition, the standard of our cocoa is continually being raised and at present only Grades I and II cocoa are exported and more than ninety-nine per cent of our cocoa is of Grade I quality.

We have found recently that while, technically, the quality of our cocoa is improving, a disturbing element is the presence of animal ordure in cocoa for export due to the negligence of some farmers and storekeepers who dry cocoa on the ground, instead of using raised platforms or fenced areas, thereby allowing access to goats and poultry. Unless we check the incidence of animal ordure in cocoa, all the efforts made in the past to build up a high reputation for our produce may be rendered useless and our cocoa industry will be in jeopardy. In the past, local authorities had powers to make regulations enforcing the drying of cocoa on platforms and fenced areas and such regulations were effective many years ago. Under the existing laws, local authorities no longer

[DR ONABAMIRO]

have such powers and I have been advised that regulations to prevent the contamination of produce by animal ordure can only be made if the existing Produce Inspection Law was amended.

The proposed Amendment will enable me to make regulations which will have the effect of protecting our most vital industry. It is our intention to intensify the activities of our Extension Services in teaching the farmers the correct method of preventing the contamination of cocoa. At the same time the regulations will allow the Produce Inspection Service to deal with the few people who are too lazy or unreasonable to exert themselves in maintaining the standard of our export crop. It is proposed to appoint Produce Wardens who will visit villages, farms and stores, where necessary, and ensure compliance with the regulations. We hope, however, that most of our farmers and storekeepers will benefit from the intensified activities of our Extension Services and that within a reasonable period, the contamination of this precious product by animal ordure will be a thing of the past.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): I am not opposing this Bill (*cheers*). But I would like the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to see that only the highest grade of Cocoa is exported from this country.

While moving the Second Reading of the Bill, the hon. Minister of Agriculture made mention of Produce Wardens who will visit villages and farms. I hope it is not the purpose or intention of Government to use this privilege to create jobs for the boys. Recently an interview took place to select people to be trained for Inspection Work in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. There were serving officers who are qualified and who have over twenty to twenty-five years' experience in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. They applied and they were called for interview but before they got to Ibadan to be interviewed, relatives of the Ministers, thugs and people who were not qualified for the job were already there. The officials who were to interview them had been given specific instructions to appoint these thugs. (*Government Benches: Substantiate your case*). The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources himself knows that this is true.

Dr Onabamiro: I do not know; in any case, I will look into it.

Mr Ositelu: If it is the intention of Government to produce high grade cocoa, please see to it that only people who are capable are appointed. People should not be appointed in order to make them support the NNDP which does not exist outside this House. (*Interruptions*).

Mr O. Fashola: I wish to tell the hon. Gentleman that the Action Group brought the crisis to this Region and for this reason, we do not want to hear anything from Action Group Members.

Mr Ositelu: Mr Speaker, there is nothing this Government cannot do. As I said I am not opposed to the Bill.

Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this very important Bill which has no section attracting controversy. The Bill is straightforward and timely. I will not therefore hesitate to congratulate the Western Nigeria Government led by the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, for the introduction of this Bill to this House for the purpose of amending the Produce Inspection Law. I wish the House to note that this Government is the first in the Federation to have the initiative to prevent poor marketing conditions for our exportable produce.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the entire staff of his Ministry for their foresight. This Bill is really overdue when one considers the economic importance of our produce as the financial backbone of the Government and of the entire farmers of this Region. The prestige and market value of our produce depend on the quality and edible safety of our exported produce.

If other produce exporting countries like Ghana, Cameroon and Brazil, export more properly cared-for and more hygienic produce than our own, these countries' produce will surely have first priority, and attract higher market values in the world market than our own produce.

Any attempt therefore to prevent poor world market qualities for our produce by this Government is a job well done and should therefore receive the support of all true Nigerians. I appeal to both Sides of the House to support the Bill.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): The Minister during his speech has said that at one time there were produce wardens. What

[MR OLUSA]

removed them from service? Was it not malpractice? At that time they were expected to go round the markets and other places to see that the Cocoa produce brought for sale were properly cured, well dried and free from animal manure. (*Interruptions*).....

Yes I said manure. I know what I am saying. I was an Agricultural teacher before and I taught for many years.

If these Wardens are going to be re-introduced now, those employing them should take great care to see that those to be employed are those with integrity.

But is there no other means of improving our cocoa produce other than by employing cocoa Wardens? Why don't we examine these other means? One of such other means is the increasing of the producer price for the farmer. Increase cocoa price for the farmers and they would be able to employ labour to produce best quality cocoa. At present they find it difficult to make two ends meet. (*Interruptions*)

Do not appoint thugs and party stalwarts as cocoa Wardens. (*Interruptions*). Have they not done so before? Did they not appoint their relatives and party stalwarts as Door-keepers for this very House? Did they not do the same during the Census when appointing Inspectors? That is the sort of thing that makes us fear that when appointing Wardens they are going to appoint all sorts of people. I warn them that it is better to increase the price of cocoa than to appoint Wardens.

Mr Speaker: The door-keepers of this honourable House are servants of this House and they are not thugs.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker, Sir, what I said was that when they were to be appointed, party thugs were appointed.

Mr Speaker: To the best of my knowledge, no officer of this honourable House employed thugs.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I did not say that, I said that they applied and were employed.

Dr S. D. Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the responsible manner in which the Members of the Opposition have discussed the issue. The Member for Ikeja North raised the question of the appointment of the public wardens. It is necessary because at present Produce Examiners could not discharge this duty.

We need some people to go into the farms and remote villages where cocoa is being

planted to see for themselves that the standard conforms with approved standard. That is the reason why we need a new category of officers who can go into remote villages, even villages which are not shown on the maps. That is the reason why we have to appoint good Produce Wardens. But how do we appoint? I have heard some disturbing allegations that Minister's relatives are those given appointments in my Ministry. I have nothing to say other than that there is no truth in that allegation because in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, there is nobody who is given any appointment who has not sent in a written application and been interviewed for the job and found suitable for the job. If relatives of the Members of the Opposition applied for jobs in my Ministry and are qualified, is it a sin to give appointments to them even because they are their relatives?

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Region belongs to all of us. It belongs to the Opposition as well as Members of the Government. (*Interruptions*): If their brothers are sure they have got the requisite qualifications and they want jobs, let them apply and if found suitable they will be appointed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to one very serious point. The Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) made a most misleading allegation. He says that this new Government does not enjoy popularity in the field. He said that the Nigerian National Democratic Party does not exist outside this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to give one documentary evidence to belie the statement. Mr Speaker Sir, last week, the hon. Leader of Opposition paid a visit to my home town, Ago-Iwoye, to campaign. Where did he go? Where was the meeting held? The meeting was held in the house of the leader of the Action Group in that town, Chief S. Akin Oshuntoye. I now have a letter, a copy of the letter he has sent to the leader of the Action Group, resigning from the party. (*Cheers*) Here is the copy of the letter. Chief S. A. Oshuntoye in whose house the meeting was held and who provided the chairs and hospitality for the Acting Leader of the Action Group has found it necessary to resign from the party and join the NNDCP. (*Cheers*). Chief Oshuntoye registered his letter to the leader of the Action Group but should in case it has got lost in post here's a copy with the Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

But immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 3.

Alhadji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, we of the Opposition are not opposing this Bill as such but knowing the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a sociologist, I cannot find in Clause 2 how he is going to make it impossible for flying birds not to adulterate our cocoa. It is alright if we try to admonish cocoa dealers and buyers against adulteration but we are not providing good opportunity for the small villagers and it is going to be very burdensome on the part of the cocoa dealers, particularly those in the villages, to be able to prevent flying birds which may eventually deposit ordure in the cocoa.

Again, I hope the appointment of Produce Wardens is not going to be another clever way of appointing Organising Secretaries of the NNDP. The Minister has outlined the methods of appointment of these Produce Wardens. That is understandable but these proposed Produce Wardens could be effectively used by the party in power, rightly or wrongly, by appointing these people in order to serve the interests of the ruling party. This is not necessarily an alarm but I am sure we are going to be faced with the difficulty of controlling these public servants unless and only if Government can clearly say what rule will govern these public servants. At present public officers are governed by the staff regulations but are these produce wardens going to be governed by the staff regulations or not?

Again, the Minister made, according to him, a very pleasant disclosure that Chief Oshuntoye, popularly known as the 'Dodondowa' of Ago Iwoye, had resigned from the Action Group and declared for the NNDP. Mr Chairman, Sir, I will not like to quarrel with the Minister. I will leave him to continue to deceive himself that the people of Ago Iwoye now support the NNDP. I was there only a fortnight ago and unfortunately Chief Oshuntoye was not in town. He came to the town when the meeting was over and at a previous meeting held before that day, a question was put to Chief Oshuntoye, by one of the members of the Action Group in Ago Iwoye. What was the question? It was whether he sent out circular letters to all Obas and Chiefs of this Region saying that he had declared for the NNDP. He admitted that he sent letters to the Chiefs and Obas but not that he was declaring for the NNDP. The two factions of the Action Group, one supporting Chief Oshuntoye and the other supporting another leading figure in Ago Iwoye, arranged that the

meeting should not be held because of the atrocities of this present Government who are impostors. Of course, my Friends on the Other Side may go under the cover of Government and ministerial powers to suppress people, the people have rejected them—they are all not wanted. It was announced over the wireless yesterday that Chief Oshuntoye and two others have resigned from the Action Group and declared for the NNDP. Does that mean the whole of Ago Iwoye have joined the NNDP? The practice with the ruling party when one member of the Action Group resigns and joins the NNDP, is to say about that 700 people have joined the party.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to throw a challenge to my Friend, the Minister of Agriculture, and I do not know if he will accept the challenge. That as soon as this House rises, both of us should arrange a public meeting at Ago-Iwoye. Of course without lorry loads of Policemen (*prolonged laughter from the Opposition Benches*) either in the morning or in the evening, whichever is convenient for the Minister, and I would also like the Chairman to send an observer to the meeting and report back, (*prolonged cheers from the Opposition Benches*) I can boast of the full support of the people of Ago Iwoye which the Minister cannot do. My party commands support throughout Ijebuland and Western Nigeria as a whole.

Dr Onabamiro: I accept the challenge.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I am glad that my Friend has accepted the challenge and I will ask him to tell his Premier (*interruptions*) to lift the ban at Ago Iwoye for only one day and let us go there and see. Don't forget, he will go with police protection and myself without (*interruptions*). Let us all go to Ago-Iwoye and spend the night there, we shall come back to report the following day on the Floor of this House. (*interruptions*).

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir I will like to assure Members of the Opposition that the Government has no intention of appointing Produce Wardens to intimidate the Members of the Opposition.

Apart from that I will like to point out to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that Chief Oshuntoye, on whichever side he is, is not the type of man to be intimidated as he is a very bold and courageous fighter. Even though he joined the NNDP only two days ago, he has since then given instructions that all A.G. flags in Ago Iwoye should be removed. (*cheers from the Government Benches*) I should like to safeguard the life of the hon.

Leader of the Opposition by warning him not to go to Ago Iwoye.

Clauses 1-3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr Speaker: According to our Standing Orders, today is the Private Members' day but according to our Business this morning, it has not been so. The reason for that is this. All notices of Motions received for this Session came in on the 1st of this month because the House was prorogued on the 31st of last month. All notices of Motions given during the last Session actually lapsed with the prorogation of the House. Except that all such notices are repeated, they are no more in existence.

New notices of Motions were duly served on the Clerk of the House on 1st April, 1964. Hon. Members do realise that for all Motions to mature they require ten days' notice. All these notices of Motions that were served on the Clerk of the House on the 1st April have not yet matured for debate and that is why they have not been dealt with this morning and I will say there are so far sixteen in all and out of the sixteen, fifteen found their way to the office of the Clerk of the House from the Government Benches and one from the Opposition and that is the reason why they have not been found on the Order Paper. By Tuesday next week surely all these Motions would have matured and I think everybody will be ready to debate them on that day.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I am most grateful to the Speaker. I know for a fact that certain Members of the Government cannot claim not to have known that a Meeting to debate the Budget must be summoned before the expiration of the financial year. Adequate notice must be given to Members of this House. It has become the practice of the Government to summon Meetings of the House by telegrams or by radio within 48 hours. I like it to be on record that all Members of the Opposition are opposed to deprivation of their only avenue and opportunity of airing the feelings of the people they represent. We hope that the Government will allow Private Members to give expression to their views in future.

Mr Speaker: There is a point that I should like to clarify. No notice could be given until the Governor has summoned the

House, so that even if notice were given before the first day of this month it would be of no effect. All these Motions could not in any case have matured today because of the ten days notice which is demanded by our Standing Order.

Mr A. A. Babayemi (Egba North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, where is the guarantee that all these Motions will be brought to the House for debate?

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): There is one small aspect of the Leader of Opposition's speech I would like to comment upon. He said it is usual that the Government should call the Budget Meeting before the end of the financial year. (*interruptions*). The Leader of the Opposition was a Minister before and he ought to know that Budget Meetings are very important to Government and that Government is not compelled to call a Budget Meeting before the end of the financial year. As a matter of fact the Government can continue spending money up to one-third of the period of the succeeding financial year.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on the Question (2nd April)—

'That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Most Gracious Speech Addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.'

Question again proposed.

Mr A. A. Babayemi (Egba North-West): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the Speech from the Throne.....(*interruptions*).

(*Further Debate on the Motion for an Address adjourned till tomorrow, Wednesday, 8th April, 1964.*)

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed—*That the House do now adjourn. (*Chief J. O. Osuntokun*).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.45 p.m. until tomorrow, Wednesday, 8th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.25 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Finance Corporation.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Western Nigeria Finance Corporation and Local Loans Board Law—Cap. 37: read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the day.

2. By the Minister of Finance:

Income Tax.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Income Tax Law—Cap. 48: read the First time; to be read a Second time later in the day.

3. By the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare:

Sports Council.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Western Region Sports Council Law, 1959, No. 51 of 1959: read the First time: to be read a Second time later in the day.

4. By the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Agricultural Credit Corporation.—A Bill for a law to provide for the establishment of a Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation for the functions of the Corporation and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith: read the First time: to be read a Second time tomorrow.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE CASINO (LICENSING AND TAXATION) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of—

“A Bill for a Law to make provision for the licensing and regulating of Casinos, for the imposition of tax on revenue from Casinos in Western Nigeria, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.”

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

This Bill is designed to provide for certain conditions under which the Governor-in-Council may grant licences to any Company or Club to operate a Casino for the purpose, among other things, of playing at prescribed games of chance. It also stipulates conditions under which licences granted may be revoked.

For some time now, persistent requests have been made by a number of Nigerian businessmen and other responsible persons that this Government should approve the grant of licences to operate Casinos. This Bill, if passed into Law, will protect the activities of the members of a club or a company to whom a licence is granted from certain provisions of the Criminal Code relating to gambling, wagering and betting. Hon. Members will, no doubt, agree with me that, if well regulated, a Casino can be a source of healthy recreation and amusement.

Adequate safeguard is made in the Bill to ensure that a licensed Company adheres to the strict rules of ethics in operating a Casino and that it does not degenerate into a den of robbers. To this end, Clause 8 of the Bill empowers superior police officers to enter upon and search the premises so as to ascertain whether or not a Casino is being operated in accordance with the terms of the licence.

The Bill also empowers the Governor-in-Council to revoke a licence if the Governor-in-Council is satisfied that a Company has abused its licence.

[OBA AKRAN]

Apart from being a robust source of recreation and amusement, a Casino can be a substantial source of revenue to Government. As provided in Part III of this Bill, 12½ per cent of the gross revenue of any Casino is to be paid as tax on the first day of the month next following the month in which the gross revenue was earned. Detailed provisions are also made in that section for the keeping and inspection of records and accounts. Part IV of the Bill deals with assessments to tax and appeals therefrom whilst Part V relates to offences and penalties.

This is, I think, a Bill which is non-controversial in nature, designed to legalise and regulate the operation of Casino in this Region. I hope hon. Members will welcome the Bill and support its passage into Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief B. Olowofoye): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this Side of the House are not opposing this Bill. (*Cheers*). Our only quarrel, Mr Speaker, can be avoided by the use of the word "gambling". Why don't we call a spade a spade? (*Interruptions*). Why don't they call this Bill a Gambler's Bill. We have nothing to quarrel about in the Bill.

I am of the opinion that gamblers should be heavily taxed. It does not matter what form gambling takes, it is gambling all the same and I would have thought that to the ordinary man-in-the-street, the word "gambling" would have been better instead of Casino. People do not know what is meant by Casino and this Bill, when passed into Law, certainly is going to apply to all citizens of this Region. That is why I said the Ministers should have made it abundantly clear that this Bill is intended to regulate taxation on gambling houses and gamblers too.

People who have money can gamble if they like. We on this Side have no money and, Mr Speaker, as I have always hinted in this House, when this Law becomes operative, care should be taken to safeguard the interest of all who will like to enter into this trade of gambling but who do not belong to the ruling party. Monopoly of gambling houses of late has become the order of the day in some quarters, respectable and unrespectable,

and I will warn that the Ministers should ensure that there are safeguards in the Bill to make it applicable to all those who apply for licences.

Gambling houses are being established and if we look at the Bill itself, you see the rate of tax is 12½ per cent. They do pay of course and if you ask from the hon. the Minister of Agriculture and 'No' Resources, he will tell you. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not opposing this Bill.

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and I think that under his leadership, the Opposition will give us healthy rivalry and show that they are not just going to oppose for the sake of opposing and that they are prepared to support anything good coming from our Side. I, therefore, Sir, do not think that we should waste any more time on this particular business.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1-20 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules.

Alhadji Adegbenro: Perhaps the Minister of Finance might be willing to consider that in the Second Schedule to this Bill the rate of casino revenue tax should be increased from 12½ per cent to 25 per cent. After all this Region is short of funds and this is one of the ways by which the Treasury can be replenished. Why not 25 per cent?

Oba Akran: We have not been in trouble with our recurrent expenditure. What we have not got is sufficient money for capital development but for recurrent, we have quite enough. I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for the suggestion he has made. If the people are making brisk business, we shall certainly demand our own pound of flesh by increasing the revenue tax.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

**WESTERN NIGERIA FINANCE
CORPORATION AND LOCAL LOANS
BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL—
SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro: The Bill for a Law to amend the Finance Corporation and Local Loans Board Law—Cap. 37, is to be taken in conjunction with the other Bill, the Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill, and I have just spoken in an undertaneto the Minister of Finance that this Bill, Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill, has just been circulated this morning, and that I had to send my Chief Whip to the Office of the Clerk of the House to collect the copies of the Bill just about 9.00 o'clock this morning. My Members have not had the opportunity of going through the Bill and if you look at the front page of the Bill you will find that it was first published on the 4th of April, 1964, in the Gazette. Our trouble, and that affects all Members on all Sides of the House, is that Gazette Notices are always sent to the home addresses of all Members of this House. In effect no Member on this Side has had the opportunity of seeing the Bill at all. We do not want to be unduly obstructive of Government business. We want to be a constructive and effective Opposition but not necessarily a destructive one. May I ask, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Government should allow us time in this regard and postpone the Second Reading of the Bill till tomorrow?

Oba C. D. Akran: I sympathize with the Members of this House. I realise that apart from Members of the Government, the ordinary Members on our own Side too have probably not seen this Bill and since the Opposition Leader has suggested its postponement, I think there will be nothing wrong in postponing the Second Reading of the Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill till tomorrow. I have spoken to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (*Dr Onabamiro*) and he has agreed that the Bill could stay until tomorrow but the other Bill, the Finance Corporation Bill, has to be passed before the Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill and I think that perhaps the Leader of the Opposition will not mind very much if we take that one and dispose of it now and postpone the Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill till tomorrow.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law

to amend the Finance Corporation and Local Loans Board Law, Cap. 37.

Hon. Members are no doubt aware that as a result of the Finance Corporation and Local Loans Boards Law, 1955, the Western Region Finance Corporation came into being on the 1st of April, 1955. The main purpose of the Corporation is to initiate and encourage enterprises calculated to further the economic development of the Region. One of the ways it seeks to achieve this aim is to make advances, or grants, or both, to Local Loans Boards out of its funds and resources. Western Nigeria has 209 of such Local Loans Boards. Each of them in turn is empowered to make advances to any farmer, for agricultural purposes on being satisfied of the farmer's ability to repay, and on the security of any property charged with such repayment and interest. This arrangement has the advantage of helping small-scale farmers, with large tracks of farming land and with little or no capital, to increase their productivity and efficiency for the overall benefit of the Region. However, the experience of the past nine years, in the running and carrying out of the functions, of the Finance Corporation, has demonstrated most convincingly that in order to improve efficiency and administration, it is desirable to establish a Corporation charged with the duty of carrying out more judiciously the present functions of the Local Loans Boards. Besides, the need for evolving a medium for effective co-ordination, as between the functions pertaining to the distribution of loans and the supervisory functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources attendant upon the issuing of such loans, has been long felt.

Agricultural loans are issued with a view to assisting farmers to procure all necessary requirements for improved plantations yields and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has in the past co-operated most actively in ensuring that all such loans are properly applied to achieve the desired objectives. Nevertheless, it has, in the light of past experience, become obvious that responsibility for the issuing of agricultural loans must be teamed up with responsibility for the employment of such credits to foster agricultural production. In pursuance of this idea, my Colleague, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has already presented to Executive Council a Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of a Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation. The effect of this Law is that the Western Nigeria Finance

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Corporation will no longer be responsible for granting loans for agricultural purposes. The amendments proposed under the new Bill of the Western Nigeria Finance Corporation have therefore been designed with a view to restricting the operations of the Corporation to areas other than Agricultural Credits. Under the proposed law, the Western Region Finance Corporation will now be divested of its responsibilities over the issue of all forms of credits to farmers, thus limiting the scope of the Corporation's functions to Industrial Finance for which the Corporation is being better organised to administer. It will be readily appreciated that Industrial Finance is in itself a specialised function with characteristics differing from the intricacies of Agricultural Finance.

There is already a growing need for improving all existing channels of distributing industrial loans. There is equally a pressing need for affording a much wider section of the industrial populace the benefit of loans to expand and to promote industrial establishments throughout the Region. Government industrial policy is consequently pursued with an eye rigidly fixed on the dispersal of industries throughout the Region and in order to arrest the present imbalance in the establishment of industries, I have already initiated investigations into the prospects of re-organising the Finance Corporation to enable it to be better equipped in order to be able to discharge more objectively its responsibilities throughout the Region.

The amendments incorporated in the proposed Bill will remove all references to 'Local Loans Boards'. The Corporation has also been renamed under the Bill as the Western Nigeria Finance Corporation for reason of unanimity with the titles of all the other Statutory Corporations in the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, again we on this Side of the House are not opposing this Bill.

Unfortunately, I have my fears about the transfer of the powers from the Minister of Trade and Industry with regard to the granting of loans to farmers in this Region to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. (*An hon. Member: It is a Corpora-*

tion). Of course, you might tell me that it is a corporation. (*Interruptions*). Our recent experience about the granting of timber concessions in the reserves of the Government and also other forest areas of this Region, as a matter of fact, raises a lot of alarm in our minds and we feel that the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources should not be saddled with greater responsibilities so that the granting of loans will not be on the same line as the granting of forest concessions to his party members. The fellow travellers of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources certainly bonded themselves together to exploit the forest reserves of this Region to the advantage of their limited party supporters.

I am aware that the Bill, it is coming forward tomorrow, will raise a number of matters. This Bill comes up as a means of removing certain powers from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and vesting them in the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. There is no serious objection to this but I would like to warn that we are now more vigilant than ever before since we have had this sad experience of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources exploiting the limited resources that we have; and may I tell you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that unfortunately, nothing is now left in our forest.

Only yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources brandished a sort of letter of resignation of a member of the Action Group from his own town but that has been adequately responded to last night on the wireless. But what has prompted this surprising resignation is the inducement of forest concessions. I am reliably informed that the concession agreement was concluded shortly before the resignation. (*Interruptions*).

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 27 (2). A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

I do not know what timber concession has got to do with this Bill.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member may continue his speech.

Chief Adigun: I accept the ruling of Mr Speaker but what I am saying is that the resignation of Chief Oshuntoye has nothing to do with this Bill.

(*Opposition Benches: Sit down! sit down!*)

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please continue his speech?

Alhaji Adegbenro: As I said earlier on, we are not opposing this Bill. All I want to place on record is that we hope the sad experience that the people of this Region have had about these forest reserves will not repeat itself with this particular Bill in granting loans to farmers now that the powers are being vested in the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I said we are more vigilant now than ever before and we will certainly resist any attempt on the part of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to use this as a means of depriving the honest citizens of this Region of their due share of Government patronage, also of their due share of the resources of this Region.

Of course, Mr Speaker, I am not opposing this Bill.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the only statement I stand up to make is to deny the allegation made by the Leader of Opposition that Chief Oshuntoye has been granted timber concession. I wish to make it clear that Chief Oshuntoye has not been granted any timber concession and there is no application from him. (*Interruptions*). There is no plan or intention of granting any timber concession to him. He has resigned from the Action Group because he is firmly convinced that the Party is doomed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 22 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to further amend the Income Tax and Development Contribution Law.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with Section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

In my Budget Speech which I delivered in this House earlier this week and also in my Speech when I moved the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, there was a constant theme occurring in both Speeches. Today, I offer no apologies for not only coming back to the theme but in fact presenting it in the form of a Bill.

The institution of Local Government is a basic and fundamental ground work of democratic self-Government that everything possible is being done by this Government to make our Local Authorities a true and worthy instrument of progress and development.

Hon. Members will recall that I mentioned in my Speeches earlier this week that Government has decided to increase the revenue of all our Local Authorities by turning over to them the proceeds of all PAYE tax collected from persons earning between £50-£300 per annum. As the Law on Income Tax and Development Contribution stands at the moment, this decision cannot legally be effective until the Law is amended.

It has over the years been a favourite complaint with some of our Local Authorities to grumble that Government was not giving them sufficient grants-in-aid to assist them in implementing their programme for social services. This Government has conducted exhaustive investigation into the validity of this complaint and it has been proved abundantly clear that the problem of Local Government finance is not so much the inadequacy of the machinery for the collection of revenue at their disposal. Time and again, numerous cases of under-assessment and, indeed, non-assessment at all, have come to light. And even in cases where the assessments were properly done, the number of rate-payers who managed to escape payment has become so appalling as to require a drastic overhaul of the whole machinery for assessment and collection of tax. There is no doubt whatsoever that if our Local Authorities undertake proper assessment and collection of tax at their disposal, they would have no cause to grumble about their financial situation.

It is in order to remedy all these defects and to overhaul the machinery for assessment and collection of tax that this Bill is being presented to the House. The purpose of this Bill is therefore threefold: first to provide for the transfer of responsibility for tax assessment to officials of the Regional Tax Board sitting with Area Assessment Committees as advisory bodies. Secondly, it provides for the transfer of responsibility

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for the collection of tax from self-employed persons on incomes between £50 and £300 per annum to officers of the Regional Tax Board using the tax collection machinery of the Rating Authorities. A third purpose which this Bill seeks to serve is to make it possible for all tax, including proceeds of PAYE on incomes between £50 and £300 per annum, to be allocated to the Rating Authorities.

In April 1962, this House was called upon to consider and pass into law a Bill for a Law to amend the Income Tax Law to empower the Regional Tax Board to deal with the direct assessment and collection of income tax in respect of persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment exceeds £300. Since that date, the work of assessment and collection of tax from this category of citizens has proceeded very satisfactorily and complaints of partiality and favouritism in assessment had ceased. The training and experience gained are such that it would be in the best interest of all and sundry to extend this arrangement to cover such of our citizens whose incomes range between £50 and £300 per annum.

Mr Speaker, Sir, while the assessment and collection of tax from the latter category of our citizens had remained entirely in the hands of Area Assessment Committees and the Rating Authorities, there has been clear evidence of inefficiency on the part of the authorities. This Bill aims at tackling the whole problem once and for all by leaving the whole process of assessment and collection of tax in the hands of the officials of the Regional Tax Board.

The attention of hon. Members is invited to clause 3 (1) (b) of the Bill which limits the role of the Area Assessment Committees to that of an advisory body whose advice the Board is not bound to accept. As hon. Members will observe from Clause 3 (2) of the Bill, the responsibilities now being transferred to the officials of the Tax Board will ensure that tax assessment and collection in this Region are totally insulated and removed from the realms of political motivation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill, in addition, provides in clause 3 (1) (c) for the Regional Tax Board to use the tax collection machinery of the Rating Authorities in the discharge of its duties. In our bid for progress, it is only right that the local authority machineries should be utilised in this way to afford them a useful training in local self-Government. This Bill seeks to associate the local machinery of Rating Authorities with the work of

tax collection. It is not the machinery of Local Authorities that is defective but the way it had been made to work. Put into the hands of those whose single aim is unalloyed service to this Region, there is no cause to fear that the existing machinery of tax collection of the Rating Authorities will be made to work in the spirit of the reform which this Bill sets out to effect.

A significant provision of this Bill, which I cannot but mention, is that which in Clause 4 makes it obligatory for any revenue from tax and development contribution, imposed by the Income Tax and Development Contribution Law and collected by the Board from persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment does not exceed £300, to be remitted to the Rating Authorities in respect of whose areas such tax and development contribution have been collected. Hon. Members will see in this arrangement a determined effort by this Government to retrieve the tottering financial edifice of most of our Local Government institutions. It is a measure of generosity and goodwill on the part of this Government to decide to concede to Rating Authorities revenue—I repeat, substantial revenue—which had hitherto accrued to Government. As the bulk of tax-payers in the Region are within the income range of £50 to £300 per annum, it is expected that the revenue allocation proposed in this Bill will ensure for the Local Authorities a substantial amount of income.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr A. B. Bello: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Action Group of Nigeria, I like to compliment the hon. Minister of Finance for moving the Second Reading of this Bill. The Minister told the House that the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria, in April 1962, did pass a Bill into Law making provisions for the collection of certain class of tax by the Regional Tax Board which was then set up by the Government and that the scheme setting up the Board has worked so well. It has been the desire of the Action Group to insulate collection of tax from politics; it has now become evident to this Government that that course of action was well, truly and genuinely adopted by the Action Group Government in 1962. Today, we have no cause to quarrel with this Bill since it is an acknowledgement of the wisdom and sagacity of the leaders of the Action Group which was then in power in this Region

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

till April 1962.....(*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Hon. Members on the Government Benches, including the Minister of Finance himself, quite often have said that it is their wish to insulate tax from politics. I do hope the Minister will indicate how best he proposes to achieve this objective. Perhaps, I may remind him, Mr Speaker, Sir, of our proposals in the days of the Action Group Government. With your permission, I like to state them as follows: The Action Group suggested that there should be a committee of three, two from the Government Benches and one from the Opposition to look into ways and means whereby taxation will be entirely taken out of the political arena. The truth is now that the ball is on the other court this has not been adhered to. I am saying, Mr Speaker, that the Government of today ought to be courageous and bold enough to tell the House how it proposes to implement this in the case of the Regional Tax Board and to go ahead with the setting up of this particular committee so that it could devise means of insulating tax collection from the arena of politics.

Again, I also request that in the setting up of Regional Tax Committee, if it is the desire of this Government to insulate tax from politics, the Government should take into consideration the inclusion of a person who is not a member of the ruling party on the Regional Tax Board. I should suggest that that ought to be done in consultation with the Opposition so that there should be equal number of members on the Tax Board. I personally hold the view that people in this Region, or in any part of the Republic for that matter, who have the ability to pay ought to pay. There are places where people who are influential are dodging the payment of tax. I would be the last person to condone the evasion of payment of tax but in order not to victimise, in order not to destroy, people who are of different and divergent political views, the Tax Board has to be composed of all the parties in this Region. Then, the claim of the Government would have been justified, failing which I would think the Government, apart from putting it on this paper, is not genuinely sincere to insulate tax from politics. If they are sincere, by all means, this proposal ought to be accepted.

The other point I would like to make is that these local government councils will now be in a much better position to run the affairs of their local areas because since the past two years, all the local government councils have faced financial difficulties

created by the rash and unscrupulous decisions of the Emergency Administration, followed by the UPP/NCNC Coalition Government, now transformed or translated into "Northern Nigeria Devils Party." (*Laughter from both sides*).

Mr Speaker Sir, I am genuinely interested in seeing that our local authorities are comparable with their counterparts in any other part of the world and as such I would like to see that whatever measures Government can take to surrender their due shares of tax collected in their areas will be commendable so that they will be in a better position to finance certain essential services which they are charged by the Government to provide.

I am not going to set out local authorities in this Region against those in the Northern Region of Nigeria because this Region, in matters of local administration, has ever been in the forefront and if this Government is going to degenerate into a feudalistic set up by all means let them. They will be paid their due dividends when the time comes and they will be the loser for it.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Where will the hon. Member be then?

Alhadji Adegbenro: Then, perhaps, Mr Attorney-General may not be available in this House when I am Premier. (*Laughter from both sides of the House*). Because he has already burnt his boat.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Because I will be the Governor then.

Alhadji Adegbenro: Governorship of this Region is strictly on merit and I do not think my Friend, the Attorney-General, has measured up to that standard as yet. He may, in future.

Mr Speaker Sir, I think when dealing with local authorities we ought to be a bit serious. The surrender of taxes collected under PAYE system is commendable. But I should think that it is the Government that has brought about the situation that local authorities were in financial difficulties, and I suppose that this surrender of the revenue accrued from PAYE system would not deplete further the already depleted Treasury.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Depleted by the N.I.P.C.!

Alhadji Adegbenro: When we come to discuss N.I.P.C., I will let them know and they will cover their heads in shame. (*Laughter from the Opposition Benches*.)

But I want to be assured, Mr Speaker Sir, by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the Treasury will not in the end be further depleted so that funds will be available for the services of this Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, we on this Side will not oppose this Bill.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I): Mr Speaker Sir, I am fully supporting our leader in not opposing this Bill as such.

But, as I said before, the Government have come to the Floor of this House to make regulations and to play upon words, but what is actually happening in the field is absolutely different from what we are experiencing on the Floor of this House.

(Government Benches: Since when?)

In the defunct UPP and.....

Chief Olowofoyeku: And in the defunct NCNC.

An hon. Member: The NCNC is not defunct.

Mr S. A. Akerele: The Attorney-General (*Chief Olowofoyeku*) should bow his head in shame for that. When the UPP and the NCNC, which the UPP partially damaged, were in power, local authorities actually degenerated to a base that cannot easily be described.

In the first place, all the local government councils were dissolved and people who were not at all known in politics were substituted. And we are actually wondering if this Government, the inheritors of the defunct Government,—of course we don't know where we are now—is not after something that we cannot easily describe in this country. The people who were called 'caretakers' or 'katikas' in Yoruba language, took the place of all the councillors in almost all the councils in the Region, and what followed? A notice came to all the constituencies that the Assessment Committees should be chosen according to parties, the party whose numerical strength was not at all tested on the field. The defunct UPP, whether existing or not existing, was to have more than 75 per cent of the membership of the Assessment Committee and the NCNC, which saved the UPP and whose leadership the UPP later destroyed, to have the remaining 25 per cent.

An hon. Member: The NCNC is not destroyed as yet. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Akerele: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to withdraw that sentence, because I want to pass through Ilesha safely. If anybody should say that at Ilesha, he would have to escape by the method Chief Olowofoyeku adopted. *(Several Members: What was the method?)*.

Fani took one way, Olowofoyeku took the other way, and all jumped through windows and escaped by the bye-pass.

This was actually why it was so difficult to get taxation. The method, as I said, was extremely very faulty. They now come to the Floor of this House to talk about taking taxation out of politics. But I am afraid that we have heard enough from this Government contrary to their practices in the field.

(An hon. Member: M. A.!)

My own 'M. A.' is quite different from his natural 'M. A.' I hope I am not talking above his head!

That was the cause of the ruin of taxation and we are also afraid if the Corporation that is about to be set up will not be a means of checking of membership cards, because what we notice is that, as was pointed out to the Minister of Agriculture yesterday, before people are employed these days to institutions established by Government, this present Government will examine party membership cards. There was a time when it was threatened that they would sack all Members of this House who do not embrace their 'Northern Nigeria Demon Party'.

These are our fears and before this Bill is passed into law, safeguards must be placed in appropriate places to see that it is not a means of propagating their party, and that it is not a means of recruiting people who do not know anything about our local government system.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): We on this Side of the House are very happy about the Bill according to the members who spoke before me. But we shall be very happy if the people on the Other Side can allow tax collection in this Region to be insulated from politics. If we go to the field, the scarcity of money in this Region is due to the handiwork of some Members of the Government.

Last year, I personally experienced the bitterness of their work in my area. We told people to pay their rates and taxes but Members of the Government here came to my area to tell them not to pay. As a result, the Council, which was the Council of the Year in 1962, last year could not pay the salaries and wages of its workers. Why? Because the people of the area refused to follow or join the NNDDP and the UPP. They came there to tell them not to pay rates and taxes. Mr Speaker Sir, these people on the Government Benches will ever say good things on the Floor of this House but they hinder progress

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outside. We have a special rate, Grammar School rate, which is 10s. To get more supporters to their side they told the people not to pay. The Ministers themselves do not want to pay tax. If they are allowed they would not like to pay rates. Mr Speaker Sir, these people came to my area and they said people should not pay for the Grammar School whereas those in Ibadan have their Grammar School and the University. Those from Ife have the Ife Grammar School and the Ife University. People who would not like to pay anything obeyed them. But I tell you sincerely, they will fail. I am telling them very sincerely, their new party will fail.

As I have said, there are many Ministers here, on the Government Bench, who do not wish to pay income tax to the purse of the Government. But I sincerely tell them, they will all fail with their new party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as my leaders have said, I am not going to oppose this Bill, but I hope the Government in power, to be more accurate, NNDP politicians, will allow the officials to do their work in the field. They should not interfere with the affairs of tax collection in the Region. We shall be happy if they will leave the tax officials to use their initiative.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): I am not going to oppose this Bill because the Mover of the Bill, the Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, is an old man.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is only one thing which I want to add, and that is that those who are going to operate the Bill should be advised to operate it according to the letter of the law. Several Members have spoken about arbitrary tax assessment during the past year, but when the Minister of Finance was speaking he said that there was nothing like arbitrary tax assessment during the past year. Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that the Minister of Finance does not know what is going on in the field, and I am sure he cannot know. I said it here yesterday on the Floor of this House that in my area about 900 people, mostly fishermen, have been assessed to pay something ranging from £7 10s to £10. The reason is that the members of the Management Committee, or Tax Assessment Committee, have indulged in the habit of taxing arbitrarily the Action Group supporters who cannot afford to be running from party to party and from pillar to post like all the members on the Government Benches. (*Cheers from the Opposition*).

They do not allow themselves to be bought like commodities.

As I have said, I am not opposing this Bill as the Mover is a very reasonable man and a good leader too. Anyway, after the passage of this Bill those who are going to operate the law should be told not to mix politics with taxation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my gratitude to the Leader of the Opposition and the other Members of the Opposition for the co-operative attitude they have displayed with regard to this Bill.

However, Sir, we have already told you what this Bill is about, and what we expect to achieve with it. We said that, in one word, it is to take the question of taxation out of the political arena. We say that we are hereby handing the whole business of assessment and collection of tax over to the Regional Tax Board. In the year 1962 we transferred assessment and collection of tax on persons earning from £50 to £300 to Local Authorities and when the question of arbitrary assessment was mounting up we had to transfer the work to the Regional Tax Board. (*Shame*).

There is nothing to be ashamed of. I have no reason to be ashamed of some of the things that we did together. I have never told anybody that all that the Action Group ever did was bad. I have never said it anywhere.

Mr Speaker, Sir, since the transfer of this function to the Regional Tax Board, I must say that they have been doing their work admirably well and that has encouraged us to come here today to hand over to them the assessment of all other people. That, I think, will take the question of taxation and assessment and collection of tax finally from the hands of politicians. It is true that area assessment committees will sit with them but I said it here this morning that they will only advise; they know their people.

I do not think it is fair for people to continue to complain of victimisation and all other things in connection with taxation in this Region. We are now taking taxation entirely out of politics; we are handing it over to officials and we hope that officials, not being politicians, will not be partial. Since assessment and tax collection have been transferred to the officials, no politician will be able to exercise any influence, and if we then find an official playing politics with his

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work, we shall not hesitate to deal with such official.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I conclude my speech, I would like to refer to the speech of the hon. Member for Ekiti North-East I (*Mr S. A. Akerele*). He said he was very happy about the incident which happened at Ilesha. From his speech, Sir, I am now made to understand that the Action Group supporters at Ilesha caused the trouble. We all heard what he said here a few minutes ago. We all heard him very well and I am sure that if his speech is recorded it will appear in the Hansard. It means that they started the hooliganism and it proves that we were not the people who started this thing.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1-5.

Alhadji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to Clause 3 (1) (c) of the Income Tax Bill. It is clear that officials will help the assessment committees, but I would like to appeal to the Minister of Finance to see that members of assessment committees to be appointed in each local authority area comprise representatives of all the major political parties in the Region. If this is carefully looked into it will also remove taxation from politics. The same thing happened to Members of the Regional Tax Board. The Minister of Finance knows about the selection of members to this Board and he knows that no Action Group member is on the Board. If it is a fact that it is the intention of this Government to remove politics from taxation the Minister should see that all major political parties should be represented in all Boards affecting taxation in the Region.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Board will have officials only going through the assessment and collection of tax, but if the hon. Gentleman feels that it is necessary to have other members on the Tax Board or that we should have no non-officials, I think Government will take that on hand and consider it. But I do not see any reason at all why we cannot do things in the spirit of the speech I made here. It means that we should be absolutely above board, it means strictly that we keep politics out of this business entirely. But if the Board which the hon. Gentleman wants is to be strictly official, certainly I shall go back and consider it and I shall get in touch with him.

Mr S. A. Akerele: Mr Chairman, Sir, I just rise to comment on what His Highness said which is almost an indictment on my person.

Mr Chairman: What clause is that?

Mr Akerele: Clause 3. What I want to say on this clause in the first place is that His Highness should note on behalf of Government that thuggery and hooliganism should not be employed in enforcing this law. In explaining this I will give instances. I said just now that such things happened before. (*Interruptions*).

I don't belong to Ilesha. (*Laughter*).

Alhadji Adegbenro: On a point of emergency; there is somebody holding a stick. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr S. A. Akerele: I want to say that, in the first place, I do not belong to Ilesha and, in the second place, I am not responsible for what happened at Ilesha. Even the Principal of the School who was away at the time was not responsible for it and I do not say what was credited to me and, of course, the *Hansard* is the correct position.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): Mr Chairman, may I speak on the same clause in reference to Ilesha?

I wish to appeal, through the hon. Minister of Finance, to the Government to please ensure that Ilesha is not made a riot area of the Western Region by ambitious and careerist politicians. I know these people who relish in creating confusion..... (*Opposition Benches: The police know.*) If the police know them I know, because there are nowadays politician-police whom we know. We will know whether the power is with the police or the people. Sir, for the horrible scene which happened in Ilesha last Saturday, we don't want to hold anybody responsible, but we appeal to the Government not to make Ilesha a centre of riot in Western Region. For example, there are some politicians who want to relish in the idea that there was a riot in Ilesha and they want to jeer at the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. Are they Ilesha people? Do they know what is happening in Ilesha; do they know that only a few days ago the same Minister of Justice was given three chieftaincies on the same day; do they claim to know the minds of Ileshas about the political developments in Western Region? Mr Chairman, Sir, those people who were trying to riot in Ilesha were not Ileshas. They were imported thugs. (*Interruptions*). Those people were imported thugs. The police know that they were imported thugs and I know that those who were trying to riot

in Ilesha and trying to create ugly scenes there were not Ijeshas. The true Ijeshas were waiting for the N.N.D.P.

An Opposition Member: Are you an Ijeshas man?

Mr Adelegan: I am an Ipetu man, and therefore, I am an Ijeshas.

Mr Ositelu: You are a rural Ijeshas man. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Adelegan: I do not even know from where that man comes.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my final appeal to the Government of the day is that the Ijeshas people love peace and they love their children, those who relish in the fact that there was a riot in Ilesha do not know the minds of the Ijeshas. We do not want Ilesha to be made a riot area, the Tiv area of Western Nigeria, and the Government should please help us in this respect.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I just want to say that it is most unfair on the part of the Deputy Speaker to refer to some police officers as "politician police" because the police officers are not able to defend themselves on the Floor of the House and they are in the same position as civil servants, who cannot defend themselves on the Floor of this House. There are occasions when we on this Side would say the police has not done this or has not done that. If I may say this, I think Members of this honourable House, on both Sides, should refrain from dragging the police force, or the army for that matter, into a situation where they cannot defend themselves. If that is not corrected it may lead to allegations, unwarranted allegations, against the police force on the Floor of this House. I am not out to defend any public servant who misbehaves, but I do say that in the interest of peace, in the interest of justice, civil servants, police officers and people who are employed in all spheres of public services in this Region, ought not to be dragged into Debates on the Floor of this House.

I am not an advocate for either the civil servants or the police, but the point is that in our Standing Orders it is clearly stated that these classes of officers should not at any time be brought into our Debates. This may lead to other assertions from the Members of the Opposition. I think the Deputy Speaker has exceeded his limit in making this unwarranted allegation against the police. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Chair-

man, Sir, I think the Leader of Opposition is a big mischief maker. He is making mischief because the Deputy Speaker, in his contribution to this Debate, did not accuse the police as such. The hon. Deputy Speaker was referring to the conduct of one or two policemen who were discharging their duties in a manner which everybody should condemn. The Leader of Opposition is a mischief maker. In what way is the issue of thugery relevant to the issue of the collection of tax? It was an Opposition Member who raised it in this House. There is one assurance I want to give them. Let them continue with their irresponsibility. They can come here and camouflage and advocate for the support of the police or for the support of the army. The police, the army and the civil servants know their friends. It is because they know their friends that they refused to support him when he was trying to topple the Government at 10 o'clock in the night. (*Laughter*). I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that no amount of appeal, hypocritical appeal, would make the police or the army dislodge the Government which has got its firm feet in the minds of the people. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Whereupon the Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello) 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.

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

WESTERN NIGERIA SPORTS COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Western Region Sports Council Law, 1959.

The Objects and Reasons for the Amendment which I am proposing to the Western Region Sports Council Law, No. 51 of 1959, are clearly stated as Annexure to the draft Bill. These Objects and Reasons, as well as the draft Bill itself, are self-explanatory.

Members will recall that when the Sports Council Law was passed in 1959, it made provisions only for the encouragement and

[CHIEF ADIGUN]

assistance of clubs, associations and other sporting bodies in their administration of sports. The Western Region Sports Council is therefore in the position of a Statutory Body which could only provide facilities and services and even finances to sporting bodies without being in a position to control the use to which its assistance is given.

In consequence of this *laissez faire* (more or less carefree) approach, sporting standards declined and cases of malpractices grew. It is common knowledge that the standard of many of our sports, particularly football, has not been in keeping with our national pride and expectations. Whatever the case was, the Western Region Sports Council could only complain since it has no powers under the Law to give directions or to supervise and control the services which it gives. The major part of the Amendment Bill before hon. Members today is therefore designed to regularise the position.

The duties of the Council are being widened to include powers to supervise, control and, if necessary, take over activities of sports, clubs or associations which are assisted financially or otherwise by the Council, if the activities of such clubs or associations are ineffectively run. In view of its enlarged duties, the Council would now have powers under Clause 7 (i) (a) of the Bill to give directions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Law, to officers, servants and agents of clubs and associations which are assisted financially or otherwise by the Council.

There are other minor amendments such as the changing of the title from Western Region Sports Council to Western Nigeria Sports Council and the increasing of the maximum permissible membership of the Council from 7 to 8 in order to accommodate an officer of my Ministry.

It is my view that these amendments will enable the Sports Council to perform its duties under the Law with greater efficiency. It would also be in a position to plan for the raising of the standard of performances in the various sectors of sports and will have powers to ensure that its directions are carried out by sporting bodies.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.
Question proposed.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): Mr Speaker, we are not opposing this Bill. It

is a pity the hon. Premier of this Region is not in this House, I would have made an appeal to him to remove the present Minister from this Ministry to another Ministry.....
(Government Benches: Why?)

I shall tell you why. He does not know anything about footballing. *(Interruptions)*

However, Mr Speaker, it is not the intention of the Opposition to oppose this Bill.

Mr A. O. Obadara (Ibadan North-West Suburban): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Member who spoke from this Side of the House. I am speaking as an NCNCer. *(Cheers from the Opposition Bench)* I would like to make it clear to Members of this House that both the NCNC and the Action Group have built their houses on the rock. But for those who have built their own houses on the sand, when the rain comes, they know what the consequence will be.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no objection to this Bill but I will like to have an assurance from the Minister of Sports. For instance, during the last boxing tournament that was staged in Nigeria between Gene Fullmer and Dick Tiger, there were certain tickets which were distributed to Members on the Government side alone.

I want an assurance from the Government, and particularly from the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.....*(Interruptions)*.....

Mr M. A. Adewunmi (Ibadan Central East): Standing Orders 27 (2). It reads:

“A member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant, thereto.”

His references to the distribution of tickets and to building of houses on rocks or sand are not relevant.

Mr Speaker: The objection is overruled.

Mr Obadara: Mr Speaker Sir, for instance during the Gene Fullmer-Dick Tiger fight which was staged at the Liberty Stadium in Ibadan, there were certain tickets which were distributed to Members on the Government Side only, whereas these tickets were not distributed to Members on the Other Side....*(Interruptions)*.... I want an assurance from the Minister that whenever such a fight is staged again in Nigeria, both the Members of the Government and the Members of Opposition will be given free tickets by the Government. I do not know whether the Government, through the Minister of Labour and Social

[MR OBADARA]

Welfare, can assure us that everybody would be given the privilege to get free tickets.

Furthermore Sir, boxing clubs have been established by the Members of the Government who accompany the Ministers, on their tour. I want an assurance from the Minister that this practice would be brought to an end so that they cannot organise boxing clubs for the purpose of this NNNDP Government which is a newly formed party in Western Nigeria. The Government is an unacceptable one. I also want to know from the Government whether a sum of money is going to be paid to these boxing clubs.....
(Interruptions)

Chief J. O. Adigun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members of Opposition for supporting the Bill, especially my Friend, the Member for Ikeja North, who suggested that I should be moved from this Ministry. But I do not know which other Ministry he has in mind for me.

Mr Ositelu: The Ministry of Home Affairs or Community Development. (*Laughter*).

Chief Adigun: During the past few years, I have had experience of working in a number of Ministries. I have worked before in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Social Welfare, Lands and Housing and I am here now in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I think, Sir, Mr Speaker, I have had enough experience to go to any Ministry and whenever it pleases the Premier to change my office, I will only be too willing to serve.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Ibadan North-West Suburban, has mentioned something about tickets being distributed free to some people during the Gene Fullmer and Dick Tiger fight. Incidentally, Sir, my Friend was a Junior Minister at that time. I do not know whether his Minister paid for his ticket or he paid for it himself or, may be, he never paid for his ticket. We have been looking for some defaulters who never paid for their tickets and I am passing on this information to my officials, may be they will send for him and ask him to pay for his ticket. I do not know whether my Friend happens to be one of those who got hold of one of the missing tickets. To my knowledge, all tickets sold at that time were fully paid for except some which were missing.

He also mentioned that some boxers were going about on tour with the Ministers. I do not know about that.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 10 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Alhaji Y. L. Ogunyele (Oshun South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence to make a Personal Statement on a matter of momentous issue.

Since the present Meeting of the House started, I have listened to a lot of pious statements from Opposition leaders accusing Government supporters of being carpet crossers and chattels who can be bought. I now find that these statements are pure camouflages and are intended to cover the evils which they do under cover of night. I say this because I have had a personal experience of being subjected to the evil and corrupt influences of Action Group and NCNC leaders. What is most regrettable about this is that the people going about with offers of money to induce NNNDP Legislators to change their party loyalty are Yorubas.

A few days ago, I had cause to give my Solicitor, Mr Dele Ige, professional instructions. Discussions which later followed centred around the present political situation in the Region. Mr Dele Ige then invited me to his house to meet some Action Group and NCNC leaders on the matter. Last night I went to Mr Dele Ige's residence along Awolowo Avenue in Bodija Estate according to plan. I met hon. Sogbein, hon. Gbolahan Mr Dele Ige himself and one Owoade. There efforts were made to make me sign a declaration resigning from the NNNDP and declaring support for the AG. I was offered the sum of £500 as an inducement. I refused to accept their offer. I declared my unshakeable support for the NNNDP. They told me that I was wasting my time in the NNNDP, because they have obtained the signatures of fourteen NNNDP Legislators to a document showing that they have resigned from the NNNDP and joined the AG and NCNC. Because of my faith in my NNNDP colleagues, I did not believe their story. I then asked them to arrange a meeting where I could meet the fourteen NNNDP Members who were alleged to have declared for the AG and the NCNC. At this stage, Chief A. M. F. Agbaje came in

[ALHAJI OGUNYELE]

and said by way of remark that the NCNC had assembled a number of cars which they want to give NNDP Legislators who agree to return to the NCNC or the AG and that a meeting of those alleged to have decamped from the NNDP will be held today.

I have decided to reveal these facts so that the country may know the sort of corrupt and treacherous leaders who now lead the AG and NCNC in Western Nigeria. Those of us who have declared support for the NNDP did so out of conviction. We were not bought; we are not goats and sheep which can be bought, we are human beings with a conscience.

I strongly appeal to the AG and NCNC leaders in Western Nigeria to repent from their evil ways. The NNDP Government is installed by God himself and no power of man can destroy it. I want the Opposition to return to the Ibos of the East the money they are now carrying about for the purpose of buying support in the West. It is dirty money and no true son of the West will touch it.

Mr A. S. Somotan (Ibadan South-West Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity of declaring my stand on the present political situation in Western Nigeria. It has come to my notice, in discussion with a number of my Colleagues on the Government Benches, that my name is being freely used by AG and NCNC leaders in this Region in order to get NNDP Legislators to join the AG or the NCNC. I have heard it said by the emissaries of the Leader of Opposition, namely, hon. Gbolahan of Shaki and hon. Babayemi of Abeokuta, that I was pretending when I declared support for the NNDP and that I am still a member of the NCNC and a person on whose support the NCNC relies upon inside this House. I want it to be known that I declared for the NNDP out of conviction and my belief in its principles. I believe that any Westerner who remains in the NCNC today is a traitor to our people. I don't want to be ungrateful or become a traitor to my people who elected me.

I received no money or any inducement before, or after, joining the NNDP. I acted in accordance with the dictates of my conscience and in obedience to the wishes of my electorate.

I have spurned the offer of money from the NCNC and I mean it. The ideal of unity and peace which the NNDP stands for is greater than anything anybody can give me. My people in Ibadan have suffered much

because of disunity created in the past by the Action Group in Western Nigeria. As a result of inter-party bitterness, many people were murdered in cold blood, many were hanged, many were sent to prison and many have become perpetual debtors as a result of fines inflicted upon them by the courts. Political bitterness has broken many homes and disorganised many families. I do not want this state of affairs to continue, that is why I have joined all those who believe in unity, I do not want my people to continue to suffer. I don't want to sell my people to the Ibos who now have their agents under the name of Western NCNC. I am a loyal member of the NNDP.

Lastly, I want to give a warning. I don't want any Member of the Opposition to pay me any nocturnal visit again in order to induce my disloyalty to my Party.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on the Question (2nd April)

'That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Most Gracious Speech Addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition'.

Question again proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Speech, moved by the Member for Ekiti North-East II (*Chief Babatola*) and in doing so I will like to say that His Excellency the Governor deserves my sympathy for his Speech from the Throne delivered last Thursday. He had no choice, he must read out a Speech prepared for him by a Government which, at the material time, could not be regarded as a legal Government. It is unfortunate that the Governor had to perform such an unwholesome duty. Since the new re-alignment of political parties in the Legislature, the proper line of action for the Government should have been to test its popularity and effective control of Government by seeking a vote of confidence in accordance with the Constitution of Western Nigeria. This the Government failed to do and, as usual, because of fear, hurriedly summoned a Budget Meeting of the House.

We have been told that people who are elected on a particular political party's ticket

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

can change their political badge in the Legislature. Although under the existing Constitution of the Federal Republic, no Law prevents such political change-over, yet I am of the opinion that it is highly immoral for any person with a good conscience to do so without first obtaining a fresh mandate from the people.

For the past two years, Western Nigeria, which used to be a model for all other Regions in the Federation, had been thrown into confusion simply because a Government not elected by the people had been imposed upon the people. One concluding portion of the Governor's Speech stressed the need for unity and understanding. He has called for mutual understanding and brotherly love. This to me appears to be a very wise appeal on the part of the Government, but how can there be unity, understanding and brotherly love amongst all the people of this Region when a person who has been rejected by the people still clings to office? How can there be unity when the only undisputed Yoruba Leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, is imprisoned because of the treachery of certain close friends? Let those who prepared the Speech from the Throne for His Excellency search their hearts. Let those who now advocate unity admit that they indeed have sinned and there is no truth in them.

Western Nigeria is virtually a Police State. Yet these people cry aloud for unity. The events of the past two years are unprecedented in the history of Nigeria. One thing is certain however. The architect of this woeful and disastrous episode will be condemned, not only by this generation, but also by generations yet unborn.

The ingredients for unity and understanding among all classes of people living in a Community are:—

- (1) strict adherence to parliamentary democracy,
- (2) respect for the rule of law, and
- (3) creation of an atmosphere in which freedom of association, and freedom of movement are guaranteed to all citizens irrespective of their position in the Community.

In paragraph 61 of the Speech from the Throne, reference was made to the properties taken over by the Western Nigeria Government from the NIPC. In order to becloud the issue of this investment by the Action Group Government, no mention was made of the total amount of seven million pounds invested by the Region's Marketing Board which yielded within a period of four years a

total of ten million pounds plus an annual rental of about £800,000. In order to show that the investment was sound and that the UPP, now NNDP, Premier once endorsed the soundness of the investment, I like to quote with your permission, Mr Speaker, extracts from the speech of the then Action Group Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, on the 17th of April, 1962, reported at columns 926 to 928 in the *Official Report* of this honourable House at its 11th Session. Mr Speaker, I quote:—

“For many decades before the attainment of Independence, foreign firms and expatriate entrepreneurs so firmly established themselves in different parts of Nigeria that they left the indigenous people of the country in no doubt that they were not only political serfs but also economic slaves. The activities of the expatriate firms covered practically every phase of the economic life of Nigeria. The Asiatic firms in particular, which started with petty trading, later on extended their activities to real property. In places like Lagos, Ibadan, Kano and Port Harcourt, to name only a few, practically all the buildings in commercial areas were owned by expatriates who became landlords not only to foreigners like themselves but to many indigenous businessmen as well.”

I am not going to waste the time of the House by quoting the whole speech *in extenso* but I would like to quote two more extracts from the same speech.

“At the time the National Investment and Properties Company Limited submitted their application, the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria, in keeping with the policy approved by the Federation as a whole, was advised to change its policy regarding its securities. Previously, Government surplus funds were invested in British Gilt-edged Securities. It was to be expected that, while the country's funds were controlled by Britain, they would be invested in Britain and in British Gilt-edged Securities. As the need for development in Nigeria increased, it was necessary to divert Nigerian funds back to the country. That explains why the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria, considered it wise to divert part of its resources to the development of the Region”.

I quote further:—

“A substantial sum of money was, therefore, invested in the National Investment and Properties Company Limited.

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

The various loan advances made were in respect of specific individual projects which were carefully checked, scrutinised and expertly assessed. The loans were fully secured. The rate of interest was higher than could be obtained anywhere abroad. It was in fact above the Bank of England rate. All the assets of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited were mortgaged to the Western Region Marketing Board. Further, the loans were free from the plague of endless fluctuation affecting investments made abroad".

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are the exact words of the then Action Group Premier on this investment with the N.I.P.C.

But here what do we find in the Speech by the Governor from the Throne? No mention was ever made that the investments of seven million pounds in the N.I.P.C. yielded within a period of four years a total of not less than ten million pounds with an annual rental of about £800,000. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, the treachery of this document is there for everybody to check up, and the figures produced at the Coker Enquiry are not all the figures available but this Government indicates that the investments have never been made in any part of this Federation and what do we hear here today, and everyday? Shouts of N.I.P.C! N.I.P.C! as if to say the investments were bad but here, the then Head of Government, endorsed the investment as being sound and it cannot be found anywhere in this part of the Federation that such an investment has been made before.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is significant that the Speech from the Throne is merely a revision of the achievements of the Action Group Government. It is most disgraceful that the Government we now have cannot point to one single achievement or rather to one concrete step already taken to restore economic stability to the Region. Gone are the days when prosperity reigned supreme in this Region. Men, women and all are now suffering because of the misdeeds of an individual and the inordinate ambition of that individual to cling to office. Mr Speaker, Sir, my appeal to you, as the Speaker of this honourable House for two terms running, is that you should use your good offices to persuade the impostor to quit the stage of governmental scene so as to ensure the return of peace, wealth and social welfare to our dear fatherland.

One more observation and I will conclude. I observe in paragraph 48 of the Speech from

the Throne that the Government intends to extend the asylum for lunatics at Lantoro in Abeokuta. This, no doubt, is a wrong investment. Indeed, since majority of the patients, either at Aro Mental Hospital or at Lantoro, come from places far away from Abeokuta and from around Ogbomosho, I suggest that a comprehensive asylum should be built at Ogbomosho this current financial year. I will concede that such an asylum should be named after the most distinguished son of Ogbomosho. (*hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have issued this statement on several occasions to the Press but this is the first time I have the opportunity of raising the matter again on the floor of this honourable House. I like to repeat my accusation against this Government about the scandalous irregularities in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Allegations were made of heavy bribes received by highly placed people in the Ministry in granting forest and timber concessions to people. The Government set up an enquiry at the time, but, up to now, the report of that enquiry has not been published. I will urge the Government to please publish the report and damn the consequences.

On the whole, Mr Speaker, I have this consolation to offer to the people of Western Nigeria. It is the aim of the Action Group that, by the Grace of Allah, as soon as the Action Group comes back to power in this Region, all the sufferings of the people shall cease. Peaceful and prosperous life will be restored to them once again. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

The Government Chief Whip (Mr T. E. Elushade): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor, Sir Joseph Odeleye Fadahunsi, for his Speech from the Throne, so ably moved by the hon. Member for Ogbomosho North-East (*Mr Adibi*). The Speech has shown comprehensively the achievements of the Government for the past year and what it proposes to do in the year and I heartily congratulate the Government.

Among the outstanding achievements of the past year may be mentioned the conditional take over by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board of a number of real properties in Lagos and Ibadan from the National Investment and Properties Company Limited in full and final settlement of liabilities totalling about £10 million. At the moment these properties bring into the coffers of the Marketing Board an annual rental of £300,000. Moreover, it has been reported by experts

[MR ELUSADE]

that when all the buildings taken over are completed and let, annual rental of between £700,000 to £800,000 is expected. It is a happy augury for the farmers of this Region; that the Marketing Board will again be in a position to rebuild its funds and this in turn will enhance the economic conditions of the farmers.

It is common knowledge to everybody, both inside this honourable House and outside it, that the diversion of the Marketing Board funds to the NIPC was the sole factor which burst the Action Group bubbles in 1962 when this Region was almost on the verge of bankruptcy. We all know what almost brought the Region to economic ruin. Now that the position is improving, I am surprised that the Members of the Opposition are still looking for signs of economic stability. What further evidence do we need to show to prove that the Government is grappling with the problems in all seriousness?

In the past years, the Farm Settlement Scheme was designed to give employment to Primary School leavers by settling them on the land. This has been greatly improved by the introduction of the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is a great pleasure to learn from the Speech from the Throne that the Government will pay greater attention to the solution of unemployment problems by the launching of the School Uniform Project and other small-scale industries. When the project is in full swing, young school leavers will thus be absorbed, not only in the weaving sector of the project, but also in the tailoring and spinning sectors which will soon follow. The materials will also be very useful, not only for building school uniforms, but also for furnishings, bedsheets, cushion covers, etc. Eventually, dyeing trade on village industry level may follow.

The Government should be congratulated for laying emphasis on Agriculture which continues to be the mainstay of our economy in this Region. The plan for setting up an Agricultural Credit Corporation will be a boon to genuine farmers for obtaining loans for the development of farming and thus increasing their living standard. As it is apparent that economic development of this Region is the collective responsibility of the Government and the individuals, I strongly appeal to all to co-operate with our Government in developing our dear country in order that all plans to eradicate unemployment may be successfully prosecuted. I will also like to appeal to the Members opposite that

the door is still open to them to come over here. (*Cheers from the Government Benches*) This is our Region; we cannot develop it by laziness, indolence, or by incessant cries day and night for election. We should all come together, forget for the time being party politics or when the next election takes place but think more of the next generation. We should all work together to regain for this Region and her citizens her due position in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I):

Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Governor's Speech from the Throne, because the Speech lacks concrete proposals for the economic stability of Western Nigeria for these reasons:

The Governor in his Speech failed woefully to analyse reasons for the mass unemployment that is now rampant throughout the Western Region. Many foreign firms have already wound up and have packed bag and baggage and gone to their own countries because the Government of the West has become unstable and unreliable. It is entirely detached from the masses. It no longer enjoys the confidence of the public.

One would expect the Governor, Sir, to raise an alarm on the corrupt practices of our politicians in this Region today. It is corruption and bribery in politics and in high places in this Region, Sir, that led to instability in Government which in turn makes our economic resources to become absolutely unstable. Politicians have become commodities and are being bought like mere articles of trade. The prices of my hon. Friends on the Other Side vary from person to person and one would wonder if they are not like a collection of mere mercenary soldiers whose loyalty is often questionable.

When an hon. Gentleman here on this Side mentioned on Friday that our Friends on the Other Side had lost their sense of morality in politics; they merely grinned and yelled because they could not grasp the gravity of that charge. They have mortgaged their conscience for money and have entirely polluted the politics of this Region. Mr Speaker Sir, you may be surprised to hear that each Member on the Other Side was bought by the Premier of this Region (*interruptions*) for as much as £10,000 and £15,000 each in the case of Ministers. Leaders of the respective groups were also paid £50,000 to lure them into joining the NNNDP. They were all also made to take secret oaths of allegiance to the Premier and his NNNDP.

[MR AKERELE]

Insolvent debtors to the Premier's controlled National Bank were forced to declare for the NNNDP or be destroyed by being sued or ffaed. We therefore will notice that only Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Obas who do not want to lose their crowns, Chairmen of Statutory Corporations, Councillors who want to remain in office and hon. Members who are promised Ministerial appointments are the only set of people who have declared for NNNDP. We cannot be deceived therefore that the NNNDP was formed to unite the Yorubas; all those in the party now have their questionable motives for joining the Party—entirely devoid of public interests.

When Chief Fani-Kayode was negotiating with the Action Group (*interruptions*) in his sober moments; when Fani was exactly himself, he made this astounding confession that since getting to Ibadan, the NCNC/UPP Government have had no time to work for the people of the Western Region but rather they have been engaged in constant struggles to keep themselves in Government. Why did this great man, once the idol of the youths of Nigeria, resign, first from the Action Group, and now from the NCNC? The reasons were clearly stated in the *Nigerian Tribune* of Friday April 3rd, page 4. I quote:

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: On point of Order, Mr Speaker Sir, Order 27 (5) and (6):—

(5) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.

(6) No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.

Fani is still Fani 'Power'. The hon. Member shall not use offensive language against him.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member may continue his speech.

Mr Akerele: Mr Speaker Sir, I said, when Fani was negotiating with the Action Group

The Minister of State (Premier's Office) (Mr S. S. A. Adeniya): On point of Order. Ministers should be referred to by their official titles. Fani is the Deputy Premier of this Region and he should be referred to as such.

Mr Speaker: The objection is upheld. Members should be referred to by their constituencies and Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries by their offices.

Mr Akerele: The reasons why the Deputy Premier resigned from the NCNC and declared for the NNNDP were clearly stated in the *Nigerian Tribune* of Friday, April 3rd, page 4, as follows:

"He resigned because of his inordinate ambition and desire to remain in office, to grab power, and position, and it is this ambition that robbed him of any principle or reason. Therefore the NNNDP was formed and Fani-Kayode and other NCNCers joined because they want to remain in office, rid themselves of the official NCNC which had been urging them to accept the idea of going to the Polls to get the mandate of the people in keeping with democratic practice".

My quotation from the Paper continues: "It is therefore clear beyond doubt that these people joined the NNNDP for their own selfish ends and desires; the desire to retain their posts and position; to continue to be in power and to line their own pockets. It is not their hatred of the Action Group/NCNC Alliance nor their love of the Region nor their desire to see peace, unity and progress return to a Region they have done so much to wreck and ruin economically, socially and politically".

The Paper concluded:

"These are the people and these are the reasons why they all declared for the NNNDP. Ninety-nine per cent of them do so against their conscience, they are not convinced but they have to choose between their daily bread—their posts and their party allegiance".

Mr Speaker, Sir, one would expect the Governor to indicate all these evils in his Speech and allay the fears of the people of the Region by ordering for fresh and immediate elections.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (Mr I. A. Adelodun): On point of Order. Order 27 (1): Members shall not read their speech.

The Member is reading his speech. With his M.A. and as the principal of a school, one would have thought that he would not do so.

Mr Speaker: I do not notice that the Member was reading his speech but if so, will he please stop reading it, but only refer to his notes.

Mr Akerele: Mr Speaker, Sir, one would expect the Governor to sympathise with the Western Region for its ill luck within these two years because of the extremely corrupt practices and the inordinate ambition of the people now ruling the Region, as well as their unparalleled bid to suppress individual liberty and stifle the conscience of honest citizens.

Laws and Orders are publicly violated by those who made them. Members of the

[MR AKERELE]

Opposition and all honest citizens have their homes and persons besieged daily by thugs and hooligans by whose grace alone our present Government is able to maintain itself in position. Court-decisions were thrown overboard and cases were ordered to be quashed from courts by interested Ministers.

Parts of our Constitution—the very essence of our independence—were flouted with impunity and changed at will.

Parties that were never known to the public and have never stood the rigours of elections have changed hands on the Floor of this House in ruling our Region. This is a naked prostitution of politics and a shameful violation of the fundamental principles of democracy.

It is strange how the Governor can overlook all these evils in his Speech.

The Western Region has virtually become a Police State. The Premier and his Ministers, as well as their wives and children and their relatives, in addition to their thugs and hooligans, have to be protected by the Police round the clock. Yet, Mr Speaker, Sir, they all still cling passionately to office. They do not want any election through nemesis that has overtaken them. The Police may be overworked and some are collapsing and dying on duty. A contingent of over two hundred police men are on guard at Ibadan alone and yet these present Members of Government have to travel *incognito*—such is the degree of their fear. These people even travel under cover of night thus reminding one of what immortal Shakespeare put in the mouth of Brutus in Julius Caesar:

“O conspiracy,

Sham'st thou to show thy dangerous brow by night,

When evils are most free. O, then, by day

Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough to mask thy monstrous visage?

Seek none, conspiracy;

Hide it in smiles and affability:

For if thou hath thy native semblance on,

Not Erebus itself were dim enough

To hide thee from prevention”.

The Western Nigerian people have suffered immensely during these two years: banning of public meetings is the vogue of the day because the evil doers are afraid that their deeds may be discovered.

The great Comedian, Mr Hubert Ogunde, who, with his party, has dominated our indigenous theatrical plays within the last thirty years, was banned by our present

Government because they are afraid that he will expose their doings.

Stifling of conscience and trampling on individual liberty went as far as our University where certain Lecturers and Professors were dismissed because they refused to mortgage their conscience. Similarly certain nine top officials of the Western Nigerian Development Corporation were dismissed because they happened to stick to their convictions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when the history of the last two years will be written it will obviously be indicated for posterity to note that this is the period when the glory of the West departed, when the minds of men sicken and the nation decayed, when bribery and corruption, injustice and lawlessness vie with one another for supremacy, when small men rule the nation. Posterity will read and laugh and wonder how so many could endure so much evil from so few.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment to the original Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Mover of the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his gracious Speech from the Throne.

In saying this I must state that the Governor's Speech has covered all we can wish for in the Western Region. Our economic mainstay in the Western Region is principally agriculture and the Governor has dwelt lengthily on all aspects of agriculture. All these are demonstrations of his sincere wish that Westerners in this Federation should continue to progress.

The only ugly monster we have is the unemployment of our school leavers and in this we have seen how scientifically this problem has been approached and how it will be solved that in due course unemployment will be reduced to a very low minimum. It is hoped that all parents will encourage their children and themselves to seize the opportunity and stick to it; because there lies their future prosperity and all they can desire.

It is most gratifying to hear from the Governor's Speech that a water supply project for the city of Ibadan and the nearby district of Aiyedade, including Ikire, Apomu and Ikoyi, at the estimated cost of £4.5 million will be erected. The people of Aiyedade are really very grateful for this pronouncement and we hope the work will soon commence.

We hail the Government's decision to collaborate with the E.C.N. in the scheme to

[MR OGUNMUYIWA]

extend electricity to both rural and urban areas of Nigeria. After the water supply, our other most important need is electricity and we shall be happy for our own supply also.

Our roads in Aiyedade need immediate attention. These roads are Ikire-Odeyinka, Apomu-Orile-Owu-Mokore and Ikoyi-Alaguntan.

With the few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray that God the Almighty may help the new Yoruba Government of the NNDP that it may grow from strength to strength.

I beg to support the Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr A. O. Akingboye)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of Legislature on Thursday, 2nd April, 1964. The Speech was one of the best Addresses I have ever listened to in this honourable House. It was very remarkable in the sense that it carefully set out all that the Government intends to do and pursue very vigorously during this financial year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make some brief comments on parts of the Speech dealing with unemployment, education, industries and agriculture. I wonder what the hon. Member for Ekiti North-East II (*Chief Babatola*) intended to say when he talked of economic destruction in Western Nigeria. I think he wanted to talk of economic stability. Whenever there is what is called economic depression or recession, as there was in this Region in 1962, what a good Government does is to see that such a thing does not occur again and to see that everyone has a job and that the economy continues to grow and changes have got to be made in fiscal policy and banking system. These are the problems the NNDP Government of Western Nigeria is facing and these will allow the Government to have a general influence on the economy without telling individual producers and consumers what to do. These are indirect controls as opposed to direct controls of a completely planned economy in which the Government must control the activities of each individual as advocated by the hon. Gentleman from Ekiti. If the hon. Member had listened to the hon. Minister of Finance's Budget Speech very carefully he should have learnt a lesson by now and should have been able to differentiate between what is known as economic stability and economic destruction, of which he is our apostle. Will the hon. Member stop being pessimistic? The NNDP Government is out for the economic stability

of Western Nigeria, and her day-to-day activities go to show this.

After all, unemployment is a common problem of the civilised world and no country can claim exception. I praise the foresight of both the Government of the Federation of Nigeria and the Western Nigeria Government for setting up a National Man-power Board and Committee respectively to deal with both Man-Power and unemployment problems. When the Reports are considered, and released, a temporary, if not a permanent, solution to the problem of unemployment should have been found.

Sir, it is true that education consumes a substantial portion of our Recurrent and Capital Expenditures but then we have got to realise that while we are trying to introduce efficient methods of administration and to raise the standards of our institutions, yet we should note that moral standard is rather low in some of our institutions—primary and secondary. Even, in some, educational standard is low.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very well if we have all teachers trained, but all the same, teachers, especially those in the employment of Voluntary Agencies, are not all that conscientious. Careful examination reveals that they are not all that very well encouraged by way of salaries and they want to maintain a good standard of living, and as teaching is not as lucrative as other jobs, they have got to look anxiously to other fields for satisfaction. The result is that they pay no sufficient attention to their work and this spells very loudly today the "fall in moral and educational standards in some of our institutions".

Sir, if I may suggest a remedy: I would ask the Government to look into the salary structure of non-graduate teachers in primary and secondary schools and try to bridge the gap in the salaries of these two categories of teachers. I am sure, if teachers received good salaries—my emphasis is on Voluntary Agency teachers—they would concentrate on their job and the result will be marvellously excellent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall say something about industrial development. The Government has been able to do and achieve a lot about industrial development by the establishment of industries in some parts of the Region. There is no doubt that these industries are increasing the income of our people and providing more employment opportunities for our young men and women. They deserve some encomium for this, and should continue their efforts unabated in the industrial development of Western Nigeria.

[MR AKINGBOYE]

Sir, at this stage, I shall be failing in my duty if I fail to thank the Government for her efforts in finding sufficient glass deposits in Okitipupa Division. I do hope the Government will continue with the normal processes which will ultimately make the Glass Industry in Okitipupa Division a reality.

Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture is doing very well in improving the quality of the diet of our people by developing fisheries. It is pleasing to note that there are about 105 fish ponds in Western Nigeria today and the introduction of carp which grows fast and is a nutritious species of fish, is very welcome.

In conclusion, I would say that it will be a very good idea if the Ministry could try her hands in sea-fishing, on a small scale to start with, by way of having some experimental fishing stations in selected sea-shore areas of the Region. This will definitely improve our economy and provide job opportunities for our youths.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji B. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East I): I like to support the Amendment to the Governor's Speech which was moved by hon. Babatola. In doing this, I would like to have it on record that I have nothing against the Governor but the greatest respect.

I think on this occasion that the Speech that has been delivered to him to be delivered is dry; it lacks dynamism, it lacks any purposeful programme for the upliftment of this Region. I think a Speech from the Throne should give a comprehensive report of the activities of the Government for the last twelve months and also a detailed catalogue of what the Government intends to do for the next twelve months. If this NNNDP Government is afraid of its past records, what have they for the future? The sacking of all teachers, throwing out all labourers from all the Ministries, the banning of Ogunde—these are very black records and I know that this Government should be ashamed of them. What programme has this Government for the next twelve months? There is no single sentence in which this Government can tell what it has done for the last twelve months. Not a mile of road has been constructed or tarred in this Western Region. Last time when I was passing through the streets of Ibadan, I saw the labourers upturning the tarred portions of the road. They were removing the tar, on the surface, I wonder whether they were removing it to Ogbomoshó. (*Laughter*).

Right through the Speech one feels that this is propaganda business for the NNNDP

which is already dead. I know that it can not survive in this Region. Right through the Speech there is a call for unity, co-operation and for people to come together. Does it make for unity to sack Members of the Cabinet who refused to declare for the NNNDP? Does it make for unity to sack Chairmen and Executive Directors of Corporations? Does it make for unity to ban Ogunde, who has been entertaining the people and who came to this Region gladly on the invitation of the leading members of the NNNDP, including the Deputy Premier?

The other day when we listened to the Premier on the air, he was making excuses, he was shifting the blame for his failures in this Region on his former Leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who is, by the Grace of God, the Leader of the Action Group. (*Opposition Benches: Cheers*). He sought for protection and so also did the Deputy Premier under the Coker Report. They will like to know what the public thinks of this Coker Report.

I am surprised that some Members of this House cannot be credited with any sense of being consistent. I would like to refer this House to the speech delivered by the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Local Government during the 11th Session of 1962.

"We as members of the Action Group take special pride in the fact that our Government is in the forefront of building the nation through the sacrifice, toil and zeal of the people and their leaders. I believe I am right in interpreting the feelings of the leaders of the people of this Region when I say that we assure the Government of our full support in this matter and that we are all ready and willing to pay our share of the price of progress; that we are determined that this great nation of ours and this Region must continue to set the pace in development, in providing jobs for the jobless and in ensuring good health and good roads and that education at primary level shall continue to be free and, not least, that opportunity to rise to the highest level possible shall be made available to every child and every citizen of this Region, rich or poor." (*Cheers*).

When now we listen to him in this House he blames everything on the Action Group.

Can this Government tell the people of this Region how many people are now unemployed, how many people have found jobs and in what ways they are trying to help these people? They can only tell us how many teachers they have thrown out of job. The

[ALHADJI OBISESAN]

other day they left this capital city for Ilesha and what did we hear on the air? Pupils and their principal were thrown out of their school and I was disappointed by the hon. Deputy Speaker when he was making appeal to the Government not to turn Ilesha to another riot spot. It is true, we should like to see what the NNDP . . . (interruptions).

Mr Deputy Speaker: I did not say the Government was making Ilesha a riot area. I said there were certain careerist politicians who wanted to make Ilesha a riot area.

Alhadji Obisesan: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

All the same it is a point on which I express my disappointment in the Deputy Speaker for he should be ashamed of himself that the members of the NNDP visited the place with thugs armed with cudgels, etc. The Minister of Finance was asking this House to take note that a Member of this House was taking responsibility. Why should the leading Members of the Government go around this Region—where they proclaim that they are being supported by all the people in the Region, with telegrams being sent by the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government from the Headquarters at Iyanganku to themselves, congratulating themselves for the newly formed party, the NNDP—accompanied by thugs? (Laughter).

It is good for the Premier to stand up in this House to ask for our support and ask us to come together. He was appealing to members of the public to send their children back to the farm when Members on that Side of the House can afford to send their children to Eton, to public schools in America and in the United Kingdom. You can come to the people and ask for support for what programme the Government has for education. The Government which has almost ruined its only pride, the University of Ife. All reasonable people have taken strong objection to what has been done to the University of Ife.

The Leader of the Opposition has expressed his regret for the pain that was inflicted on the Governor because for the one and a half hours that he read his Speech, I knew he was suffering in agony because the Speech lacked dynamism, lacked anything that could give encouragement to the people; the future is bleak.

I want to assure this House that we who can move around this Region unprotected, unguarded by the police and thugs, unguarded by private uniformed police, know that the correct assessment of the will of the people

is a desire for a new election and that when the election is declared, when it pleases the Government, they cannot return to this House again. (Cheers). The Action Group will provide this Region with what they want. What they want is a stable Government, they want a peaceful Region and we will give them. This Government inherited buildings, maternity buildings and dispensaries, which were built during the time of the Action Group. They have not been able to provide medicine or the staff and they said they are doing reconstruction. I think what they should have said is that they are destroying for they are noted for destruction.

What programme has this Government got for Ibadan? They said the Government is taking it in hand to help the Ibadan City Council to build Dugbe Market. That is what is good for Ibadan people! I am speaking for Ibadan people—"the taste of the food is in the eating". Let us go out and see the people. The other day when this Parliament was opened, I saw the hand symbol of the NNDP on the windscreens of Members on the opposite Side and when the hon. Minister of Lands and Housing and the Parliamentary Secretaries were going home, they removed the symbols. They cannot move freely in Ibadan, the people have rejected them and I am telling them what they may not know because some of them live in police guarded houses, but we can move freely.

We know our people are asking for new elections but they say they are afraid of election. We can wait. I assure them we will wait and when the time comes we will certainly defeat them.

With this, Mr Speaker, I like to support the Amendment that the Governor should not be presented with any Address of Thanks.

Chief S. O. Sogbein (Egba North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, many Members have spoken on this Motion but I want to dwell on one aspect of the Motion. The point is that the Speech from the Throne is very lengthy. I pity His Excellency for sitting down for several hours to read that lifeless Speech from the Throne.

The Speech contained eighteen chapters and out of the eighteen chapters, fourteen were devoted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I know that the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources is otherwise known as Professor of Guineaworm. He thought that he was lecturing and he wrote a very lengthy account of agriculture without telling us why he was permitting people to fell timber indiscriminately bringing about a lot of misgivings about it. (Government Benches: Are you a timber

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contractor?) I am not a timber contractor but Olokemeji Forest Reserve is in my constituency and during the eight or ten years of the regime of the Action Group, not one tree was felled. These days, a lot of party supporters have felled about ten square miles of forests.

We were told by our Agricultural Officers that forests provide rains and also preserve wild animals and a lot of good timber. Anybody who comes to Egbaland and goes to Olokemeji would see that it is a very fine place and was once the Headquarters of the Forestry Department in the whole of Nigeria. It is a shame on this Government to allow that place to be exploited and I have brought it to the notice of the Minister of Agriculture that this is a bad thing. We do not want our crops to be destroyed, but I was told that there are many things responsible. As Shakespeare said: "More things are underneath". There are a lot of stories and gossips about this felling of forest reserves at Olokemeji. I would, through this House, appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to stop his people from exploiting these native forest reserves of ours and then speak to the Government in like manner. The Ministry of Agriculture never gave us anything. I think next time when the Minister of Agriculture is presenting his draft of the Speech from the Throne, he should be more careful. (*Opposition Benches: He would not present another; this is his last one.*) (*Laughter.*)

The second point is unemployment. It is very good to say that Government would like to start small scale industries and get school leavers employed but there were concrete proposals that were being followed by the Action Group Government. The first thing I was in a position to note is that the Nigersol Construction Company, which you have sacked, employed 12,000 people and the Water Resources 8,000, a total of 20,000 people. If their employees earned £10 per month, that would mean £200,000 per month coming to the Region. (*interruptions.*)

If you go round houses in Ibadan, you will see "to let" notices. Ibadan people are suffering more. (*Government Benches: Who told you?*) These people cannot know because they are Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries earning fat salaries per month. If they go to Oke-Ado, they will see "house to let" notices. It was not like that before. Oba C. D. Akran said that the Opposition is trying to co-operate with the Government. We have to give concrete criticisms before

we can co-operate. We would not like to see a fellow man suffering. These people are suffering because there is no money in circulation in Western Region. You know what that means. I just cite this example, there are others that will follow.

The next point is bribery and corruption. Some people said that I wanted to buy them for the Action Group. I want to warn this Government that they should beware of those who want to be Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I met Alhadji Ogunyele with Bola Ige, a lawyer, when he came for his own case. He said he wanted to cross to the Action Group. Even there were about twenty people present there. That does not mean that I offered anybody money. Everybody knows that I have no money. If they want to be Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, they should go to the Premier or his Deputy and begin to prostrate but they should not make me a scape-goat.

Another thing I want to say is about the Ministry of Works. I, S. O. Sogbein, (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*) worked in that Ministry for several years. (*interruption*) I am not arrogating the pride to myself. We all worked together and we did a lot of things. It aches my mind when they say that they are doing reconstruction work. What kind? They have not reconstructed any road. They are doing nothing. I want to remind them of a lot of works which were done during the regime of the Action Group.

The hon. Member from Ikire, my former Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr Ogunmuyiwa*), would remember that contract agreement for the tarring of Apomu, Orile-Owu roads had almost been completed when I was in the Ministry and I wonder why they have not done anything about these roads? I am happy that hon. Arowajolu, the Minister in the Ministry of Works, is here. He has been in the Ministry for the past two years and he has done nothing by way of improvement. They have to be rejected in their constituencies for not doing their work. (*laughter.*) They say that they are doing reconstruction work. They are just collecting their salaries as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and nothing more. There was a plan during the regime of the Action Group to have a good road from Lagos to the domain of our respected Oba Akran. I think the hon. Minister of Finance is listening. It was our plan to have a good road from Apapa across to his domain. If I should quote the catalogue of these things we wanted to do, they will surprise you. I do not intend to say all these now. It is because they say that they are doing reconstruction work that I have said a little. They are

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constructing nothing. They are only reconstructing their pockets. (*Laughter*).

Then all these talk of unity in the West. Time past, in the days before the Action Group, we used to say; and it was a common thing, "*Ara Oke Aje'sin and Ijebu Onibon Nidi*" and all such things. Then if you wanted to marry somebody, from Ekiti, we used to say you wanted to marry "*Araoke*". (*interruptions*). I am talking seriously, although I know I am speaking above some Members' heads. That is why I said the other day that we must make Yoruba the *lingua franca* in this House because most people in this House cannot understand what I am saying. (*Laughter*). If we make Yoruba the *lingua franca*, all of us will be at home, and I hope that the hon. Member for Ibadan will no more shout "finally, finally".

The Action Group was formed through Egbe Omo Oduduwa, a cultural organisation, of which they are not competent to speak. The fact that there are many parties does not mean that we cannot unite. I remember a friend of mine used to say that Theologians do not disagree, they only differ, and they only disagree to agree. If you say you are looking seriously for the progress of this Region, there is no reason why we should not understand ourselves. I do not want to be tribalistic because when we refer to the West everybody knows that we are talking of Yorubas. What we need now is brotherly love. The fact that one does not belong to the Action Group or to any other party is not enough to break us. Even there are many parties in the North and also in the East. I want to tell you that no single party will unite us in this Region. We only need brotherly love. It was on record that during the days of the Action Group all the roads leading to the home town of Chief Akinyemi were tarred and Chief Akinyemi was then in the NCNC. If they learn that lesson and do most of these things it will help them rather than victimisation and oppression and thuggery.

When they went to Ilesha they were shouted upon. Whether they like it or not, they are politicians, they must bear it. I remember a Chancellor in Cambridge, whenever he went out, he used to be shouted upon. I also remember one time when we went to Aniocha Council. I was the Parliamentary Secretary to hon. Chief Awolowo and that Council was NCNC controlled. In their address, they abused him and shouted on him. He stood up and coolly answered them. They have to befriend their enemies if they want peace in this Western Region.

If I go to Ife now and they shout '*Sogbein ole*' and so on and forth, I will leave them at that. (*Laughter*). I read it in the paper that somebody called Sango was let loose in order to beat their opponents at Ilesha. That cannot help them. If they want to be politicians in this country they must be able to give and take. They cannot be loved by everybody. I have to tell them that.

In our own days whenever we went on tour, we did not need any policeman. We used to meet people shouting and abusing us. (*Interruptions*). If they want unity and peace in this Region, let them be abused, they cannot all be loved and they will be saved a lot of trouble.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne.

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Egba North-East (*Chief Sogbein*) is certainly being hypocritical in accusing the Government of intolerance. He did try to list cases of thuggery and terrorism which had occurred in certain places in this Region. We do not believe in thuggery because we are in power. But if I may mention the acts of thuggery which the Action Group Opposition has carried out within the last few weeks, I will recall Iwo where an NNNDP vehicle was set on fire by Action Group thugs; I can mention the incident when the office of a very well known NNNDP leader in Ibadan, Chief A. M. A. Akinloye, was ransacked by Action Group thugs; I can also mention the instance when the office of my very good townsman at Ekotedo, Mr G. N. Obe, a lawyer, was attacked. And here in this House we have an example. One of the hon. Members for Ibadan, Alhaji Obisesan, has confessed that certain people cannot go about freely in Ibadan without police guard. I know for instance that the next door neighbour of Alhaji Obisesan had to go and report to the police that because he is a political opponent, he is subjected to harrassment by Alhaji Obisesan's boys. The truth is that the hon. Member was invited to the Police Station and given a warning that if there was any breach of the peace in that area, he would find himself within the warm embrace of the law. (*Interruptions*).

When the Action Group was in power, it was on the Floor of this House, when Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro was Minister, that a law was passed making it illegal for Ministers to be criticised. (*Opposition Members: Where were you then?*). Chief Awolowo was the

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Premier of this Region at the time, Alhaji Adegbenro was a Minister then, Chief Sogbein was a Parliamentary Secretary. (*Opposition Benches: How long ago?*). Their memories must be very short. (*Interruptions*). The Bill provided adequate penalty against any citizen of Western Nigeria who criticised a Minister. The Bill was passed but it was the Queen who refused to assent to it as a result of the criticisms of the NCNC at the time. These very same intolerant people have the effrontery to accuse us, whereas we have not decided to introduce such a law. (*Interruptions*).

The other point I wish to make is that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled this House when he said that the loan received by the NIPC was seven million pounds and that the property upon which the loan was spent has appreciated to eleven million pounds. The truth, which was attested to by Chief S. O. Shonibare before the Coker Commission, was that the actual money spent by the NIPC in building the sky-scrapers was a little over three million pounds and that the balance of four million pounds was handed over to Chief S. O. Lanlehin, Action Group Finance Manager. (*Opposition Benches: You were in the business, that is why you know everything*).

Mr Speaker: I want to appeal to the House to please allow the hon. Member to go on without much heckling we will then be able to finish our business in time.

Mr Kotoye: I am appealing seriously to them in the name of the farmers of Western Nigeria to help this Government to recover the balance of the public money with the NIPC. We do know that every penny which the NIPC invested in the Amalgamated Press to print *The Daily Express* is Western Nigeria farmers' money. This money is still outstanding and we appeal to the Action Group members to pay the Government this money. (*Interruptions*) . . . I understand that the money is in the pocket of Alhaji Adegbenro. . . . (*Laughter*).

The other point I want to make is that we have heard stories about economic depression. Who are the authors of the economic depression, if there is one?

In support of the point I am going to make, I will call into the witness box Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, who was the Minister of Finance for many years in this Region. He was before the Coker Commission of Inquiry and he testified on oath that the economic depression which overtook this Region started in 1958-59

under the very regime of Chief Awolowo. (*Interruptions*) (*Mr Ositelu: You wrote the Report*).

Anybody may write the Coker Commission Report, but I am not quoting the Report, I am quoting the evidence on oath of Chief Odebiyi who said that economic depression overtook this Region in 1958-59. Chief Odebiyi is still a Member of this House and if what I am saying is not correct, he will be here to deny it.

The point I want to emphasise is this. It is very easy for them, today that they are not in Government, to say that there is economic depression. Alhaji Adegbenro was a Premier of this Region for a few days. I think he should thank his stars that he was not successful in being Premier of this Region after July 1962, because the Emergency Administration, which succeeded him, did not spend more than one month before it applied to the Federal Government for a loan in order to salvage us from the wreck into which the Action Group had thrown the Region. If the Government was rich, why was it necessary for Dr M. A. Majekodunmi, the Administrator, within a matter of one month after the Action Group regime collapsed, to look for a loan from outside the Region?

Another point I want to emphasise is this. We have heard a good deal of talk about the banning of Hubert Ogunde's Theatre Party by the present Government. (*Shame!*) I don't want to justify our act by referring to the series of societies which were banned in Western Nigeria by the Action Group Government when Alhaji Adegbenro was Minister of Local Government. There were many in Otta, etc., but I will not refer to them now. The point I want to highlight is that the Opposition Members should be honest enough to admit that they paid Ogunde the sum of £500 to stage that play in order to be able to propagate their false stories about the events which led to the Emergency. (*Prolonged interruptions*). (*Mr Ositelu: He was invited by the Egbe Omo Olofin*).

It is true that the Egbe Omo Olofin invited Ogunde to stage that play in Ibadan. But the play Ogunde staged for the Egbe is not the same as the one he staged in Lagos. As a matter of fact, we were being fair and generous. He should have found himself within the warm embrace of the law. (*Opposition Benches: Why not take him to court?*).

We don't want to take Ogunde to court. If Ogunde is sure of his case, the fundamental right entrenched in the Constitution is there for him to use in testing the legality of our action. I think he has said on the pages of the newspapers that the Govern-

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ment is within its right. After all said and done, the Action Group itself has lawyers who can take cases to court. If they, as the god-fathers and the providers of the money with which Ogunde went about making false stories and distorting facts, are sure of his case, why not go to court and test the Order? They can go to court anywhere in the Federation and test the Order with which Ogunde Party had been banned in the Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, the last point I want to make before I resume my seat is on the question of unemployment. The Action Group caused unemployment in Western Nigeria. In the Western Nigeria Development Corporation, under the Action Group Government, they invested £14 million there and yet when we came we had to be subsidising that Corporation up to the tune of £1.2 million annually. These are the things we have done to salvage this Region and put it on the path of economic rectitude. If you go to Eruwa, you will see the new plans which we are evolving for solving the problem of unemployment. (*Opposition Benches: Farming?*) As a matter of fact, I am also a farmer now and I don't see anything shameful or disgraceful in being a farmer. The trouble with the Action Groupers is that they are ashamed of being farmers but they do not mind stealing farmers' money. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make it clear that we do not need to be reminded of our duties and responsibilities to the school leavers of this Region. If they will only take patience, they will see the various plans which we have evolved for solving the problem of unemployment and, within the next twelve months, the glory of Western Nigeria, which they have conspired to destroy, will be restored and every Westerner will be proud once again to raise his head within the Federation as a citizen of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I seek your permission to quote from the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry into the Affairs of Certain Statutory Corporations in Western Nigeria: Day 23. I quote from the testimony of Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, formerly Minister of Finance of Western Nigeria.

(*Alhaji Adegbenro: Who was the Premier then?*). (*Laughter from both sides of the House*).

“Question.—And you said that during these two years, 1958–59 and 1959–60, the Government was living beyond its immediate means.

Answer.—Ah, yes.

Question.—So, it could not be correct to suggest that the deterioration in the financial position started only in 1960?

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Would it be correct to say it started in 1960?

Answer.—It did not start in 1960.

Question.—When did it start?

Answer.—According to the figures here, it started in 1958–59.

Question.—Were these not figures supplied to the Auditors through the Ministry of Finance?

Answer.—Yes, that is so”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his comprehensive Address from the Throne. In doing this I would wish to seize the opportunity of underlining certain aspects of the Government's activities which come under my responsibility.

As hon. Members will doubtless be aware, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was established just over a year ago. During this period I am happy to state that both in its labour and social welfare programmes, the Ministry has been making significant contributions. The establishment of this Ministry emphasizes the importance which my Government places on finding a rapid and continuing solution to the problem of unemployment among all grades of the community, particularly among school leavers in this Region. Simultaneously with the development of this unemployment problem is the serious manifestation of anti-social problems which are developing in the wake of our technological advances.

Members heard in the Speech from the Throne the steps which this Government is proposing to take in order to solve the mounting unemployment problem among school leavers. My Ministry serves as a rallying point in the co-ordination of the efforts of various technical and executive Ministries which provide employment opportunities. My Ministry officials participate in the various sub-committees of the Regional Manpower Board whose findings and recommendations, I understand, will shortly be presented to Government for consideration. Equally, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare also contributes to the various measures concerned with the implementation

[CHIEF ADIGUN]

of the Rural Integrated Development Scheme which His Excellency the Governor has referred to in great detail in his Speech from the Throne. My Ministry through its contact with the I.L.O. in Geneva has organised the recruitment, under the Technical Assistance Scheme, of Rural Employment Experts of the International Labour Organisation. These experts would be concerned with the analysis of the employment projects and implementations of existing Rural Projects and would give practical recommendations to enable the Government to intensify the employment potentials of these projects. It is also hoped that these experts will be able to evolve 'Crash Programmes' which would give immediate solution to the drift of juveniles to urban centres in search of employment opportunities. Already, three of the five experts have arrived and are already familiarising themselves with the Government White Paper and the projects which have already been established by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In the field of labour administration, my Ministry has been greatly benefited by the facilities and services provided by the Federal Government in the Western Region. The new Labour Office in Ikeja has settled down well and the Federal staff, supported by my Ministry officials, are rapidly gaining the confidence of the industrialists on the Ikeja Estate in the increasing use of the Employment Exchange. Similar efforts are being made, through regular propaganda and personal contacts, to improve the use of employment exchanges in other urban centres of the Region. Steps are already being taken in co-operation with the Federal Government for the opening of new offices in the Region so as to afford facilities to job-seekers in those areas.

I would wish to make a general appeal to all commercial firms, factory managers, Government offices and Local Government Councils to make fuller use of the Employment Exchanges in their areas. This will furnish Government and other agencies correct statistics on the nature and gravity of our unemployment problems. It is only in this way that the Government can find a lasting solution to the problems.

My Government has continued to co-operate with the Federal Government in the maintenance of peace and cordial relations between management and labour in the Region. The country-wide general strike organised by the Joint Action Committee of

Trade Unions on the eve of the Republic Day Celebration led to the appointment by the Government of the Federation of a high-powered Commission headed by Mr Justice Adeyinka Morgan, the Chief Justice of this Region. This Commission will review the wages and salaries of employees and Junior Staff of the Public Services in Nigeria. The report of the Commission is expected early in the financial year.

As I said earlier, the industrial era which we are witnessing in this country has unleashed a number of anti-social problems. Broken homes regularly occur while the problems of delinquent children are also assuming serious proportions. The staff of the Social Welfare Division of my Ministry continue to grapple with these problems. My Government believes that a healthy national life can only be built up if the family remains intact so that it can perform its function of rearing happy children with every sense of duty and citizenship. It is to this end that family welfare units in Welfare Offices in the Region maintain those family functions and see to it that parents do not try to evade their responsibility. I am very happy to say that as a result of these efforts, peace has been restored to many homes which would otherwise have remained broken.

My Government has not ignored the rights of children either. As hon. Members are aware, children may be so much the victims of a bad environment. It has been considered a matter of first importance to segregate them from the evil influence of adult offenders, either in lawful custody or in the courts of law. For this reason, juvenile courts have been established in five centres in the Region. Where they have not been so instituted arrangement is made to try juvenile offenders in Magistrates' Chambers. Remand Homes are also established in some of the urban centres, while delinquent children in need of treatment are sent to the Approved School at Iwo. It is hoped during the Plan period to expand the facilities available for vocational training in Iwo.

I am happy to seize this opportunity to pay public tributes to organisers of charitable voluntary societies which are doing considerable humanitarian work among our handicapped people. There are societies for looking after motherless babies, societies for blind people, and others which are giving humanitarian service in order to make life worthwhile for these handicapped people. My Government, in recognition of these services, is providing technical and financial assistance to enable these organisations to achieve their

[CHIEF ADIGUN]

objectives. My Government will not relent its efforts in the coming year in the provision of these technical and financial supports.

A significant part of my Ministerial responsibility is the promotion of sports in this Region. Members will recall the laudable efforts made by the Western Region Sports Council to stage the world title boxing contest between Dick Tiger and Gene Fulmer at the Liberty Stadium. As far as known, this was the first world title fight to be held in modern Africa. Efforts continue to be made by the Western Region Sports Council and my Ministry staff to raise the falling standard of sports in the Region. This feature is not peculiar to this Region alone. In order to achieve and maintain improved standard, the coaching programmes of the Sports Council are being intensified. The Welfare programmes of our players are also being improved. Plans are also in hand to develop sports stadia throughout the Region on local, provincial and divisional levels. This will ensure that sporting activities are not unduly centred in Ibadan and will help us in raising the standard of sports throughout the Region and provide potential internationals in the various sports for our Nigerian teams.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have stated briefly the activities of my Ministry during the past year and its hopes in the coming year. Although emphasis has been rightly placed, in the Six-Year Development Plan, on Agriculture, Industrialisation and Vocational Training, these developments will in themselves set up a chain of anti-social problems which only an enlarged department of social welfare can tackle. I am glad that in spite of its commitments, our Government is able to provide some expansion of the activities of this Department.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Motion of Thanks for one of the most comprehensive Speeches ever delivered from the Throne.

Say what you will, the Speech has outlined Government proposals with such clarity and understanding and in no equivocal terms that one feels fully satisfied. In such an Address, followed usually by a Debate to convey our grateful thanks to his Excellency the Governor, it is not unusual to have one solitary but shameless dissenting voice, hence the Motion of Amendment tabled by the veteran politician and my professional colleague. Be that as it may, his Amendment,

as he knows from his heart of hearts, cannot move an ant, though very useful and precious time of hon. Members has been wasted.

Sir, though this is a time for Members on the Other Side of the House to say things which mean anything or nothing, they believe in rising up on any subject-matter, no matter how irrelevant. Mr Speaker will agree with me that the standard of Debate on the Floor of this House has fallen to such an appalling degree within the last few years. The reasons are known to Mr Speaker and those other Members of the House who have been following the trend of affairs within the last few years. When Members get up to attack personalities instead of talking on the subject before the House, one cannot but read into such intentional acts of ruthlessness, irresponsibility and insincerity. It is my honest and humble appeal to hon. Members of this House to attach the honours which become the dignity of this House to her.

Talking about unity of the Yoruba people, some Members of the Opposition regard it and treat it as one of the most stupendous jokes of the year. They need not be told that it is no joke at all, it is a reality. Some fellow, catapulted by expensive but frivolous intrigues into a position of leadership, making some allusions and comparisons of certain incompatible elements, said that we closed our eyes to the unlettered Northerners and criticised the lettered Easterners. May I ask, Mr Speaker, Sir, how is it that the Gentleman concerned, when we are seriously addressing our minds to finding opportunities for Westerners, like Nero, is fiddling while Rome burns? We seek employment opportunities, scholarship and educational opportunities, economic opportunities, trade, business, as well as industrial, opportunities for social and cultural advancements. These are the objectives for which we of the NNDP have dedicated our lives, and which we feel we could achieve by bringing all the Yorubas under the canopy of a united leadership.

Some leaders feel it is time to sell off to the erstwhile exploiters of the Yorubas.

We have published a White Paper not so long ago, and that Paper speaks for itself. How is it that any true born Yoruba man will have any defence for people who have committed such atrocity against the Yoruba people? Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that such men require the attention of a Dr Asuni or a Professor Lambo. The unity of the Yorubas is not a thing to trifle with. It must be taken and viewed seriously. All right-thinking citizens of Western Nigeria must by now realise that the NNDP has come to stay and to champion the cause of the 10.2 million

[CHIEF ADEYI]

people of Western Nigeria. If the hon. Members of Opposition feel that they are not fit to help in the task of nation building as far as this Region is concerned, in the task of righting the wrongs already done to the Yorubas by various groups within and without, the Leader of Opposition should say so publicly.

When does the Alhaji become the mouth-piece of our friends across the Niger in the East? Some Members, by way of insinuation, started from the days of the Emergency Administration, said that this Government has done nothing tangible in the Region. But, Sir, put some of these hon. Gentlemen on the saddle, they will put up such a poor show that those who voted them into this honourable House would be ashamed to acclaim them as their sons. If anything was done by the Action Group Government, the personalities have not so much altered, and, by the Grace of God, we are still there. Look at them, Mr Speaker, Odebiyi, Adegbenro, Sogbein, Fadairo, Babatola—that is all, and compare with the following heroes, Osuntokun, Adigun Tinubu, Kotoye, Onabamiro, Omitowoju, Adeyi, Oba Akran, and the hon. Premier himself. These hon. Gentlemen in the second list have always got something done wherever they are, something that anybody can be proud of and they still do it today. But somebody said that we were busy organising our party while we claimed to be doing reconstruction work. If that is not known to him, I like to say it here publicly that everyday we continue to do reconstruction work. We are salvaging the ruins brought about by their master. There is no doubt that as we continue to reconstruct, the instruments of the devil continue to obstruct both at night and in the day time and so set back the hands of the clock.

On the question of electricity in Ikare, we have completed all the necessary works and what remains is for the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to supply the actual electricity. This supply is to come from a 1,000 kilowatt generating station which is being built at Akure. Unfortunately, the E.C.N. have not yet completed this due to a more urgent assignment in the newly created Midwest Region. The Government is doing all in its power to get the E.C.N. to instal the generating plant in Akure. This also explains the reason why it has not been possible to switch on the electricity in Ado-Ekiti.

On the question of Water Supply in Oka, Irekari and Ekamarun Districts raised by the Member for Owo South I (*Mr Olukoju*) I have to remind him that the contract

for the construction of the Ifon-Ikare Water Supply was awarded on the 14th of March, 1963, which is during the life of the present Government and not that of the Action Group Government. The hon. Member should take note of this. This £34,000 project is continuing satisfactorily. Investigations are progressing on more supplies in the area which are estimated to cost some three-quarters of a million pounds. I must mention here that in all engineering projects, particularly in water projects, it is most essential that proper investigations are made before the actual construction of work can begin.

On the question of Water Supply in Ibarapa District raised by the Member for Ibarapa East (*Mr Olaniyan*), the preliminary investigations for Water Supply to Igbo-Ora, Eruwa, Lanlate, Idere, Igangan, Aiyete, Tapa and Akeke have been completed. The whole Scheme now under design is estimated to cost £617,000 and work is expected to commence as soon as the design is completed.

The hon. ex-Minister of Works and Transport (*Chief Sogbein*) referred to the Owo-Ipele Road. As a matter of fact, his brother here knows more about the area than he knows. Owo-Ipele Road bridges have recently been completed.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech from the Throne ably proposed by the hon. Member for Ogbomosho (*Mr Adibi*). In that Speech, His Excellency has clearly stated the progressive programme of work that will be carried out during the current financial year by this Government.

I am happy to announce that the National Council on Health which was formed about two years ago is now well established. Through it, all the Governments of the Federation become united in making proposals for the improvement of Health Services and the eradication of certain diseases from the country. This Council has decided to launch an eradication campaign against malaria. My Ministry will be co-operating fully in both these projects.

In the field of training, my Ministry has established a post-graduate school in the speciality of Public Health Nursing, and it is expected that during the present financial year, the first batch of students will be passing out of the School. Their examinations are to be conducted by the same Society, that is the Royal Society of Health, that is responsible

[DR OMITOWOJU]

for conducting the examination for the Health Visitors' Certificate in England and Wales. The standards therefore are expected to be very high. My Ministry will be happy to make available the facilities in this School to students from friendly neighbouring countries in West Africa.

The routine preventive and curative work against Tuberculosis will continue. My Ministry has succeeded in recruiting some experienced Tuberculosis Medical Officers who, during the coming year, will establish Tuberculosis sub-centres in two new areas of the Region.

During this year also, my Ministry, with the assistance of U.N.I.C.E.F., will be supplying better equipment to all the Rural Health Centres and to several of the Local Government Rural Health Centres. Transport vehicles will also be provided to enable these centres run with a higher degree of efficiency.

The creation of the Midwest Region, with the consequential loss of the Leprosy Headquarters at Ossiemo, has created new problems in Leprosy for my Ministry. The Government will now be faced with the problem of finding new accommodation for the Regional Leprosy Hospital. The Government will however continue to provide a Leprosy Service in as efficient a manner as is possible under the circumstances. My Ministry will also co-operate fully with Voluntary Agencies such as the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association in the attempt to eradicate leprosy from a pilot area of the Region.

My Ministry is also giving active consideration to the extension of the Lantoro Asylum for the lunatics at Abeokuta. When the project is achieved we will be able to provide accommodation for a maximum of 500 lunatics at a time. The Asylum will cater for the whole Region.

The Leader of Opposition complained about the siting of lunatic asylum at Abeokuta. The siting of the Asylum at Abeokuta is appropriate because there are a lot of Paranoicas and people who have suffered and are suffering from nervous breakdown on the Opposition Side, people with grandiose ideas, who have suffered mentally from political disappointments. They will there have comfort from appropriate people and quarters.

There is also the plan to build a permanent Nurses Preliminary Training School at the present site at Eleiyele, Ibadan. The building which is to cost £119,000 is due to start this financial year.

There is the need to replace the Adeoyo Hospital with a bigger and new hospital worthy of the status and size of the Regional capital. During the year my Ministry will be addressing itself to this important task.

During the past year, services were well maintained in all units and work progressed satisfactorily on the construction of the new hospitals at Igbetti and Ibiade. Although work on the construction of the new hospital at Ife ceased during the year, it has since been resumed. At the moment, it is contemplated to take over the new hospital at Ibiade from the Ministry of Works and Transport as soon as construction is completed.

The training of medical, nursing and other personnel was carried out successfully. Some of our Medical Officers returned from the United Kingdom with their Specialist qualifications, under the in-service training scheme, and a few proceeded to the United Kingdom under the same scheme. Three Nursing Sisters proceeded to McGill University, Canada, for Tutors Course and four Nursing Sisters proceeded to the United Kingdom for Midwife Teacher Training Course. One Nursing Sister proceeded to the United Kingdom for Ward Sisters Course and one Nursing Superintendent (Mental) proceeded to the United Kingdom for Tutors Course.

During the past year, decision was taken to build a Government hospital at Ilesha, and a suitable site is presently being chosen for this purpose.

These are projects which will be of great importance to all of us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Deputy Premier (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I give my support, Sir, to the Motion of Thanks on the Speech from the Throne, I would like to make a short statement on the allusion made to me by a Member on the Other Side. That man said that I would not like to see the Ife University disintegrate. It is true, Sir, I remember quite rightly, that all down the line a sum of £2,000,000 had been in the Estimates by the past Government of this Region for the purpose of the buildings and equipments of the Ife University and I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that an amount of £0.4 million in fact had been spent, only £0.4 million, and of this £2,000,000 estimated, £1,000,000 of it, Sir, was diverted by the Premier of the Region then, the Premier of the Action Group Government—he is not here today—to the NIPC. This is factual and it has shown very clearly, Mr Speaker, to our Region and to our people, the people who

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

actually made sure that Ife University shall never rise, but by the Grace of God, Sir, under this regime, Ife University will rise and flourish. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Speech from the Throne. The Governor has spoken, the Opposition has had its say, this Government shall have its way.

The time in which we live demands the solidarity of this Region thus ensuring unity of the Federation. We on this Side of the House have taken positive steps and actions towards the enhancement of the fortunes of our people. The door to unity shall ever be kept open. Mr Speaker, Sir, the time for talking is over. Unity is necessary for the existence of the West, and for Westerners. We shall not allow our people to be stifled within the Federation. From now henceforth all enemies of Yorubas outside this Region shall be fought to a standstill. (*Prolonged Applause*). All Westerners who are enemies of their own people's solidarity shall be constitutionally exterminated, like the vermin that they are, in order that the glory of our people may be once again restored and the unity of the Federation thereby assured.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have spoken! (*Cheers*).

Whereupon the Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran) rose in his place and claimed to move—

“That the Question be now put”.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Amendment—“That this House regrets that His Excellency's Speech from the Throne lacks concrete proposals for economic and political stability in Western Nigeria which in the past used to be a model throughout West Africa”, put and negatived.

Original Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn. (Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.55 p.m., until tomorrow, Thursday, 9th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.45 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

WESTERN NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION BILL— SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of—

“A Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of the Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation, for the functions of the Corporation, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.”

Hon. Members are well aware of the important role that agriculture plays in our economy. Our people are predominantly farmers. Therefore the happiness and well-being of our people depend largely on a sound, vigorous and practical agricultural programme which will benefit large-scale and small-scale farmers alike in every part of our Region.

This Government therefore, as you know, is placing a considerable emphasis on Agriculture and seeking various ways of improving it and thereby improve the lot of the farmers in the rural areas. New crops, modern machineries and efficient methods of agriculture have been introduced into the Region and our efforts are paying us good dividends. We are blessed with good natural resources for the development of a wide variety of agricultural crops and livestock

and our people are very dynamic and responsive to the teachings of our Agricultural Extension Staff.

Unfortunately one of the important obstacles to agricultural development in this country, or any other developing country for that matter, is an acute shortage of suitable credits for the use of the farmers. It is alright to tell a farmer that if he spends a shilling on fertilizers, insecticides, improved seeds or tools he will make a profit of a pound, but he must first have that shilling to spend. The majority of our farmers are poor and very few of them have enough funds to conduct their business on modern lines. Many in fact have not the necessary fund to tide them over from the season of planting seeds to the season of harvest, and have to fall as preys to private money lenders who charge them exorbitant rates of interest which usually ruin them or prevent them from expanding their business. Therefore if our farmers wish to expand their business or others wish to go into the farming business, they should be able to borrow most of the funds they need from appropriate Agencies on suitable interest rates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is lack of adequate capital resources that is mainly responsible for the primitive system of farming that most of our farmers use and for their not adopting, in greater number than at present, the technological improvements which science has brought to their doorstep. There is no doubt that the small loans given to farmers by the Government of this Region in previous years for the purchase of fungicides, insecticides and spraying equipment together with the Government subsidy of about one-quarter million pounds paid annually on chemicals purchased by the cocoa farmers, are mainly responsible for the success that has attended our efforts to control these pests and disease.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one important lesson that the agricultural economy all over the world is teaching us is that farmers must borrow if they are to improve their efficiency to their own advantage as well as to the advantage of the country in which they live. Even modern farmers also have to borrow to make a proper start in farming because agriculture is becoming more and more capital intensive. The existence and wise use of a suitable and efficient credit institution is therefore of paramount importance in an agricultural country such as ours. It is a very important tool for development. What is true for us in Nigeria is even true of the great industrial nations of today. The success of agriculture in the U.S.A. is in no small measure due to the establishment of a

[DR ONABAMIRO]

good credit institution for the use of the farmers. Similarly the success of Japan's agriculture is due, in part, to this. Credit, combined with proper guidance, leads to better farming and higher income and in the U.S.S.R. the achievements of collective farming and the extension in areas under cultivation are mainly due to the supply of finance in the form of cash goods and machine services by the state. The Israeli Settlements owe their success in part to the elaborate credit arrangements by the Jewish National Fund, Joint Stock Bank and the Credit Co-operatives in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Settlement. Another illustration of a successful agricultural development scheme is to be found in the Gezira Scheme of the Sudan where during the past two decades, through a combination of credit and technical guidance, the development of irrigation for the cultivation of cotton by the erection of dams on the Blue Nile has resulted in a considerable increase in the income of the farmers and the consequent improvement in the standard of living of the Sudanese as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Sir, up to this day, the Western Nigeria Finance Corporation, which was established by Law in 1955, has been granting loans to farmers for various purposes. Unfortunately, it is generally felt that farmers have not benefited to the extent that they should from the operations of this Corporation. Members are familiar with the various allegations against it. The credits made available were inadequate for producing the desired results and the system of granting such credits as were granted was inefficient. Loans were used for purposes other than those for which they were granted, etc. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government therefore brought out a number of U.S.A.I.D. credit experts to study our agricultural credit situation and advise us on the best type of Credit Institution to establish such as will avoid all the mistakes of the past and place our agriculture on a footing equal to that of other countries. The reports of these experts were then studied by a special committee of officials under the Chairmanship of Chief S. O. Adebo in 1962 which advised the setting up of an Agricultural Credit Corporation that will operate a supervised credit scheme for the farmers of the Region. The Report of the Adebo Committee was tabled as a White Paper and approved in this House in May, 1963 and since then our legal experts have been busy drafting the necessary Bill, for the establishment of the Corporation; which is now

laid before you, for enactment. The Bill embodies the essential provisions contained in the White Paper presented to you last year and the attention of Members is drawn to the "Objects and Reasons" at the back of the printed Bill giving a brief summary of the provisions of each part of the Bill and the aim of providing agricultural credit to all farmers alike.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the proposed Agricultural Credit Corporation will consist of a Chairman and not more than eight other members three of whom shall be *ex-officio* members. The formulation of policy and incidental matters will be dealt with by the Corporation while its day to day administration and operations will be left to career officers who will be free from politics. (*Prolonged cheers from the Government Benches*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I should repeat that sentence. The formulation of policy and incidental matters will be dealt with by the Corporation while its day to day administration and operations will be left to career officers who will be free from politics. (*Cheers from both sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the objectives of a supervised credit scheme, such as we are starting, are to bring planning, financing and counselling to farmers for the betterment of their own circumstances and the expansion of production beneficial to this Region. Such services will go only to genuine farmers who are both willing and able to make progressive adjustments in their farming. The credits will be given on the basis of budget and income and mainly in kind and very close supervision will be given to see that they are wisely used as planned. Funds used for hired labour and other cash costs would be disbursed in a manner that would assure the use of the loans for planned purposes. The farming operation when properly developed must be sound and have productive capacity to repay the loan which will be made with emphasis on the character, integrity and farming ability of the borrower together with the productive capacity of the farming operations and not on security alone. In this atmosphere, therefore, strong administrative safeguards have been embodied in the Bill against a misapplication of the loan and an improper use of income that should be used to pay it off.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the strength of the Supervised Credit programme lies in the advice and training given to the individual borrower to ensure the soundness of his farming operation. Therefore the Agricultural Extension Service Officers and trained Credit Officers will visit the borrower from

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time to time to supervise the use of the loan, to give training to him in approved modern farming practices and to ensure that the borrower is fulfilling his obligations. Progress reports are to be written on the borrower from time to time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the present Local Loans Boards will be abolished and replaced with Local Advisory Committees made up of local leaders of farmers capable of determining the credit worthiness of the applicants and familiar with the agricultural needs of the area as well as sufficiently acquainted with the farmers to advise the Corporation on their character, integrity and farming background.

Members will note that sub-section (3) of Clause 5 of this Bill requires the members of the Corporation, including the Chairman, to have a sound knowledge of agriculture, co-operative organisations, business or financial operations or be practising farmers. This is inserted to ensure that even at the policy making level we shall have competent persons who are fully conversant with the problems of the farming industry.

This type of supervised Credit Scheme which we have proposed for this Region is the tool for development in many countries, especially, North, Central and South America. It is our hope that it will prove a very useful tool in our hands for our economic development also.

To set up a good agricultural credit corporation naturally requires the investment of a large sum of money in it. Our need over the present development period is estimated at about £5 million. Part of this money will come from the assets of the agricultural section of the old Finance Corporation, while the balance will have to come from other local as well as external sources.

Historically, economic development in most countries has often been initiated by savings from agriculture which at the start has always been the most important sector of the economy and usually the only democratic source of investment funds. This however is a slow process under the present conditions of the world markets and there is very little likelihood of our agriculture, under the present conditions, being able to accumulate enough savings for financing both the desired industrialisation as well as the development of agriculture. Hence our saving grace would appear to be aid from international sources supplemented with such little savings as we can ourselves make from the meagre income we receive from the

agricultural and other sectors of our economy. It is our hope, however, that some friendly Governments or agencies such as our Federal Government, the World Bank, and particularly the U.S.A.I.D., who have assisted us tremendously in the planning of the Scheme, will come to our aid by providing us with long term loans on very generous terms.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the establishment of the Agricultural Credit Corporation is another important step that our Government is taking for furthering the economic and social progress of our people and the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, needs to be thanked and specially congratulated for his foresight in quickly seeing the need for making a comprehensive study of our agricultural credit needs and the best institution for meeting these needs and for the leading role he has played in seeing to the establishment of this new Corporation. (*Cheers*). His interest in farming and the welfare of the farmers of this country, and of Western Nigeria in particular, is too well known to need a further mention. May God Almighty grant Chief S. L. Akintola long life to enable him to continue to play the leading role he is now playing in our midst for as long as possible. Amen. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill which is likely to have a big effect on our economic development deserves the support of all Members of this honourable House. Only the enemies of our farmers and of the economic progress of this Region can stand to oppose it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): I rise to second the Second Reading of the Bill for the establishment of the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Members will remember that when I was moving the Finance Corporation and Local Loans Boards (Amendment) Bill yesterday, I mentioned the need for effective co-ordination between the functions pertaining to the distribution of loans to farmers and the supervisory functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources attendant upon the issuing of such loans. In order to achieve this desirable co-ordination and thereby foster agricultural production, it has become imperative to bring the responsibility of issuing agricultural loans under the expertise of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill which will provide for the establishment of a Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation is designed to this end.

Members will also remember that in moving the Finance Corporation and Local

[MR BELLO]

Loans Boards (Amendment) Bill, I mentioned the fact that under the proposed law, the Western Region Finance Corporation would become divested of its erstwhile responsibilities for issuing all forms of credits to farmers. In order to regularise the situation and to improve the arrangements for issuing loans to farmers it is necessary to establish the proposed Agricultural Credit Corporation which is the purpose of this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Bill.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill for a law to provide for the establishment of the Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation which has just been presented to this honourable House is a welcome Bill to this Side of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I give an assurance for the first time that the Opposition will not be unduly obstructive in giving constructive suggestions to the Government of this Region. In dealing with matters affecting the fate of farmers in this Region, the Action Group takes the credit for playing the leading role when that party was in control of the Government of Western Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, when moving this Bill did emphasise, the Action Group Government set up a high powered committee under the able Chairmanship of Chief S. O. Adebayo. May I remind my hon. Friends that this Bill is just a follow up of the initiative of the Action Group to foster the interest of farmers in Western Nigeria. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said that we of the Action Group should take credit for this but, unfortunately, the Government, knowing fully well that the Action Group initiated this Bill, has cleverly inserted certain clauses in the Bill which, from all indications, appear to me, and to Members on this Side of the House, to give particular opportunity and facility to the Government so as to make it impossible for farmers in this Region, who do not wear the party label of the ruling party, to obtain loans in a free manner and on their own merits. (*Interruptions*). If only Members of the Government will listen, I will tell them more about this clause and, when it comes to the Committee Stage, then it will be necessary for us on this Side of the House to deal specifically with this clause which I am going to mention.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if you look at clause 7 of the Bill, under General Powers of the Corporation, sub-section 2 (b), you will find that the Corporation has the power to—

“enter into such contracts as may be necessary, advantageous or expedient for the performance of its functions, but so that the Corporation shall not, unless with the prior approval of the Minister, enter into any contract for the guarantee of a loan or loans of money to any person, company or other bodies for the underwriting of the whole or any part of any issue of debentures, stock or bonds of any person, company, or other bodies”.

As a matter of fact, it is the Minister who will say that the Corporation may give the guarantee or may not. The claim of the Minister is to be established when the Government intends to make the granting of loans to farmers of all classes free, and to be on individual merit. Why not leave the Corporation alone? Corporations, not only in Western Nigeria but in other parts of this great Republic, are supposed to be independent bodies—agencies of Government. Why do we bring the Minister into this? It is simply this, that the Minister may veto any recommendation which is not to the liking of the Government, and particularly of the Minister, because of vested interest. If you look again at sub-clause 2 (c), the power of the Corporation—

“to establish or promote the establishment of companies or other bodies to carry on activities in connection with an approved project, either under the control or partial control of the Corporation or independently”.

Again here, the Corporation can set up a company of which the Minister will be the Managing Director. If the Minister of Agriculture can be a Managing Director, what about his friends who are already exploiters of extensive areas of timber forest? (*interruptions*).

I spoke to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to allocate ten square miles of forest reserve to my supporters to exploit timber in Egba land but he said there was none to give me. I suggested Olokemeji but there the forest reserve has become so exploited that no more tree is available in that place.

Again, Mr Speaker, Sir, may I take you to Clause 23 of the Bill which says:

“(1) The Corporation shall not make an agricultural loan to any person unless—

(a) the appropriate Local Advisory

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Committee is satisfied and has certified that he is—

- (i) a *bona fide* farmer resident in the Region;
- (ii) physically and otherwise able to manage and perform agricultural work of the type proposed", etc, etc.

There again you will see a subtle attempt on the part of the Minister to make it impossible for anyone who is not holding a party card of the "Northern Nigeria Devils Party" to obtain the loan.

Mr Speaker: There is no party bearing that name recognised in this House.

Alhaji Adegbenro: "Northern Nigeria Democratic Party" means NNDP. (*laughter*).

This clause, as I say, strengthens my case and supports my suspicion that there is a subtle attempt to give this loan to people who support the ruling party alone as applicants for the loan will have to satisfy the Local Advisory Committee which will be appointed by the Minister. Who are the people the Minister will appoint to serve on this Committee? It is almost certain that he will appoint no other people than those who support the ruling party. In Ago-Iwoye, for example, Dododanwa will be the first person to be appointed to serve on this Committee (*interruptions*). It will be better, if in appointing this Committee, consultation is made with the Opposition, otherwise an avenue of bribery and corruption is further made open to members of the government party.

About Assessment Committees appointed by this Government, we have, Mr Speaker, allegations of victimisation, oppression and so on and so forth. I foresee the same thing in Clause 23 of this Bill. There is no guarantee in clause 23 that the Advisory Committee will not be partisan because no member of this committee will be appointed on merit. Because the imposed Government of this Region put irresponsible people in the Local Government Loans Boards, they now find themselves in difficulty and have now sought the permission of this honourable House to abolish these Boards. The appointment of members of the Advisory Committees should therefore be left in the hands of technical officers. If the Minister is allowed to appoint these members, he would be tempted to appoint his followers and supporters and thus an avenue will be opened for winning the support of the masses of this Region by the ruling party.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will again refer you to Clause 47 of the Bill with respect to making

of false statements by applicants—Part X—"Offences". I support the desire of Government to punish any person, no matter of what status in the community, who makes false statements in order to obtain loans from Government but I would like to refer hon. Members to Clause 47 (1) (b) of this Bill:—

"If any applicant for an agricultural loan from an authority—with intent to defraud—fails to disclose to that authority any material information within his knowledge he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for one year or to a fine of one hundred pounds or to both such fine and imprisonment".

I have already said that I support Government in punishing those who make false statements in order to get loans. But if an applicant, an illiterate for that matter, unintentionally but through the carelessness of a letter-writer, makes statements which the Minister considers to be false, he is liable to a fine of £100. Do you think that if this illiterate farmer is able to pay a fine of £100, he would apply for a loan of £10? I would like the Government to reduce this heavy penalty because of these illiterate farmers who form the majority of our people.

When we come to the Committee Stage, Mr Speaker, my Colleagues and I will have Amendments moved to some Clauses of the Bill but I would like to assure the Government that we welcome this Bill because it is a follow-up of the initiative of the Action Group Government.

The Minister, when introducing the Bill, struck an important note, which I think deserves comment from me. He told the House that the funds intended for this Scheme would be up to the tune of about £5 million. He went further to say that the funds are not available. Part of the funds will be realised from the assets taken over from the Finance Corporation of Western Nigeria and the remainder from external sources, but where are the internal sources? The internal sources are dried up. The internal sources are dried up by this Government, this Government by imposition. Mr Speaker Sir, I am sorry English is the official language of this honourable House, I could have christened this Government, "Government of *Tipatipa*".

Mr Speaker: You mean "*Sarkin Tulasi*".

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you very much.

I refer to the external sources. I have often said that no foreign investor would

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bring his hard-earned money to this Region, because of the political and economic instability which has plagued this Region since the take over by this *Sarkin-Tulasi* Government. I am happy to know that those who in 1962 were responsible for the afflictions now plaguing this Region and who thought that they were destroying the Action Group, or installing a Government other than the Action Group Government in the Region, are now the worse off for it.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has told us that the funds will be got from the assets taken over from the Finance Corporation and from external sources. He has however not told us how much he could realise from the assets of the Finance Corporation.

As a lover of this Region, may I repeat, Mr Speaker, that this is a Region which belongs to all of us and the only way by which we can restore health and strength to Nigeria is for Western Nigeria to have an effective representative Government of the people of the Region.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. Atolagbe (Ekiti North-West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, although this Bill is non-contentious in itself and we on the Opposition Side of this House do support it, I wish to point out that I, personally, am not deceived as to the motives of the NNNDP for bringing up the Bill now.

The Bill was produced within the last week, that is, since this Budget Meeting began. The motive of the promoters of the Bill is to help them find supporters for the NNNDP.

The Corporation is going to be staffed by supporters and sympathisers of the NNNDP. Since the days of the UPP, it has been the policy of this regime not to employ anybody to any sphere of employment unless he is already a supporter or he can sign a bond to become a member of the UPP, now NNNDP.

Section 7 of this Bill has given the Corporation generally wide powers which can be used to intimidate prospective borrowers from the Corporation to declare for the NNNDP.

If the Corporation is to achieve its objective, there must be safeguards. First the operation of the Corporation must be truly removed from the arena of politics, as has been contemplated in the case of tax. And just as we have Assessment Committees made up of party representatives in the case of tax I think we ought to have a similar thing in

the case of this Credit Corporation. Thus sections 8 and 23 of the Bill are very important. Failure or success of this Credit Corporation depends upon the activities of the Local Advisory Committees. These Committees must be drawn up on party basis. That is the only guarantee that the Committees would not become instruments of oppression and of forcing NNNDP party cards on the poor farmers of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

Alhaji B. O. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East I): The Leader of the Opposition has expressed the desire of the Opposition not to oppose this Bill (*interruptions*). While we do not intend to oppose this Bill, we would like to make it plain to the Government that we have the support of the majority of farmers of this Region behind the Action Group of Nigeria, and, for this reason, the interests of these people should be protected.

The Minister has given us the impression that this Bill was proposed by him, but it is so glaring that this is a follow-up of what the Action Group initiated. It is not an offence to repeat that this will only make the Government wiser. We are conscious that this Government intends to use this Corporation in order to enlist the sympathy of the farmers for the NNNDP. But, as has been said, we would like the Government to give the assurance that this Local Advisory Committees would be, as far as possible, fair and impartial. My only fear is that since the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the other Members on the Government Side left the Action Group, I cannot vouchsafe for their impartiality. My only fear is that the power is given to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to veto any contract or any loan and I know that he would be inclined to grant all the loans to farmers in Ago-Iwoye where he is putting up a Farm Institute himself: charity begins at home. These poor farmers should not be deprived of the benefits which Government is now proposing for them. I wonder, these people are very anxious to see that we do not say anything bad about them and I would like to make it plain that we are very anxious that the benefits should go to the farmers and not to the pockets of these people, as has been the case with timber concessions when only friends, nieces and relatives of the Minister are the only ones to benefit.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, in an undertone, Members of the Government have bribed me to support

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

this Motion because the Mover, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, happened to have been a Professor at the University of Ibadan. My support is not because the hon. Minister was a professor but because the Bill itself has an intrinsic value for the people of this Region.

The new Corporation now combines the functions of the Finance Corporation and the Development Corporation. In accordance with clause 6 of the Law, sub-section (d)—

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation, subject to the provisions of this Law—to designate or formulate and carry out or cause to be carried out approved projects for improved management of and production from all forms of agricultural operations in the Region."

But I will not be surprised if only members of the ruling party, that is members of the NNNDP, are appointed to the Corporation, and this is so simply because they own some two, three, or four acres of land. This may bring ruin to our Region. Government wants to see that members of the Corporation must be people who have training in advanced agriculture, not the primitive agriculture. We want to see those people who have been trained and have the experience of training elsewhere, possibly in Isreal or perhaps in Trinidad. We, on this Side of the House, appeal to the Minister to see that those people who are members of the Corporation are people who have expert knowledge of advanced agriculture.

There are other provisions here, Mr Speaker, over which we shall have to warn the Government to take great care and I refer to section 22 (3) (n)—

"re-financing debts when required to project the farmer's operations or the Corporation's security".

It is here provided that farmers can come for re-financing of their debts and that the Corporation can grant the money. I have advised that very great care should be taken before money is given to people who had wasted or perhaps had mismanaged the original fund provided for them. I have my fears and I feel this provision is included simply to help people who are loyal to the party which controls the Government.

We do urge the Government to see to it, as I have said, that only experts are appointed to serve on the board as members. People who really have knowledge of advanced agriculture; people who know from whence, for instance, the farmers ought to give up

rather than being given money to re-finance debts.

Another provision which the Government should kindly consider, and to which I wish to move an Amendment with the permission of the Speaker, is the provision in section 26 (c)—

"Agricultural loans amounting to more than ten pounds for the making of agreed farming improvements shall, in ordinary circumstances, be secured by an agricultural charge in favour of the Corporation."

Very often, a provision of this type is observed by officers by complying with the minimum requirement of the Law. May I ask, therefore, that the minimum amount should be over £10. I shall deal with this later but, once again, I say we on this Side give our support to this Bill.

Mr S. A. Okeya (Ekiti South-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to oppose this Bill. Personally I think it is a very good Bill and secondly, I am a friend of the farmers and I, myself, am a farmer but I have to give a warning note to this NNNDP Government that when the time comes for the Board to be established, it should not be based on party politics and furthermore I should like the present Government to remember that what they are doing on the Floor of this House is a very good thing but different from what obtains outside the House. For example, if they go out, they go out with their thugs to beat us and if they want me to cross over to their side, after beating me, do they think I will come to them? I am not a dog. I am a higher animal and not a lower animal like a dog. After beating a dog, it may come to them but not a man. I am now giving them a warning that when they go out they should try to preach and not try to beat people up. (*Interruptions*).

Furthermore on the question of Agriculture, it is high time we put a little halt to this research business and the best advice I will give to this present Government is to try to emphasise the practical side of agriculture and encourage the Agricultural Officers and then appoint Agricultural Overseers and go to the field to help the local farmers in their respective areas. That is the advice I want to give to this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi (Ondo West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, of all the Bills that have been passed in this honourable House, this Agricultural Credit Corporation Bill is the best. (*Cheers*). As a farmer, I say it is the best because it gives sufficient help to our local

[MR KOTOYE]

did not receive foreign loans because it was unfriendly with the Federal Government, which controlled the import of foreign loans into the country. Within our short time in office we know the amount of foreign loans that came into the coffers of this Government. We are not the sort of people that take pride in the receipt of foreign loans. We have our own self-pride; we only need foreign loans as a complement of the efforts we are making. We do not go about like the Action Group vaunting about foreign loans after they had depleted the reserves which the farmers put in the Treasury. We have the good credit of attracting foreign loans, through the Federal Government, to this Region. That is why within a matter of three months of our coming into office, the £4,000,000 loan which the Action Group Government failed to get from America in order to finance the Water Development Project in Ibadan, was announced. Two years before the death of the Action Group, both at Ikenne meetings and at various places, the people who were then in power had been begging the various American delegations which came to this country to grant loans to this Region without success. The Minister of Trade and Industry will give full answers when he comes to reply to Debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. He will show the House the several loans and foreign investments that are coming in as a result of the activities of this Government.

Finally, I emphasise that we are not brokers like them. We depend substantially upon the amount of sacrifice which the people of this Region are prepared to make in order to develop our economy and our Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr J. G. Adeniran): Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of the Opposition said that Members of the Loans Committees will not be honest men; that will not be so. I want to make it clear to them that we will appoint honest members to these Committees. They also said that only members of the NNDP will be given loans and that loans will not be given to the supporters of the Opposition. I appeal to their supporters to please repay the loans taken at the appropriate time. It was my experience, when I was a member of the Action Group, that when loans were given to the members of the Opposition party they would not like to repay the loans. I hope that the Opposition Members will not encourage this. They should encourage their supporters to be

prepared to repay loans given to them in good time instead of going about saying that Government is worrying unnecessarily to recover the loans.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to correct the impression that we are afraid of this Bill and that that is why we are making some suggestions or are giving some explanations as to the way the Corporation should be run. Everybody knows that what these people talk on the Floor of this House is absolutely different from what they practise in the field and the good Minister, Mr Liar or Lawyer.....(*interruptions*).....

Mr Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am asking for your protection.

Mr Speaker: As a Minister, he is not a liar, although he is a Lawyer.

Mr Akerele: There are instances of this awkwardness in the field and, in the newspapers of this morning, I can quote instances. You will notice that certain thugs were reported to have beaten up a Policeman at Ilesha.....(*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, this is an illustration. What these people practise on the Floor of this House is not what they practise outside. What is important is to safeguard the interest of the farmers. They do not safeguard the interest of farmers at all and that is why they have no supporters outside at all. They are not planning for farmers at all. (*Government Benches: How do you know?*)

We are not quarrelling about the plan as such, we are quarrelling with the method of application of the plan. It is absolutely dangerous for these people to plan for anybody at present because they have no supporters outside this House and that is why we should examine very carefully the method of application of their plan.

It is not true that people on our Side do not usually pay back their loans in time. How did the hon. Member know that certain people belonging to certain political parties do not pay their loans? This is questionable. The answer to that is that the Members of the Committee actually ask for membership cards(*interruptions*). They ask for membership cards before they grant loans. The Local Loans Authorities are very corrupt.

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon, Local Authorities are corrupt?

Mr Akerele: I mean that the NNDP members of Local Authorities are corrupt.

appointing the Chairman of the Corporation and not less than eight members of the Corporation. I do not see any need for the

investing money. In this case it is a question of awarding contract and I feel that the Minister, in his own interest, should stand clear of this

[MR AKERELE]

The Member who spoke before me said that people on our Side do not usually refund loans. How did he know that the people who are debtors are members of our party? He was able to know that because they identify these people by their party cards before they are given loans and when they are about to repay the loans. It is the composition of this Corporation that is extremely important. If the members of the Corporation are under the control of the Minister one should be very afraid because it is a means of propagating their party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

Dr S. D. Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that we are gratified on this Side to note that the Opposition has given whole-hearted support to this Bill. The points of criticism that have been raised against certain Clauses of the Bill are noted and I would like to give the following answers.

The hon. Leader of Opposition raised a point about the powers vested in the Minister in giving approval for certain actions of the Corporation. May I say that that clause of the Bill, as provided, is the exact copy of the section of the Finance Corporation Law, passed in 1955 dealing with the giving of agricultural loans, by the Action Group Government. You will see in Section 15 on page 287 of Volume II of the Laws of the Region that all those powers, a number of them, were to be carried out with the approval of the Minister. The powers of approval were vested in the Minister in the old Law. Splitting the Finance Corporation into two and taking the agricultural side away from the new Corporation, the Legal Draftsmen thought it proper to vest the same powers in the Minister and so there is no departure from the old Law at all.

Again mention has been made that the Local Advisory Committees might be appointed by the Minister and even it was suggested that I might appoint the Local Advisory Committees myself. There is not such possibility at all. The truth is that the General Manager and the Secretary, who will be career officers free from politics, will be responsible for the appointment of the Committees. I refer Members to clauses 39 and 40 of the Bill. It has nothing to do with the Minister.

Again, it was the hon. Leader of Opposition who spoke rather passionately on the penalty of a fine of a hundred pounds and my hon. Colleague, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, has expatiated on this point, but may I say, in connection with the

loan of £10, that people who will borrow a sum of money as small as £10 will be members of Co-operative Societies who will submit applications to the local branch of the Co-operative Society. It is the Co-operative Society of that area which will process the application for such loans and there is no likelihood that any such people will mis-write their signatures or commit the offence under reference. It is a very remote possibility that a poor illiterate farmer wanting to borrow £10 will be sent to Court and fined £100. I do not see the possibility. *(Interruptions)*. This House exists to make laws and amend laws and if, in the process of operation of this proposed law, we find a snag, it is up to us to come back to the Floor of this House to make amendment.

There is a point about the possibility of the Corporation using its own position to get loans. This has been safeguarded because there is a clause about surcharge so that such loans will be recovered by whatever means and these provisions are incorporated in order to discourage such practices.

I was rather disappointed by the speech of one Opposition Member who said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources should desist from further research. I am greatly shocked as I am a genius in agriculture and a Professor of Zoology. The world continues to progress by the emphasis and application of research..... *(interruptions)*.

Mr Okeya: Point of correction, Mr Speaker. I never said that there should be no more research. What I said was that Government should concentrate on the practical side of agriculture. I, myself, am a teacher and passed my Senior Diploma in Agriculture.

Dr Onabamiro: May I say that what the hon. Member said is exactly what we are doing. We are having research and practical field extension work established side by side. We are all enjoying the practical result of research. Fifteen years ago, we did plant a different type of cocoa but today, as a result of research, we now plant the Amazon breed. Twenty years ago, we used to plant cassava without application of fertilizers; now we are encouraging farmers to use fertilizers for their cassava to get ten-fold yields, another practical application of research. *(Cheers)*. In the past we had a variety of maize but now we are introducing to farmers a new variety of maize which gives better yield..... *(interruptions)*. Mr Speaker, Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, I was Professor of Zoology not of Guinea-worm... *(laughter)*.

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

say this quite sincerely and it is only to save the reputation of Government. After all, it doesn't matter what Government does, the people of this Region have suffered enough by the acts of Government, and I would like to sound this note of warning, that the power being vested in the Minister here is too wide. The power should have been vested in the Governor in Council so as to control these agencies effectively. If that control is what is being sought in this clause, I have no objection to the exercise of the power by the Governor in Council, not by the Minister.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think we should thank the Leader of Opposition for his advice. His advice is already noted. We all learn by experience. This particular clause is in almost every other Law of this nature and as the Minister of Agriculture said, if during its application we see that it is necessary that further amendments should be made, certainly we will come to the Floor of this House and make the amendments. But in the meantime, let us give this clause a trial.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to make another short contribution to this Debate. We do know that while the hon. Leader of Opposition was Minister of Local Government in this Region he alone had powers to approve contracts, worth £2,000 and above, awarded by local government councils throughout the length and breadth of this Region. I would have thought, as he himself now thinks, that where contracts are of the magnitude of £20,000 or £50,000 it should have been left for the Governor in Council. But the Action Group Government then had confidence in him as a Minister. We also have confidence in our own Minister of Agriculture who is going to operate this Law when passed. If the Action Group Government could entrust a Minister with singular and individual responsibility of approving contracts awarded by local government councils throughout this Region, why is the Leader of Opposition quarrelling over awards of one or two contracts in respect of loans which the Minister of Agriculture, under this Bill, will have to approve?

This holier-than-thou-art attitude of the Opposition must stop. We are here to do business and to do it expeditiously. This very same power was conferred on Ministers under the Action Group Government. If it was good then, it is good today.....(*Several Opposition Members: And it will be good tomorrow!*)

.....and it will be good tomorrow.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman Sir, I am sorry, I do not intend to waste the time of the House but it pains one indeed to see that inexperience is being exhibited by the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government. As a matter of fact he has himself even defended the situation because the Minister did not award contracts then. He said "contracts awarded by local government councils." What was the reason behind that, Mr Chairman? Any contract to the tune of £2,000 and above should receive the approval of the Minister of Local Government. The Minister would not be there, the councils will present the contractors of their own choice, and the Minister must ensure that they are awarding contracts to contractors who are qualified and are registered and who could execute the contract.

This is a question of borrowing money to the tune of millions of pounds and if you think that it is safe so to do for the Minister, let him accept the responsibility like that. I have suggested that the power should be given to the Governor in Council. We are not going to quarrel with it. But we will live to see the operation of this and I am sure when it comes to it, the Minister will have to defend his own reputation; he has to defend his own name.

It is not enough to say that because they are in power therefore whatever goes on on the Other Side is not our business. It is our business because we represent the people, although the place is not hereto say what proportion of the populace of this Region they represent. We have another avenue to say that, but I do say that, as representatives of the people of this Region, we have to give advice, genuine advice, to the Government. If they like, let them take it, if they like let them not, but we are all going to see the operation of this proposed Law.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, I have the following amendment to make with regard to Clause 8. In the last line immediately before the proviso, begin the word "law" with a capital letter.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 21 agreed to.

Clause 22.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, the amendment to Clause 22 (1) reads as follows:

Delete the comma in the first line after the word "make".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 22, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 23.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, I have some amendments to make in regard to Clause 23 sub-section 1 (a) which is to be read along with Clause 40 (1) of the Bill.

Clause 40 (1) reads as follows:

“The General Manager and Secretary of the Corporation shall, subject to the provisions of this section, appoint as Members of each Local Advisory Committee, not more than ten persons from among not less than twelve or more than eighteen persons whose names are on the register of farmers for the area, and who are recommended for appointment by the Assistant Agricultural Credit Officer and the most senior officer of the Extension Services Division of the Ministry in the area.”

Clause 23 sub-section 1 (a) reads as follows:—

“the appropriate Local Advisory Committee is satisfied and has certified that he is”
.....and so forth and so on.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the amendment is that the words “the appropriate Local Advisory Committee” should be deleted and the following substituted:

“The General Manager and the Secretary of the Corporation as provided for in Clause 40 should satisfy that the applicant is a *bona fide* farmer resident in the Region; and physically and otherwise able to manage and perform agricultural work of the type proposed” etc.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said in my earlier statement, the setting up of Local Advisory Committees is fraught with many difficulties and suspicions. If, as provided for under section 40, the Assistant Agricultural Credit Officer will be an officer on the spot who will recommend to the General Manager and the Secretary of the Corporation, he should be able to certify that the applicant has the ability to execute the project for which he has applied for an agricultural loan. I say this with all sincerity, Mr Chairman, because that is better and instils confidence in the minds of the people that their applications are not treated with political bias. That is all I have to say.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am glad that the Leader of Opposition has not opposed the setting up of the Local Advisory Committees; it is the method of setting them up that he expresses some fears about. (*Interruptions*). What I am

saying is that, if I get the hon. Leader of Opposition correctly, he does not object to the setting up of the Local Advisory Committees. We have assured him that they are not set up by the Minister; they are set up by the General Manager and the Secretary, the career officers.

Since he agrees that they are necessary and he has been assured of the proper or appropriate manner in which they are to be set up; what functions are we to give to them? They must be given some functions to perform. They are the people of the area who know their people. Once we assume they are properly set up and that they are the right people, the function given to them is that it is for them to recommend genuine *bona fide* farmers to the General Manager and the Secretary. It comes to the same thing. He is suggesting that the vetting should be done by the General Manager and the Secretary who will get the applications through the recommendations of the Local Advisory Committees, the formation of which he does not oppose.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, what I have said is a different thing from what the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has said. The Local Advisory Committees, in their capacity as advisory committees, may advise the General Manager and the Secretary of the Corporation in approving applications. There is nothing wrong in that, I am not opposing that, but when you give it executive function to certify applications, it means that no application will be granted unless the Local Advisory Committee is satisfied. When it comes to approving applications for agricultural loan, it requires expert knowledge, technical advice and technical opinion, and that is what I mean by saying the officers should be the last authority in rejecting or approving applications. If the Advisory Committee will act only in an advisory capacity, it is a different matter; we will not quarrel with that, but if they certify every application, I have my suspicion.

Dr Onabamiro: I would like to give assurance to the hon. the Leader of Opposition that no such political bias will operate at all. (*Cheers from the Government Benches*).

Mr Atolagbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to know how the General Manager will know the suitable men to be appointed?

Oba C. D. Akran: There is no question of rejecting, it is a question of what we want. The General Manager and the Secretary will, among the farmers in a locality, select Local Advisory Committees. It is just like a Co-operative Society. You do not get any

[OBA AKRAN]

loan unless you are well known in the locality. It is the same thing here. If these people who live in the locality know the farmers, that is all. What used to happen will no longer happen. Only *bona fide* farmers will be able to attract loans. They know who is able to work and who is not able to work. They know who owns land and those who have no land and they know who is going to play with the money. Only the people of the area can know all these things. The General Manager and the Secretary, who reside in Ibadan, will not know these people. They are in Ibadan; how will they know? I think if we trust the people of the area, no politics will operate.

Whereupon the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun) rose in his place and claimed to move—

“That the Question be now put”.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 23 agreed to.

Clauses 24 and 25 agreed to.

Clause 26:

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, in clause 26 (c) of the Bill, as I said earlier on, I am asking that the figure and sign “£10” be deleted and the figure and sign “£12” be substituted therefore, in the first line of clause 26 (c). This may not matter much to the Minister but it matters much to the farmers. I said £12 so that by the time a farmer pays for his travelling expenses he has about £10 in his pocket.

Dr Onabamiro: I am opposing the amendment. As far as we can help it we want to use decimal figures such as 10, 20, 100 and 1,000 so that £12 will not work.

Oba Akran: If you will care to read (b) you will see that “where the Local Advisory Committee so recommends in any case, agricultural loans of not more than ten pounds may be secured solely by a legally binding undertaking on the part of the borrower to repay, but were any borrower possesses outstanding loans exceeding ten pounds altogether they shall be otherwise secured.” It is the local people who will say “he is a good farmer and he is good enough for £10”.

Chief Babatola: When a farmer is given more than £10 he will be required to give security.

Oba Akran: Yes, but below £10 there is no security.

Chief Babatola: I agree that below £10 there is no security. What I am saying now is that up to £20, if £12 is inappropriate, should be approved so that by the time he pays for his travelling expenses and other things he has some money in his pocket.

Dr Onabamiro: The farmer can ask for more and, if he asks, he can use his crop or his poultry or his farm or even his corn for security.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 26 agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 42 agreed to.

Clause 43:

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, in clause 43 sub-section (2) insert an apostrophe before letter ‘s’ in the word ‘auditors’ in the third line.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 43, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 44 to 46 agreed to.

Clause 47:

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, in my speech on the Bill earlier on, this penalty clause, I said that the Minister should be magnanimous enough to reduce the penalty from £100 to £25. In his reply, the Minister pointed out that applicants for £10 loans will be assisted by Registrars of Co-operative Societies. I do not limit my observations to applicants for £10 loans. I did make the point that the vast majority of farmers in this Region are illiterates and they have to approach, may be, their sons or letter-writers, to apply on their behalf for loans. And if, inadvertently, a genuine mistake is made, the applicant is liable, under this clause, on conviction, to one year in prison because he has given false information. It does not matter whether he has actually written the application or not, because ignorance, I understand, is no defence in law and therefore I think that Government loses nothing by being magnanimous, and particularly in the interest of the illiterate farmers, to limit the penalty to say £25 or six months imprisonment.

It is true that judges in our courts, whether in the Customary Courts or in the High Courts, in this Region have discretion in awarding maximum penalty in cases of this kind. But the mere fact that the farmer is under the impression that once a mistake is committed, it does not matter whether it is the mistake of the head or of the heart, he is liable to conviction of a fine of £100, is enough to scare him away from applying for this loan. In the interest of illiterate farmers

of this Region, I will urge quite sincerely that the Government should be magnanimous enough to reduce the penalty under this clause to a fine of £25 or six months imprisonment.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have two observations to make on the points made by the Leader of Opposition. It is expected that most loans to be granted by the Corporation will not be less than £100. Smaller amounts of loans will operate through the Co-operative Societies, the officers of which will guide the illiterate farmers in the method of application.

The second point, which is more directly made, is the first four words in section 7 (1) (b) "with intent to defraud". The law of our country is different from those of the British Commonwealth and is different from those of the French people because the onus of proof is on the prosecution. A man who is charged is deemed innocent until he is proved guilty. The prosecution will prove that this man had intention to defraud. The type of case referred to by the Leader of Opposition, where a man has inadvertently made a mistake but does not intend to defraud, does not come within this clause.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say, quite frankly, that I do not contend with this Bill. In fact, I do not ask that this particular clause should be deleted—from the Bill. Even though where there is to defraud, may be because he has twenty to thirty acres of land and has only given the officer responsible the impression that he has only ten, then he has committed an offence and is liable under this clause. I must point out that very few of our farmers can afford the cost of maintaining a counsel and I think it will be in the best interests of the farmers that there should be leniency in this regard.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, I must point out that I do not agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition in his objection. I do not think that he knows the farmers. The farmers are people who usually speak the truth—they are very truthful indeed—and if a simple farmer makes a mistake, as he has said, that will be an ordinary mistake. The people who give the loan will go there to see how much land a farmer owns but if a man should go out of his way deliberately to deceive, I think he merits the severity of the Law. But for a farmer to get caught like this is very difficult because farmers usually are truthful people.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 47 agreed to.

Clauses 48 to 58 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Title:

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that the words "Western Nigeria" be immediately included before the words "Agricultural Credit Corporation" at the top of every page of the Bill as published in the Western Nigeria Gazette Extraordinary No. 18, Vol. 13, of the 4th April, 1964, since the title of the Corporation is "Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Title, as amended, agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 1.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 4.20 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

*Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—
'That the Bill be read a Second time'.*

Question again proposed.

The Government Whip (Mr J. O. Adeyemo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill ably presented to this House. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the efforts of the Minister of Finance for presenting a generous, sound and balanced Budget.

When one looks carefully, Sir, through the Speech, it is obvious that it covers all that we require for the development of this Region. It portrays the careful planning, perfect foresight and excellent manner in which it was clearly set out. It also shows that among our Ministers, there is all the co-operation desired.

The hon. Premier also deserves congratulations. From the Speech, Sir, and from all the proposals, it can be found out that our Ministers are men who have dedicated their lives to the progress and welfare of the people of this Region. I am particularly happy, Sir, to note that adequate provisions were made for the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education, Economic Planning, Health and Social Welfare.

There are some observations I would like to make Sir. Hon. Members are aware that

[MR ADEYEMO]

unemployment is rising every year. I, therefore, on behalf of the people of Oshun Division, appeal to this Government to extend industrial enterprises to this Division.

The activities of the Ministry of Home Affairs throughout this Region are well-known, and I wish to take this particular opportunity to congratulate the Local Government Police Force throughout this Region for their activities in the past year. What I would like to say on this, Sir, is that more training should be given to the members of the Local Government Police Force of this Region and their salaries increased to the same level as for their counterparts in the Nigeria Police Force.

As you know, Mr Speaker, three things are of importance to human life: they are air, water and food. I believe, Sir, that it is the responsibility of any Government to provide water for its people whether in the urban or in the rural areas. I know, Sir, that the Government of this Region is doing its best to provide water for its people in all parts of the Region, but I hereby appeal for extension of water supply to my constituency. A very striking proportion of people in my constituency of Irepo District Council Area as a whole suffer from water-borne diseases and the number of victims rises everyday. Government should help us by extending pipe-borne water to this area which is only four miles from Oshun water-works.

We also want the extension of electricity to this area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the prospects are promising and with the grand and efficient economic spending which this Government has embarked upon, Members should have nothing to fear but to pray for the man who controls Governmental affairs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I):
I beg to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill proposed by the Minister of Finance.

In his Budget Speech he spoke of the problem of unemployment and the desire of his Government to stem it and to introduce an era of prosperity to the Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, the first concern of every true Nigerian citizen of Western Nigeria is not unemployment, acute as that problem is, but that of the moral degeneration of the Region. The moral laxity and the violation of the principles of justice and fairplay by those who, by artifice and morally unsupported tactics, have managed to get the control

of this Region today are a cause of great alarm to all true believers of democracy in Western Nigeria. Says Oliver Goldsmith:

"Ill faces the land, to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates but men decay"

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask, with all humility and respect to the Minister of Finance, how unemployment can be curtailed when so many teachers had been deprived of their means of livelihood overnight? It is the more depressing when the Minister of Education tried to defend this indefensible step by saying it makes for more efficiency in the schools. The ideal thing is, "one teacher to one child". The greater the number of children to a teacher, the farther from this ideal. How can a system which makes a teacher to be responsible for about forty-five pupils give greater efficiency than the one which gives a teacher only thirty pupils?

Mr Speaker, Sir, one would like at a later stage to ask why the figures under "Miscellaneous" in certain Ministries are so huge. Are these miscellaneous items not designed to get money to finance the stalwarts of the Government Party? Recently, Sir, rumours were current that these people were arming their thugs to go to Ekiti to compel the Ekitis to join the Nigerian National Democratic Party. (*Interruptions from Government Benches*) Let them make no mistake about it. The Ekitis are courageous, hardy, determined, self-reliant and more than a match for any number of thugs they may send. When it comes to self-defence, every Ekiti proves himself equal to any onslaught from any quarter. Like Tertullian, the christian lawyer, we believe that the best means of defence is attack. The Ekitis will join a political party not by coercion, threats and intimidation, but by the amount of benevolence and moral virtues attributable to the leaders of such a party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, every honest citizen of Western Nigeria will agree with the Minister of Finance that our resources had almost been depleted within recent years. But, Sir, one is struck by the rate these limited resources are being diverted to private purses of Ministers who go about purchasing fellow Legislators in order to keep themselves in power against the wishes of the people; against decency, against common sense; who, by their acts and utterances, are daily writing a history which their children will be ashamed to read, and for which they will be condemned, not only by this generation, but by the generations yet unborn. These men, through ill-gotten gains and ill-acquired wealth, buy their fellow Legislators and bundle these less-fortunate people into the NNDDP.

[MR AREOLA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, nobody will be opposed to the reconstruction work which the Minister of Finance put so much emphasis on. But only a simpleton will agree with him that real construction work is going on in the Region today. For the reconstruction, in practical form, is nothing more than the dissolution of local councils and suspension of Customary Courts. These Councils, formerly composed of the accredited representative of the people, are now composed of men hand-picked in the society and asked to join a Caretaker Committee if only they will support the NNDP. Some of these men are rogues and ex-convicts in whom the public have no confidence. (*Interruptions*). The Customary Courts are manned by men who have mortgaged their consciences and are prepared to pervert justice to suit the whims and caprices of the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I doubt if there is any economic advantage in having double premier-ship in this Region. Even if no special allowance is attached to the office of the Deputy Premier, much money is being wasted on these two "Premiers" who, instead of working hard, devote much of their time to settling petty squabbles and frivolous wranglings. Much more useful work will be done under a single leader endowed with wisdom, common sense and intelligence and possessing, in a large measure, the fear of God. Now-a-days, we hear more of "Power" as the ruling genius of the Region today. Power is ruthless and the reckless exercise of it is dangerous. Sir, it is with the wisdom of our fathers, the wisdom with which they built their houses, furnished themselves with clothes and utensils and protected their lives and property, that we live and thrive today.

The Budget, Sir, should have asked for more provisions for the Prisons either directly or from the Federal Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs. The prisons ought to be improved especially at this time when it is so easy for any citizen to get into jail when the rulers of the Region, doubting the sincerity of their cause and uncertain of their hold on the people, become so touchy, highly irritable, and excessively sensitive to the least sinister usage; when the mere mispronunciation of the initials "S.L.A." by the uneducated members of our society is a sufficient reason for taking these innocent and ingenuous citizens to court. Mr Speaker Sir, provisions should be made to establish trade facilities and professions of different kinds in the prisons. It is my suggestion, Sir, that this Government should shapen the law to reformation rather than to severity, and

that to eradicate crimes should not be by making punishments familiar, but dreadful.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Ikole District Council area of Ekiti South-East I constituency lacks amenities. Since 1958, a vote of £23,000 had been earmarked for water supply for the area. Although there has been an extensive survey of the area, no visible work has been done to implement the scheme. Moreover none of the roads in the area has been tarred. The road from Ikole through Ijesha-Isu to Ilumoba should be tarred immediately because of its economic importance for transportation of cocoa to central buying stations.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to express my gratitude to this Government for the Epe Water Scheme which is now getting near completion. This amenity will help to rid the area of that nasty disease known as *Vilhaxia*.

Mr Speaker, I hereby request the Government to consider the construction of a road from Lagos to Lekki, my place of birth. (*Government Benches: It is a historical place*). (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker Sir, it may interest this House to know that this particular road was investigated by an Engineer under Government auspices and the construction of the road found possible before the crisis of 1962.

Mr Speaker Sir, the importance of this road cannot be over-emphasised. The absence of this road is causing the inhabitants of that area a lot of inconvenience as there is no means of transporting the fish caught to places where they are in demand. The only means of getting their goods transported is by head-load and any community anywhere in the world where the only means of transporting their commodities is by head-load cannot be said to be enjoying life more abundantly.

Mr Speaker Sir, we are badly in need of water in that place.

(*Opposition Members: In need of water in Epe area?*)

Mr Speaker Sir, we are not asking for pipe-borne water, we are asking for wells at Lekki where I come from. We also want wells at Ipa, at Okeigboku Otulo, etc, because we always suffer from diseases like dysentery and collera, etc. Therefore, I beg this Government to be good enough to give us water in this place. It is very important.

[MR WILLIAMS]

Mr Speaker Sir, I also have to mention the question of Epe-Ejinrin road. The inhabitants of Epe have attempted to build this road themselves but it is beyond them. It cannot be completed by manual labour because there are some large streams flowing across it. There is also a heavy dam which can only be filled by tractors. So, we want the help of the Government. This Government has helped in that place at a time by bringing the Shasha people to help us, but unfortunately, they could not go far. We want Government to help us. We want people to be able to bring patients to the Divisional Hospital at Epe and this is the only road through which they could bring people to Epe to be looked after in the Hospital.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also have to touch the question of Igbooye-Tomioju road which is in Eredo in my constituency. This road, Sir, is very important. In the old Colony Division, a sum of £2,000 was allocated to build a bridge in that area. This £2,000 did not go very far. Mr Speaker, Sir, we want the road from Tomoba to Tomoye to be constructed. I know that this Government has a lot to do and has been doing much in my constituency.

Mr Speaker Sir, there is a road which connects Ijebu Southern District Council with Agbowa. In the Estimates for 1964-65 a sum of £200,000 has been set aside for it. While I am able to demand for other amenities, I am grateful for this, and I start to pray and to beg for more. Mr Speaker Sir, I am not begging with bitterness.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to talk about Secondary Modern Schools. There are many of these schools in my Division. They are spread all over my constituency. (*Interruptions*). These secondary modern schools are institutions for further education after the free primary education. Now, Mr Speaker, the proprietors of these schools are making a hell of money. They make a lot of money and I appeal to the Minister of Education to look into it. In many secondary modern schools, the proprietors charge fees of £5 per term and they give ordinary post primary education. The Government does not give them grants and that is why they are taking undue advantage. The parents of children attending these schools do not know the facts. They think that the Government is giving grants to these schools. But these proprietors take this advantage to charge heavily for education in these schools. I want the Minister of Education to look into this and see if grants can be given to these schools so that fees can be pegged down within the reach of every

parent. Mr Speaker Sir, this is very important, because after free primary education, any parent that has no money to send his child to secondary school can send his child to a modern school for further education, but unfortunately they are being discouraged by these exorbitant fees.

Mr Speaker Sir, apart from that, there is another cause of discouragement to parents. Of course a lot of people have talked about that, but I have to talk about it again. It is that after children go to these schools and spend three years there is no job for them. They pambulate the streets and become members of the unemployed group. I am suggesting, Sir, as the Governor did—he has brought a clue to solve this problem—that these children in modern schools be given training in agriculture, right from the start, so that by the time they leave they would have been very much used to farming and they would be able to make a good living on agriculture after leaving school.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to learn that the long expected Coker Commission Report will soon be forthcoming. I have to mention it again and I cannot do without mentioning it, it is very important. See how Members of the Opposition bow down their heads in shame. (*Laughter from both sides, and cries of shame! shame! from Government Benches*). Mr Speaker Sir, I am very happy that the Report of the Coker Commission will soon be published. (*Opposition Benches: Too much irrelevant*). Members of the public should know who and who are responsible for this big swindle. When the Report is out we want it to be distributed to hon. Members so that we may be able to educate the people on it and read it to them. We should tell our people what happened to this £11 million.

Alhaji A. L. Adenekan (Egba Central II:) Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so I have few remarks to make. Sir, the popularity of any good Government depends mostly on the implementation of its promises.

In this connection the NNDP Government of this Region is not worthy of emulation. Mr Speaker, Sir, we all remember the unprecedented floods of 1963. This Government made an announcement of its intention to set up an enquiry to look into the damages done during the floods. This was very laudable because we thought that every division would benefit therefrom. Mr Speaker, Sir, instead of appointing independent people to do the job, this Government appointed Ministers. Mr Speaker, Sir, you know that historical town, Abeokuta, was badly affected by the floods. People were asked to send in their

[ALHAJI ADENEKAN]

claims through the Divisional Adviser in charge of the Division. My people did all these and sent their claims as required by the Government. One fine afternoon, Mr Speaker, after people had waited for these Ministers, they saw the Ministers drive past Lafenwa Bridge and then they told the people they had seen everything. Instead of visiting those who were rendered homeless, the Ministers drove to the V.I.P. Rest House and held a meeting with their UPP, now NNDP, supporters. There it was decided that that was a very good chance for them to get more members into their party and that they should all go back and speak to those affected people to support their party so that they might be given enough money to rebuild their houses.

A Member from this Side of the House said that the 1963 floods did not happen for nothing; they showed that the elements themselves abhor the regime headed by the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the same opinion. I heard one hon. Member of this House calling the NNDP a God-fearing party. I say this is not true. The hon. Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, (*Mr N. A. B. Kotoye*), is living in a storey building while over 3,000 people have been rendered homeless in his Constituency. He cannot go to his Constituency during the day and he cannot pass through Abeokuta during the day because he has promised many his Government's help to re-build their houses. (*Interruptions*). (*Mr Olumofin: How do you know?*)

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: On point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir, section 27 (2) of the Standing Orders—"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like him to refer to the Estimates and not just go on talking. This Debate is not on the Speech from the Throne.

Alhaji Adenekan: The people of Abeokuta, that historical town, have realised the advantages of medical and health services. More Medical Officers and Nurses should be posted to the Hospital to lessen daily congestion by the patients. The old Army huts which are called the Hospital should be demolished and a well-equipped one built. I praise the staff of the Hospital headed by hard-working Dr (Chief) Ade Onojobi for the way they handle both in and out patients.

The Government has said that it has no intention of abolishing free Primary Educa-

tion. I think this will not be a political speech because for the past twenty-three months there has been no building grant paid to any Mission. There are many Management Boards in Abeokuta which have not got their Other Expenses Grant for the past two years. There are Schools in Abeokuta which were affected by the floods and this Government has not given the Board grant to re-build the schools. The children are just managing under the shade of trees. I think, Sir, the Government should see to this before the rainy season.

The hon. Member for Egbado South-East (*Alhaji Opaleye*) said in his speech that it was Voluntary Agencies and Local Government Councils who are dismissing untrained teachers! They did on the direction of the Ministry of Education. It is also the intention of this Government to do away with all untrained teachers before the next two years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the farm settlement scheme has become a waste. I think the Minister of Agriculture should be called upon to pay more attention to this important section of his Ministry and not to pay all his attention to Forest Reserves and giving contracts to NNDP Contractors.

More industries should be sited at Abeokuta now that it has good water supply and electricity and there are acreages of land available at Abeokuta for any industry.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with the few remarks, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Mr I. O. Aniyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the Finance Minister.

In doing so I need to congratulate the Nigerian National Democratic Party controlling the Government at this time and also to praise it for its achievements within this short time. I trust all the Opposition Members will appreciate the good work of reconstruction which the outside world regard as visible progress.

Now that the Midwest has been carved out of the old Western Region, we should congratulate the people for achieving self-determination. Every hon. Member in this honourable House did everything possible to see the Region created but it appears that the Premier of that newly-created Region does not appreciate what our beloved Premier and others did to bring the creation of the Region to reality. (*Cheers*). All hon. Members will remember that the Premier of the Midwest specially praised other brother Premiers for their support for the creation but he cleverly

[MR ANIYI]

omitted our Premier. I am sure without the loyal support of our Premier it would not have been possible to make the dream of Midwest creation real. Whether or not we are thanked, God is on our side.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme is out to arrest the problem of unemployment. The Government needs be congratulated on this gigantic programme which enemies thought would not work. It is a "go-back-to-the-land" scheme which I am sure the Opposition Members would heartily praise. Let us hope that other Local Councils will follow the example laid by the Iwo people who generously consented to give out land free for the establishment of this scheme. It is hoped that Government will quench our thirst by establishing one, and that quickly.

It is gratifying to note the effort the Ministry of Agriculture is making to develop all aspects of agricultural programmes. If this effort continues at the present rate, as I am sure it will, the Region will have cause to boast of life more abundant for all the people of all ages in the Region.

In pursuing this scheme effectively it is advisable to encourage both individuals and group of people who own fish ponds. It will also go a long way to give employment opportunities to young school leavers. Poultry farming and livestock industries will supply demands for meat and eggs at a reasonable cost. I trust serious consideration will be given to these suggestions.

The Agricultural Credit Corporation to be established augurs well for the future of our farmers. The farmers of this Region will run their affairs by themselves for themselves; thus gaining practical and useful experience in their vocational life. The habit of saving for rainy days will grow deep in their minds. All farmers of all grades should embrace this noble scheme. The earlier the programme starts the better.

The concentration of the Regional Government on Teacher Training, Secondary School, Technical, Vocational and Commercial Training is a good omen for the future of this Region. The lion share carried by Education in the Region's Estimate is highly justified. However, in the planning, teachers who are stationed in the bush should be encouraged by improving their villages so as to enjoy the good amenities their counterparts in the urban areas enjoy.

The health scheme for the people of this Region is a laudable one. I wish the Government all the best in this scheme. However,

I take this opportunity to announce that my constituency urgently needs a Cottage Hospital. The people of Ikonifin, Obamoro, Ile Ogo will appreciate the building of a cottage hospital for them. This hospital is necessary in view of the fact that each of these villages is far from the General Hospital situated in Iwo which is about twenty-seven miles away.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my people in Iwo are immensely thankful to the Government for tarring all roads leading to the town. I am specially commissioned to express our appreciation. Like Oliver Twist, "we want more". Bode-Ikofin road leading to Ife Odan, a large market, needs to be tarred. Also Ileigbo road starting from Iwo General Hospital to Kuta is in a state of disrepair. The Ileigbo-Gbongan bridge deserves the attention of this Government.

Finally, Sir, as the Government is thinking seriously of unemployment of school leavers, the women folk too need encouragement in their trade by providing for them large markets throughout the Region by improving the existing ones. If these can be done, more stability in local trade will exist. With skilful planning by this Government of the Nigerian National Democratic Party, I am sure the future is bright.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr J. G. Adeniran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

I seize this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has presented the Budget and for the good analysis of the Revenue and Expenditure of this Government which he has made.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Government for making new arrangements about assessment in local councils. The Regional Tax Board officers are now chairmen of these local council assessment committees. The assessment of the past financial year was good, but I would appeal to the Government that these officers be advised to co-operate with the members of the assessment Committees of these local councils. The members know the ability of the local men to pay tax and will equally advise these officers so that the people may be well assessed, and not be arbitrarily assessed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Government for launching the integrated rural agricultural scheme at Eruwa. I am very grateful for this

[MR ADENIRAN]

and we hope the Government will help us the more. We thank the Government for this laudable scheme.

I congratulate the Government for providing for the services of Agricultural Research Experts. I would humbly appeal to the Government to please advise these experts to make research into *ororo egusi*—melon seed oil. The melon seed oil is edible and very nutritious. The research would reveal some unknown nutritious value of this oil and thus make the oil more economical and more profitable to melon seed farmers. *Egusi* is the main cash crop of the Ibarapa people and is also planted in many areas in this Region.

We thank the Government through the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development for the grants given to Lanlate people for the motor park which was constructed with community efforts. We thank also the Government for the grant given to Eruwa people for the road which is now under construction from Eruwa-Opeji. This road will link the Abeokuta-Igboora road with Eruwa.

Mr Speaker Sir, I thank the Government for providing post primary institutions for the primary school leavers but, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Government to please help the proprietors or voluntary agencies of these secondary modern schools. These modern schools are the schools which our children attend after they leave primary schools, but the fees charged in these secondary modern schools are so exorbitant for the three years' course. I would appeal to the Government to please give more grants to these secondary modern school proprietors so that they will be able to help the parents of these children.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the same thing is true of our secondary grammar schools. It takes a community five or more years to maintain its Grammar School by community efforts before Government could assist. I would appeal to the Government to please consider Grammar Schools for grants three years after the community has started to maintain them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Government for the rural health centres built all over the Region. But, Sir, there is another point which I would like the Government to note and that is, in many of these rural health centres, local government councils are expected to supply drugs and the drugs which are supplied to these rural health centres are inadequate. Patients who are treated in these rural health centres always complain of lack of drugs. I appeal to the Government to see that all

these local council rural health centres are supplied with sufficient drugs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Government for providing training institutions for the local government police, and if the local government police are given advanced training, they are expected to shoulder higher responsibility. In this wise, Sir, I would appeal to the Government that these local government police should prosecute minor criminal cases in customary courts and should handle minor political cases and traffic offences. They are not allowed to prosecute minor criminal cases in customary courts and they are not allowed to prosecute just petty offences of using abusive languages on political opponents and traffic offences. All these cases are taken to the Magistrate's court whereas the customary courts can try some of these cases. I do not see any reason why the local government police should not be able to prosecute so many minor cases in the customary courts. As they are being trained and Government has sufficient money to provide all the necessary amenities, they should be expected to shoulder more responsibilities and I appeal to the Government to please see that these local government police try more cases in customary courts and, Sir, it would be appreciated if Government gives more grants to local authorities for this purpose.

The Government is congratulated for providing the primary school leavers with training facilities for pottery and brick making. I appeal to the Government to help these boys to have their own pottery and, or, brickmaking establishments immediately they complete training.

Many Local Government Councils were dissolved because many of the so-called elected members were corrupt, inexperienced and grossly inefficient. They were replaced by honest men and women who are doing very good, progressive and development work for their areas. They are no rogues. They are no raw and inexperienced men and women as suggested by hon. Members from Ekiti. Hon. Members should please cooperate with these Caretaker Committee members for the good of their areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Budget has been christened Challenge Budget and one would have hoped that if we go through the Estimates or listen to the speech by the hon. Minister of Finance one would find that the Government would have taken up the challenge. Instead of getting

[MR OLUSA]

up to the task, Government refuses and looks round for external aid in order to give simple economic development to our Region.

The Minister said:—

'On the capital budget side, hon. Members will recall that in my last year's Budget Speech, I indicated that the end of the last financial year might find us with an estimated deficit of about £2.7 million. This unpleasant situation was largely caused, as I mentioned in my last year's speech, by the fact that we opened the last financial year with a debit of £1.1 million which in turn had been the consequence of the financial year 1962-63 being heralded with a deficit of about £5.5 million in the capital development fund. This is obviously an unhappy situation whereby our capital fund has for the past three years shown such a large deficit at the beginning of each financial year. This clearly illustrates the fact that this Government, like all the other Governments of the Federation and indeed like any under-developed country in a hurry to catch up with the advanced countries, has not got sufficient resources of its own to undertake and accomplish its Development Programme. Whilst every possible effort is being made to mobilise resources from all internal sources, it is obvious that a considerable portion of the funds required for development purposes will have to be found from external sources. I shall later during the course of this speech explain why it has not been all too easy to produce funds as we would immediately require for the execution of our Capital Works Programme'.

How could that have been? How would they have been able to find it easy to procure funds from abroad, when in the country there is dishonesty, inefficiency, mismanagement of funds, etc. etc? (*Interruptions*). Even for the University of Ife this country could not get any money, it had to look to USAID before it made any start. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Kotoye: Their friends in the East are doing worse things. (*Laughter*).

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker, Sir, we are in the Western Region we are not in the Eastern Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, I maintain that this Government, this imposed Government, is guilty of negligence. (*Interruptions*).

(*Government Benches: Imposed by whom?*)

By the Federal Government, by the Sardauna of Sokoto and by the co-operation

of Dr Okpara in those days. This Government is guilty of negligence, squandermania, inefficiency and mismanagement of public funds. This Government has been found guilty of negligence. Their misdeed has invoked the anger of the elements against them and this Region has been visited with floods of water and our roads have been spoilt and they have not been able to repair them. Go through the streets of Ibadan, go through all the roads in the Region, they are all bad. Not a single mile of road has been tarred. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, order.

May I remind the House that many Members have not been able to speak on the Speech from the Throne and still there are many more Members who want their speeches to be heard outside the vicinity of this House. If these interruptions continue, we shall not be able to continue and many Members might lose their chance of having a say. So I appeal to Members to minimise the interruptions.

Mr Olusa: Take for instance the supply of water, both urban and rural. Since this Government came into power not a single pipe has been laid. Beside the Integrated Rural Development Programme, which has just been started, and of which nobody knows, there is nothing in the agricultural field for which this Government can be praised.

Government Benches: Go to Abeokuta and see the new Farm Settlement.

Mr Olusa: The Farm Settlement was started by the Action Group Government.

Without health we cannot get sound minded people in the country. In the 1962 Estimates, the Action Group Government voted £35,000 for the development of Akoko hospital and as soon as this imposed Government came to power, that money was suppressed. Government loaned £11,000,000 to the N.I.P.C. and yet the Government was going on, people had much money to spend but now that there is no N.I.P.C. there is no money.

What did they do with the forests? They sold the timbers to people on commission basis and put the money into their pockets. (*Government Benches: Ask Akinyemi*). Akinyemi was not a Minister of Forest, he was a Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs. (*Mr Areola: There will one day be a Commission of Inquiry*).

I still charge this Government with inefficiency. Since 1962 there has never been anything done to time. Teachers' examination results are always late. Modern III examination results, and even Standard VI examination results, are not yet out. What a shame!

[MR OLUSA]

Just two days ago, we were called upon to approve a Supplementary Estimates. Up till now all the Local Authorities are unable to run their Councils because their money has been misused by Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I come to my allegation of squandermania. At page 32 of the Estimates

Mr Deputy Speaker: Standing Order 68. (Appropriation Bill).

“After the motion for the Second Reading of the Bill has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Western Nigeria and the Western Nigeria Government’s financial policy; and the influence on them of the economic and financial state of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Federal Government’s financial policy. Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on Second Reading”.

Mr Olusa: I only want to make comparative analysis. Their financial policy is full of squandermania. In the Estimates for 1963–64 you had an increase of £2,668 under one item and under the same heading this year (Interruptions).

Mr Kotoye: Point of Order. Mr Speaker has ruled that detailed items of Estimates should not be referred to and it is a breach of the ruling of the Speaker for the hon. Member to persist in making reference to detailed items.

Mr Deputy Speaker: In any case, I think the hon. Member had prepared his Speech and is only making reference to certain figures he wanted to supply.

Mr Olusa: I said that one would expect that this year’s expenditure would be less because another Region has been excised from this Region as it was and one would not expect any increase in expenditure. Almost under every Head there is an increase. Under Head 1, you have an increase of about £8,000. Under another Head you have an increase of about £4,000. One would expect that we will have a decrease in our expenditure. This shows that this Government is not serious about spending. They should be accused of squandermania. They are guilty of dishonesty and maladministration of public funds.

Last year this Government told us that they were going to build eighteen stores at Ikeja Estate. These stores cost £1.5 million. What happened? This Government gave them out

to contractors at £2.2 million and went back to collect £700,000, thus robbing the farmers of this Region of their hard-earned money. (Interruptions).

Another instance of dishonesty is in the case of cocoa bags. Formerly these bags were bought from a firm of jute bag manufacturers in Calcutta. But this Government last season bought them through the firm of Leventis at a highly inflated price and thereby robbed the farmers of this Region of the large sum of about £120,000 which the Members of this Government diverted into their pockets for the running of their still born party. This is dishonest and is a maladministration of public funds.

Alhaji Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 27 (2) says that it shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.

It is therefore unparliamentary to accuse this Government of dishonest administration of public funds.

Mr Olusa: One would have thought that these people who have got themselves to the Government through the back door would sit down and make proper plans for the development of this Region. They are doing nothing. They are just wasting public money. Some of them earn more allowances than their salaries.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): Point of Order. Order 33 (1).—No Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House more than thirty minutes on any subject.

Mr Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member should please wind up in a minute.

Mr Olusa: I have spent only twenty-five minutes. (Interruptions). These people should sit down to think and atone for their sins.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I warn this Government.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Do you support?

Mr Olusa: No, I oppose.

Mr J. O. Kehinde (Ede Ejigbo North): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill.

In doing so, Sir, I wish to remark that this Government needs showers of praise from well-meaning and good intentioned citizens for presenting so comprehensive a Budget within two years of its reign. The Minister of Finance is a wise, responsible and far sighted father. He met the Treasury empty and has filled it almost to the brim. Only the enemies

[MR KEHINDE]

of progress, the enemies of farmers, workers, officials and labourers and, in general, Yorubas as a race and Nigeria as a country, can oppose the Budget. Even Members of the Opposition have approved of the Bill, especially their leaders.

To start with, Mr Speaker, taking some Ministries, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is so well equipped with money that surprising development is expected in this financial year. You can see it from very huge sums of money set aside as loans to farmers. This shows that more research work will be undertaken and the farm settlements extended and improved.

The Ministry of Education has set aside large sums of money for Ife University. On behalf of the Yoruba students in West African Universities I register thanks to the Government for giving partial scholarships to them.

As for the Ministry of Works and Transport, I have to praise Government for setting aside the sum of £318,000 for the provision of pipe-borne water supply for Ejigbo-Olla and Oko within this financial year. The extension of Ibadan and Ogbomosho Water Supplies also needs to be praised.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot do but demand more for my area. The people in the district need electricity and it will be much appreciated if electricity is extended to this district.

Furthermore, Sir, I would pray the Government to tar some inter-district roads, namely: Ede-Ara-Ejigbo-Awe roads and Ogele-Olla-Oguro-Ajowa roads.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr D. Atolagbe (Ekiti North-West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: There is no Amendment before me.

Mr Atolagbe: Mr Speaker, I am opposing the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill especially at this time, Sir, that the essential services of the Government of the Region are suffering owing to lack of funds

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): The Leader of Opposition has declared that the Opposition will support Government with comments.

Mr Atolagbe: This imposed NNDP Government of Western Nigeria has voted

large sums of the people's money to establish a trash daily Newspaper known as the 'Daily Sketch'. Mr Speaker, Sir, this 'Daily Sketch' is to propagate the ill-fated NNDP and the Premier, Chief Akintola. This is a great disservice to the people of the Region, it is a fraudulent act. If the NNDP wishes to establish a newspaper let it do so with its own money. To use the people's money in this way is not seeking the people's interest.

The NNDP is the greatest enemy the people of this Region have got to face. Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government is not the Government of the people of this Region. If it were, it would not declare Hubert Ogunde's Concert Party illegal. Assuming that Ogunde's play "Yoruba Rcnu" is seditious or illegal, the proper thing to do to correct him is not to declare the party illegal but to take a criminal action against him or to ban that particular play and allow the poor man to carry on with his trade on which he has been engaged for over twenty years. To ban the Party is cruel, unfair, improper and wicked (*Government Benches: Power!*) That is a misuse of power.

The Governor's Speech touched the question of unemployment among our people and school leavers. The Governor's proposals are not the same with the activities of the NNDP. The NNDP does not know how to provide employment, but how to aggravate unemployment.

This is the record of the UPP Government—"Useless Peoples Party" (*Laughter*) For instance, that Government embarked upon merging of schools and sacking of teachers with a view to saving money. (*Interruptions*). Teachers did not only lose jobs, but pupils too lost the chance to go to school and with the school population decreasing, the useless 'Daily Sketch' was being printed.

Chief Adigun: Point of order—Order 37. . . . (*interruptions*) I understand my Friend is the President of the Unemployed Peoples Party. I wonder why he cannot thank Government for making efforts to create employment opportunities. . . . (*Interruptions*)

(*Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 10th April, 1964.*)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—"That the House do now adjourn" (*Oba C. D. Akran*).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.20 p.m., until tomorrow, Friday, 10th April, 1964, at 10 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment until Monday 13th April 1964

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that at its rising this day, the House shall adjourn until Monday, 13th April, 1964.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

By the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

1. *Interpretation.*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Interpretation Law—Cap. 51: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

2. *Customary Courts.*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Customary Courts Law—Cap. 31: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

3. *Sheriffs and Civil Process.*—A Bill for a Law to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Law—Cap. 116: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Interpretation Law, Cap. 51.

The existing Interpretation Law of the Region has its origin in the old Interpretation Ordinance which was applicable throughout the whole of Nigeria long before the introduction of a Federal system of Government. As everybody knows, including even those who are not Lawyers, interpretation of legal words and phrases is an extremely important matter from the point of view of officials administering the various laws on the Statute Book of the Region as well as from the point of view of the courts of law in the discharge of their judicial functions. For quite a long time, the provisions of the old Interpretation Ordinance appear adequate enough for most practical purposes but it became apparent in the recent past that the Law, as it stands, is in need of what I would call "technical" amendments which would render their provisions more flexible and more widely applicable for all those who from time to time have occasion to resort to the Interpretation Law in the discharge of their official duties.

In fact, a Bill, containing substantially the same amendments as the one being considered by this House today, was passed by both Houses of the Regional Legislature at the Budget Meeting of 1962. Arrangements would have been made for the purpose of presenting that Bill to His Excellency the Governor for assent sometime last year but for the fact that some of its provisions had been rendered obsolete by constitutional developments culminating in the creation of the new Region of Midwestern Nigeria, and the attainment of Republican Status by this country.

As Members would observe, the two Schedules to the Bill occupy far more space than its main text. In a "technical" Bill like this one, this is inevitable as there are a great many matters to be dealt with and this could not have been suitably done in the main body of the Bill itself.

"Technical" as the Bill may appear, not a few of its provisions have their origin in the history of recent constitutional developments in this country. Thus even a non-Lawyer would agree today that it would be an anachronism for our laws to continue referring to such expressions as the "Secretary of State", "Protectorate of Nigeria," "Governor-General," the "Crown," the "Sovereign," and the like. All these survivals from our past constitutional history would be removed and

buried once and for all by this Bill if enacted into law.

All that I have just said is merely by way of explanation as to the contents of the Bill and other provisions would be found in it which would be of equal contemporary interest to laymen and Lawyers alike. This, of course, is a non-controversial Bill and I am sure it will be accepted as such by all Sides of the House.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of the Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, in so far as this Bill for a Law to amend the Interpretation Law is in keeping with the Republican Constitution of this great Republic and in so far as the Bill is to confirm all the provisions of the Bill passed in this Legislature in 1962, but could not receive the Assent of His Excellency the Governor because of circumstances which I will later explain, the Opposition has no objection to this Bill.

But the Attorney-General, in moving the Second Reading, made certain interesting points which I know in his heart of hearts he will not like to admit are the genuine reasons why the Assent of His Excellency the Governor has not been obtained before now. You should remember, Mr Speaker, that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice said the Assent of the Governor was delayed because of: (1) the creation of the fourth Region in the Federation that is the Midwestern Region, and (2) a change from Federal to Republican Constitution. It is true, Mr Speaker, and the Attorney-General cannot hide the fact, that the reason why the Government has not been able to obtain the Assent of His Excellency the Governor is because they have been too lazy and have had no time to think about asking for Assent or making the necessary amendment, because all the time they have been struggling to cling to office. So there was no time for any Member on the Government Bench to think about this. Lately, may be some vigilant civil servant in the Ministry of Justice has called the attention of the Minister of Justice to this apparent lapse and there is a hurried presentation of a Bill of this kind. I would like Ministers of State to be honest and accept their faults.

Mr Speaker, I have earlier given an undertaking that the Opposition will be as constructive as it ought to be and we are not going to be unduly obstructive. We shall give constructive criticisms and as such, Mr

Speaker, Sir, in keeping with that undertaking and promise to the people of this Region, the Opposition has no objection to the presentation of the Second Reading of this Bill.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Opposition, formerly the Minister of Local Government, has said that this Bill was not presented to the Governor because Members of this Government were too lazy to perform their functions (*interruptions*). May I inform the House that too many Bills which, owing to the bad administration of the Action Group Government, could not be presented to the Governor for Assent were presented to the Governor for Assent by this Government last year. In the case of this particular Bill the fact is that most of the amendments envisaged in 1962 have been overtaken by events, especially by the fact that this country became a Republican country as from October last year. These facts have made obsolete amendments that were made in 1962 and we could not do otherwise than to put the whole amendments into the shelves and bring something in which will be in keeping with the present Republican status.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in committee.

(In Committee):

Clauses 1 to 11 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman I move the following amendment—

Delete the word "First" before the word "Schedule" at the top of pages C.09, C.010 and C.011 of the printed Bill and substitute the word "Second".

Amendment put and agreed to.

First and Second Schedules, as amended, agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

CUSTOMARY COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Customary Courts Law, Cap. 31.

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

As Members would observe, this Bill is intended to make a number of miscellaneous amendments to the Law which was first enacted in 1957 and was brought into operation in 1958. Most of the amendments are such as experience of the practical operation of the Law in the last six years or so has proved to be necessary. We have had in this Region, as Members know, four different grades of customary courts up to date but I think the time has come when, in the interest of simplicity and efficiency in the administration of the customary court system, these grades should be reduced to three and, accordingly, the Bill when enacted into law would abolish the D grade of courts and at the same time transform all existing grade D Courts into grade C Courts.

The existing Law confers upon grades B and C Customary Courts unlimited jurisdiction in matrimonial causes and matters, but I now consider the provisions to this end rather too wide and, accordingly, the Bill would limit the jurisdiction of Customary Courts, Grade B, in such matters, to cases where the amount involved does not exceed £200, and that of Grade C Courts, to cases where the amount involved does not exceed £50.

Similarly, at present, unlimited jurisdiction of Grade B Courts in causes and matters relating to inheritance and the administration of the estates of persons dying without making wills would be limited to cases where the amount involved does not exceed £200.

Another very important feature of this amending Bill is the provision whereby the Chief Justice of the Region or such other Judge of the High Court as he may designate, would have power to require Presidents of Customary Courts, Grade A, and Customary Courts, Grade B, who are legal practitioners, to furnish, as is the case at present with Magistrates, monthly lists of criminal cases so that the Chief Justice or such other Judge of the High Court may have an opportunity of considering whether to exercise powers which would be conferred under the amending Bill to reduce any sentences, substitute new ones, annul convictions, order new trials, or otherwise deal with cases according as justice may require. As Members are no doubt aware, the present provisions of the Law for the appointment of supervising authorities apply only in respect of customary courts which are not presided over by lawyers. I consider that, as in the case of Magistrates, the provisions of the amending Bill to which I have just referred are equally necessary in order that the Chief Justice and

the Judges of the High Court of the Region may be able to exercise some form of supervisory jurisdiction over legally qualified Presidents of customary courts otherwise than by way of appeal.

There are other provisions in the Bill which are intended to smoothen the practical operation of the Customary Courts Law, such, for instance, as the one which would enable me to revoke, in appropriate cases, a direction previously given that a Customary Court Grade B should be presided over by a legal practitioner especially where the competent Council cannot afford to pay the salary of one for the time being; there is also the provision which would give me power to make regulations for the purpose of laying down the scale of remuneration for court assessors in the same way as regulations have been made in respect of the remuneration of customary court members themselves; there is the provision that would facilitate the transfer to the High Court, for final determination, cases which when the existing Law came into force in 1958, were pending from the old native courts by way of appeal to Provincial Advisers or from the latter to His Excellency the Governor.

All these and the other provisions of the amending Bill are, as I have already said at the beginning, the result of an attempt to smoothen the practical operation of the existing Law throughout the Region and to enhance the standards and the efficiency of the customary courts in the interest of the administration of justice to all citizens who are subject to the jurisdiction of those courts.

I am sure that all these are objectives which would readily commend themselves to Members of the House on both Sides and accordingly, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have listened with rapt attention to the speech made by the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice about the Bill which is now being proposed.

It is my duty to support the Government on any policy which is designed to enhance the administration of justice in this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, nobody knows more than the learned Attorney-General himself, that the vast majority of these customary courts are veritable replicas of "Vanity Fair" markets where *Christian* and his friend, *Faithful* were tried. In other words, Sir, what I am trying to suggest is that justice is not done in most of these customary

[MR AWOPEJU]

courts, and even though it is a good idea that there should be supervisory authority to look into the work of these customary court judges, our fear is that, like the gift offered by the Greeks, it has got to be regarded with suspicion.

It was recently, Sir, that the Attorney-General intervened in a case where one of his party thugs was being tried and got the case out of court.

(Government Benches: Where?)

In Ilesha, please, ask him. They all know about it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we do not want this type of thing. This is the type of thing that led to the beating up of Ministers, the Premier and the Deputy Premier. (Shame). Mr Speaker Sir, I hope that those people who would be made to supervise the work of these customary courts will not be people who are thugs of the NNNDP politicians. We know, Sir, that it is always very difficult these days to distinguish friends from foes. In point of fact, Sir, this is a time, when in the words of Shakespeare in "Macbeth"—

"they are daggers in men's minds, the nearer in blood the bloodier still".

I would suggest, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in appointing people who will supervise the work of these customary courts, regard must be had to those people who are not labelled with any political badge of any kind.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when it is said that the jurisdiction of Grade B Customary Courts, which was hitherto unlimited in regard to matrimonial matters, be reduced to £200 and that of Grade C Customary Court to £50, I feel that this is not reasonable because there are certain matters which money or money's worth is not involved at all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should say that if these courts are presided over by trained Lawyers and people like myself will be able to practise there then I will support it. I should say, Sir, that all these Grade 'B' Customary Courts, must be shorn of all those judges who are not learned in law and that their places be taken by legally trained lawyers.

(Government Benches: Because you want to to be appointed a judge).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want any appointment. Over twelve years ago, when most of these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries never earned as much as £1,000, I was earning over £1,000 per annum. It is a fact that I like to work with my own

hands and say, like Paul, "these hands have ministered to my needs". If I say that the replacement of illiterate judges by legally trained men should take place nobody should blame me, for it is Shakespeare who said, in Henry V, that "self love is not so vile a sin as self neglect".

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Attorney-General would assure us on this Side of this House that this will not be a method or way of setting aside decisions reached by the judges of these customary courts which are favourable to Opposition to the detriment or the disappointment of Members of the Government or their sympathisers, I will support the Bill wholeheartedly. That is the assurance I like the Attorney-General to give.

With goodwill on both Sides of this House since the Bill is not controversial and if the assurance is given, I will say that the Bill is supported.

Mr I. A. Oshitelu (Ikeja North): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not opposing this Bill but I must warn this House that the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General deliberately misled the House when introducing the Bill.

When the organisers of the NNNDP were trying to launch their nefarious NNNDP party on the network of WNBS and on the pages of the Dailies, they thought that the people of the Region would follow them, particularly when they heard that the UPP and NCNC Members of this House had merged together. But what happened, especially after the visit of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and his Ministers to Ilesha, the place where we are told that everybody had declared for the NNNDP? What happened when they got there? They were told that the people do not want the NNNDP. (Shame). The purpose of this Bill is to make it possible for the Attorney-General to put NNNDP thugs into customary courts (*prolonged laughter*).

Government Benches: Thugs as customary court judges?

Mr Oshitelu: Yes even some lawyers are thugs.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr T. E. Elushade): On point of Order. Order 27 (2). "Members must confine their observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto".

Is the question of going to Ilesha by the Premier, Deputy Premier and his Ministers

relevant to the question of the amendment to the Customary Courts Law? It is quite irrelevant.

Mr Awopeju: The whole set up of customary courts is interwoven with the Premier and his Ministers.

Mr Speaker: The question of the tumult at Ilesha has already been probed. (*Interruptions*). I should be heard in silence.

The question of the tumult at Ilesha and any justice in connection therewith is in the hands of the Government. What I would like hon. Members to do is to refer to it only as it affects justice, and I don't agree that the hon. Gentleman from Ikeja North has deviated. (*Cheers*).

Mr Oshitelu: As I said, the purpose of this Bill is to make it possible for the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to put NNNDP thugs into the Customary Courts to try their opponents in a most savage manner thinking that by so doing all the people of the Region will follow them. But if the Government thinks that the people of this Region can be coerced, they are deceiving themselves. Only last year all Action Group controlled local councils were dissolved in a most reckless manner. The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government, Chief Remi Fani-Kayode, thought that by doing so these members would support him. But what happened? I hope by now the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government would have learnt his lesson the hard way.

I have heard that this Government has already completed arrangement for election in the West. I am told that ballot papers were handed to Ministers for distribution to their people. I know that the next election is going to be rigged.

Chief Olowofoyeku: The statement is absolutely untrue. The hon. Gentleman is imputing unnecessary motives to the Government.

Mr Oshitelu: I am not imputing motives.

I have been told that the election is going to be rigged. I challenge the Premier, the Deputy Premier and his Ministers to dissolve the House and order fresh election and try to rig it. The rollers on the other Side, the carpet crossers, know they will not come back here.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should be warned by this House. He is very fond of withdrawing cases against NNNDP members from court. Does he not, as a lawyer, think that it is not fair to withdraw cases against NNNDP members from

court? Does he not think that it is not fair to instruct his State Counsel to go to court and withdraw the cases against people who are members of the NNNDP but who have been accused of house breaking and looting? Does he think that is fair and that by so doing the people of this Region will follow him? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Awopeju: On point of information. I should like to say that the learned Attorney-General who used to be a Christian is now a pagan atheist. (*laughter*).

Alhaji Opaleye: On point of Order, Order 27 (5) "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House."

Mr Speaker: The point of order raised is quite in order on paper but it does not apply in this case. (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr Oshitelu: I used to admire the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, when he was a Member of the NCNC and an Opposition Member of this House. He used to get up in this House to defend the right of citizens, but now that he has joined to seize power by force he wants to keep it by all means and he goes about withdrawing cases from court.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Attorney-General has not seized power by force.

Mr Oshitelu: I agree Mr Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now that the Minister of Justice and his Colleagues have assumed power, because the NPC imposed them on the people of his Region, he instructs that cases being tried by Magistrates be withdrawn. (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very much concerned about this. Here is a man who imported thugs to his own town to cause trouble, and when these thugs were being tried in the law courts, he used his position as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to withdraw the cases from the courts. I want to warn the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, through the Speaker, that when we come to power in this Region, if the Minister runs away from this Region to the Northern Region, we shall go to the North and bring him back or try him in absentia.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier, we are not opposing the Bill but I will make a solemn appeal through you to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to please desist from withdrawing cases from the Courts as this is most unfair.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Speaker, Sir, part of the Bill makes provision for the Minister to direct that courts consisting of more than one member shall sit in two or more divisions not only for the more convenient despatch of business, as at present provided, but also for any other reason that he may deem sufficient. Does this mean that the members may sit in two divisions or in two panels?

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, may I ask the hon. Member to make his question clearer?

Mr Olusa: I want the Minister to explain, for example, if the members may sit in Ijesha and Ekiti Divisions or may sit on two panels but within the same Division.

Chief Olowofoyeku: They will sit on two panels within the same division but not in two divisions like Owo and Akoko.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker, Sir, that will be acceptable and I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I support the Bill, I will like to make some observations which will throw some light on this Bill and guide others. I remember sometime last year all the Customary Courts in Ibadan were closed down without any reason. That was the time that these people were planning to form the NNDP and they deliberately closed all these courts to get all the members on their side. They went around the villages to invite people who were jobless saying that they would give them jobs by appointing them to the Courts and by that time the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice was in the NCNC. I could remember we held several meetings at that time but as a result of all these meetings they said that they would get people to appoint to the Court so that people who do not support the party would be punished. I told them that the action was not good and that we must try to make people happy and one evening, there was a fight and three or four of the thugs following the Deputy Premier were taken to the Central Police Station. The Minister of Justice wrote a letter and withdrew the case from the court. Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure you that up till now my garment is still in the hands of the Police. I am saying this because I know that anybody living in a glass house should not throw stones but the Government of the Region always plays with fire.

Mr Speaker, Sir, such a Bill like this, as a

matter of fact, has nothing bad in it but the Government who will be directing the affairs, I am sure, will introduce politics into it and will cause trouble in the Region which can even cause another breakdown of law and order.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill to amend the Customary Courts Law and in doing so, I will like to make some observations.

One of these observations is in connection with Clause 3 of the Bill whereby, instead of the present number of assessors or associate judges, it will now be necessary for the Courts to be constituted in a manner that the membership will be multiple and in view of Clause 35 this multiple membership of the Courts seems to me not to be in consonance with the call of the Government for fair spending because, after all, it is the Local Government Authorities themselves which will have to meet the bill in respect of the payment of Assessors and Associate Judges.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, in the appointment of the personnel to these Courts, I hope that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice will bear in mind the experience and the integrity and the character of the individuals to be appointed so that the community which they are serving will repose confidence in their judgment.

Thirdly, Sir, I think that it is a pity that the events of the last few months do clearly show that we have abandoned our long strides in the concept of the rule of law by the number of clashes outside this House in various parts of the Region. In addition Mr Speaker, Sir, even the whole of this august Assembly, which used to be for Members of the House in the past, with little or no protection, seems now to have been dominated by an army of armed and steel-helmeted policemen brandishing revolvers. That also shows, Sir, that we have departed from the concept of the rule of law which we were proud of before our Independence.

I hope, Sir, to make a number of comments, when we come to the Ministry of Justice Head of the Estimates, in regard to the performance of the Ministry and the Minister. The Minister, as somebody has said before, when he was in the Opposition, was a great champion of the cause of the masses. It may now be said, Sir, that the Minister has turned a new leaf as he has started to withdraw cases from the Courts against the course of justice. I think Sir, that it is a

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very serious matter for the Minister to withdraw cases from the Courts like that. If we are not going to break the rule of law, whatever the position of the Minister may be in the society, he ought to face the consequence and it is wrong for the Attorney-General to use the powers conferred on him under the Constitution to violate the course of justice. (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the ordinary man in the street should feel quite satisfied and contented that if his property is looted or if somebody makes away with his property he can get justice without a politician going to Court to enter *nolle prosequi*.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: In rising to support the Motion for a Bill to amend the Customary Courts Law, I will like to say that we want an assurance that all officers serving before the new law comes into operation should be regarded as employees of the various courts.

When it comes to civil cases, the Minister is now trying to limit the jurisdiction of judges in customary courts A and B. In the case of Grade A, to an amount not exceeding £200 and in respect of Grades B and C, I think £50. I consider this to be derogatory to the prestige of the presiding judges in Grades A and B courts who are lawyers. Perhaps the Attorney-General has some explanations about this but I do think that we cannot, on one hand, particularly in criminal cases, give these judges unrestricted jurisdiction but when it comes to civil cases, which are normally not serious, limit their jurisdiction. These are the two points I would like cleared and may be the Attorney-General may have some explanations to offer.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my Friends from the Opposite Benches who have told the House that, when I was on the Opposition Bench, I was considered to be one of the champions of the masses in this Region, and may I inform Members Sir, that up till now, I am still the champion of the masses in this Region.

Some Members have spoken about the exercise of my constitutional power, the power to enter *nolle prosequi*, in criminal cases. Mr Speaker, Sir, may I humbly say that these Members must realise that I am trained in law; I am trained in equity. Sir, I am proud of my training and I realise that I have to exercise my constitutional powers, bearing in mind the interest of the people of this Region. When it is necessary, Sir, to enter *nolle prosequi* in any case in court, it will be

exercised according to law. Sir, the agitation of the Members of the Action Group within the past three days about the imaginary *nolle prosequi* in certain cases that happened last week is only a mere figment of the imagination of the Members of the Opposition; and may I say Sir, in this House of Assembly, this honourable House, that no single entry of *nolle prosequi* has been made in any of the cases that arose in connection with the disturbances which were created last week in this Region by Members of the Action Group.

Some Members, Sir, referred me to Ilesha. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been representing Ilesha in this honourable House since 1956. I have the confidence of my people; my people repose their confidence in me (*cheers*) and for the information of the Members of Opposition, Mr Speaker, may I say that the crowd that congregated in Ilesha to welcome Members of the NNNDP, of which I am one, constituted the greatest in the history of politics in that town. There was no time that any political gathering had mustered as much strength in Ilesha as the one we had last Saturday. It was said that there were disturbances in Ilesha. Yes. A Member of the Action Group, and I am not going to mention his name, created the disturbances at a point about two miles at least from the place where we were to have the gathering. We have investigated, the Government has found out those who were responsible and they will be dealt with in the courts. But one cannot say that Ilesha people are not 100 per cent behind the NNNDP. Those who constitute the mass of Ilesha people had always been in the NCNC. There is no more NCNC in Ilesha today. That is by the way.

Mr Speaker, let me go to the substance of this Bill. A few Members have expressed some doubts about the provisions of this Bill and the Member for Akoko North was trying to find out what would happen about the panels. The intention is not to allow the court to sit both in Owo Division and Ekiti Division. The intention is to allow the assessors to be separated into what we call panels. For instance, since courts are not supposed to be market places, it is not good for fourteen assessors to sit at a time. So you have to divide the court into two so that there are seven members on each panel at a time.

May I say that some Members have expressed fears about putting jobless people in customary courts. The Grade C courts that we are going to have in this Region will consist mainly of Chiefs because we want this class of people to be associated with the administration of justice in this Region.

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

I do not know, Mr Speaker, Sir, whether my Friend from Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) wants to seek employment as a Grade C customary court president. But if he wants, I must assure him that we will consider him good enough and we will only ask him to put his application to the Local Government Service Board. May I say, Sir, that the Government is not responsible for appointing any member of courts, either a layman or a legally qualified person. All these people are appointed by the Local Government Service Board.

The Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) is not clear about what is going to happen in case of multiple members. The same explanation which I have given to the Member for Akoko North applies in respect of multiple Members.

Finally, Sir, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) said that when he comes into power, may be in a hundred years or eighty years from now, if he is still alive by that time, it is going to be a question of measure for measure. All I am going to say about that is that we shall wait and see.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my Friend from Remo North has said that he wouldn't like supervisors of customary courts to be politicians. I believe that my learned Friend has not read the Bill properly. I do not know when Members of the Judiciary of this Region have become interested in politics. We all believe that they are not politicians. Mr Speaker, Sir, if Members on the Opposition Bench believe that Members of the Judiciary in this Region are politicians, then they should table a proper motion in this House and criticise the activities of the Judges. But may I say that since last year, when this Government, by the grace of God, had been functioning, there is no politician Member of the Judiciary so far appointed. The existing members of the Judiciary are those appointed by the Action Group Government and I am certain, about provisions of this amending Bill, that there is nothing which my hon. Friends on the Opposite Benches are more anxious about than mere supposition that the Bill may be used to be detriment of the Opposition. May I give my pledge that this Bill is intended to serve the best interests of this Region. There is no intention to harrass anybody because a good number of the people on this Side of the House did realise what is meant to be harrassed and oppressed. It is not the intention of anybody on this Side of the House to indulge in such dangerous pastimes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 27.

Alhaji Adegbenro: During the Second Reading of this Bill, I raised the point of confirmation of the appointment of the existing Judicial Bailiffs now that their appointment is subject to the approval of the Local Government Service Board, appointed by the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I should like to have a reply to this point which I raised during the Second Reading of the Bill.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, this law is not intended to have any retrospective effect and it is not going to affect those already employed adversely. It is not even going to have any adverse effect on those who are just going to be employed. In the past, the local government councils have been employing these officers of Customary Courts. If it is the intention of Government to let this law have adverse effect on these officers, Government could have allowed the local government councils to employ these officers as it will be easier for Government to influence local government councils than the Local Government Service Board. We do not want these officers of courts to go about in fear of the Secretaries and Chairmen of Local Government Councils that is why we have provided in this Bill that the appointments of these officers should be by the Local Government Service Board. We want these officers to be sure of the security of their tenure. (*Interruptions*).

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East): It is interesting to note what the Minister of Justice has just said but care must be taken to ensure that names are not given by any politician from that Side of the House to the Board. It is being rumoured that there is competition among members of the ruling party for submission of names to the Local Government Service Board. What has the Attorney-General to say to that?

Chief Olowofoyeku: The post of an Assessor is not that for which one can put up advertisements. It is left to the local government councils to recommend names of people suitable for this job to the Local Government Service Board. The Local Government Service Board will interview people who are recommended to them. If they are found suitable, they will be recruited but if not their applications will be turned down.

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May I say that when I was the Chairman of the Ilesha Urban District Council, I did recommend Chief Oguntoye as somebody good enough to be considered for an appointment in Grade C Customary Court. He was called for interview and he was found suitable by the Local Government Service Board. I know that some people were recommended by the Action Group in Afenmai Division who were ex-convicts and who were appointed but I had to petition against them.

Mr Chairman, I think there is no reason why anybody should impute improper motives on the Local Government Service Board. People are recommended to this Board and if found suitable, they are employed and if not, if they are jail-birds and ex-convicts, their applications are turned down.

Alhaji Adegbenro: We have heard from the Minister of Justice that the existing staff of the Customary Courts will not be affected adversely. It means that they may be affected but not very adversely. Mr Chairman, unlike in the days of the Action Group when the Local Government Service Board was independent of Government, the injection of Chief Afolabi of Oyo and Chief Oluguna of Oshogbo as Members of this Board has spelt disaster to the freedom and tenure of office of the officers of the Local Government Service Board. We were told that these two men are not politicians but I do not think that it is so easy for human beings to metamorphose overnight. In any event the Government has laid a pattern and if the pattern now laid works hard on the community, very soon the shoe will be on the other foot and, of course, the Mosaic law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth will be adopted. (*Interruptions*). You will not be surprised if the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice changes his political colour then.

Clauses 6 to 27 agreed to.

Clause 28.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, my objection here is the limit which the Bill has placed on the jurisdiction of Grade A and Grade B Customary Court Presidents in civil matters. I think it is most unfair and very derogatory to the Presidents of these Courts. I do not know what the Attorney-General has to say to this—the limit of £200 for the Presidents of Grade A Customary Courts and £50 for the Presidents of Grade B Customary Courts. I think the

Attorney-General should give some explanation.

Chief Olowofoyeku: May I remind the hon. Leader of Opposition that the Criminal Laws which the Customary Courts are administering have set the type of punishment which can be given for each infringement of the law; two years, three years and so on and so forth. So it is not necessary for us to meddle with that. I am sure that the hon. Leader of Opposition is satisfied that we leave that as it stands.

With respect to the jurisdiction of the Presidents, it is found that Presidents of Grade A Customary Courts have the same qualifications as Chief Magistrates and, as far as possible, the intention is to equate the functions of the Presidents of Grade A Customary Courts with those of the Chief Magistrates. No Chief Magistrate has jurisdiction to entertain any civil case the value of which is above £500 and if the Chief Magistrates cannot entertain cases that are above £500, we believe that Grade A Customary Courts Presidents should not entertain cases which are more than £500. People who are Presidents of Grade B Customary Courts are those who have almost the same qualifications with Senior Magistrates. There is a difference between Chief Magistrates and Senior Magistrates. The jurisdiction of Senior Magistrates is limited to £200, therefore, that of the President of Grade B Customary Court is also limited to £200. What is good for the Senior Magistrates is also good for the Presidents of Grade B Customary Courts.

Clause 28 agreed to.

Clause 29 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed Chair).

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

SHERIFFS AND CIVIL PROCESS (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Law, Cap. 116.

Members would be interested, no doubt, to know that the functions of Sheriffs and Bailiffs for the purpose of enforcing the judgements, order, decrees, writs and other processes of the Magistrates' Courts and the High Court of this Region are at present

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performed by officers of the Nigeria Police Force or otherwise of the Federal Public Service in their capacity as Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Bailiffs. Under the existing Federal Law on the matter, the Inspector-General of Police is the Sheriff for Nigeria and the Commissioner of Police is the Deputy Sheriff for each Region. In view of the other increasing duties of the Police, however, the Federal Government, for some time past, has been pressing all the Regional Governments to make arrangements for the purpose of taking over from these Federal officers the functions of enforcement which I have just mentioned. Members would be interested to know that such arrangements have now been made by the Government of Eastern Nigeria and also by the Federal Government itself in respect of Lagos.

It is therefore in order to enable such arrangements to be made also in this Region that this Bill has been brought before the House. Members would observe that the Bill makes provisions for the appointment, powers, duties and liability of the Sheriff for the Region, the Deputy Sheriff, Assistant Sheriffs, Bailiffs and other persons having authority to assist in the execution of court processes. The arrangements which, as in the other parts of Nigeria, we hope to make here after this Bill shall have been enacted into law would result in the appointment of such Regional court officials as the Chief Registrar and Registrars for the purpose of performing the functions of the Sheriff and the other officials to whom I have referred above.

It may be of particular interest to Members to know that officers of the Nigeria Police Force would still, if called upon, be able to assist Bailiffs under the provisions of the Bill for the purpose of executing processes of court, and also members of all local government police forces not below the rank of Lance Corporal would have the powers and duties of Bailiffs under the Law.

It is my hope that with these new provisions whereby the enforcement of the processes of Regional courts would become the responsibility of Regional public officers, the work of all courts to which the already otherwise fully engaged officers of the Nigeria Police Force have had to be devoting attention would be greatly facilitated; there should be more expedition in the service and execution of process to the convenience, not only of the courts and Lawyers, but also of members of the general public as well.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say that the Opposition will not oppose this Bill, it is a Lawyer's Bill.

I should like to call the attention of the Minister to Part 1 (A)—

“Fees to form part of general revenue of the Region.

“All fees received by the Sheriff, the Deputy Sheriff, Assistant Sheriffs and bailiffs in respect of any duties performed by them in the discharge of their official functions shall be paid into and form part of the general revenue of the Region”.

I am aware, Mr Speaker, that the intention of this Bill is to appoint certain officers to the public services as bailiffs or Sheriffs and that all fees accruing from the performance of those duties by these Government officers shall form part of the general revenue of the Region. Already the Local Authorities in whose areas these Customary Courts are allocated are already in financial difficulties; and Government, in the days of the Action Group, decided that a substantial part of the salaries of the Customary Court Judges in Grades A and B Courts should be subsidised by Government, that is in order to ensure that these Judges who are invariably lawyers are adequately paid by the Local Authorities they are serving. I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Government can well afford to remit all fees that are accrued from the Sheriffs and bailiffs to the coffers of the Local Authorities concerned, in order to enable them to discharge their responsibilities in providing social services for the people of their respective areas. I do not think that Government loses anything by doing so. As I said earlier, Government has already come to the aid of Local Authorities by granting the subsidies to pay the cost of maintaining Customary Courts of every grade. I appeal to Government to see to it that fees are remitted to the local authorities as is done in the case of the P.A.Y.E. taxes.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): I am supporting this Bill with the following observations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a Clause in the Bill provides that—

“Every member of a local government police force not below the rank of a Lance Corporal shall be charged with the exercise

[MR AWOFEJU]

of all the powers and the performance of all the duties conferred or imposed upon a bailiff by this Law”.

I should like to give this hint to the Attorney-General that these very ranks of Lance Corporal and Corporal are in process of being abolished in the Nigerian Police Force and might likely affect the Local Government Police Force too. I should like to suggest that this information should be noted by the hon. Attorney-General so as to make alternative arrangement as to how that particular section could be worded. This could be limited to a Sergeant, or if there are not very many Sergeants in the Local Government Police Force, he may just leave it in the hands of a Police Constable who is not below the rank of first-class police constable.

I should like to say that their person or status should not be so sacrosanct that the bailiffs can commit any act with impunity. When in point of fact they have notices of claim from a third party different from the judgement debtor who is supposed to be the ostensible owner of the property purported to go under execution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to go to Form 1 (A): Declaration by Bailiff. Page C 05.

“I, A.B. do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I will not use or exercise the office of bailiff corruptly during the time that I shall remain therein, nor will I accept, receive, or take by any colour, means or device whatsoever or consent to the taking of any money or fee or reward from any person or persons or between party and party above such fees as are allowed by law, but will according to my power truly perform my duties during the time that I shall remain in the said office.”

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is supposed to be the sort of oath to be taken by the bailiff, but I am saying Sir, that this is an independent Nigeria. The British and most of their ways have gone with them over 4,000 miles and we should try to make the oath truly native. The oath to be taken, either by the bailiff or people who are supposed to have hands in the administration of justice, must be in the traditional way. And I would suggest, Sir, that because one just says; “I will not take bribe, I will not do this, I will not do that;” may not be effective but then, Sir, when one swears by the god of iron it is a very dangerous thing because one can trifle capriciously with other

gods but certainly not with the god of iron. (*Interruptions*).

The implication of it, Sir, is that somebody who swears by a dagger knows that if he is guilty, and remains perfidious to his oath, he will have to commit suicide or die by the sword. If one swears by the key of his car he has invoked the god of iron and will die in cold blood on the highway. The same thing applies to swearing by the sole of one's shoes; if one breaks his oath, he will die in penury. That is the type of oath that should be taken by Judges, either in the High Court or in the Customary Courts or by Bailiffs or by any other officer. I will commend very seriously to the Attorney-General that this oath must be taken in the public places in the true traditional Yoruba way. They must put some sand in the calabash containing water (*laughter*) put the key of a car, a small knife, part of one's shoe, because however beautiful or clean a shoe might be one has to use it to tread the ground. I am suggesting Mr Speaker, Sir, very seriously to the Attorney-General that that is the only oath that can operate on our people.

After all there are people here who once subscribed to an oath by kissing the Bible and immediately thereafter remained perfidious to their oath. The Bible became defiled, desecrated and tainted. In fact one Minister here, the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (*Chief Osuntokun*) said that the Bible was nothing more than a collection of Jewish tales.

I am prepared to help the Attorney-General if he does not know what people do even though he is supposed to be a chief.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, and subject to all the comments I have made, I beg to support.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker Sir, I have to remind Members of this honourable House that the Federation of Nigeria is a free country and there is freedom of religious worship. What my hon. Friend from Remo North has been talking about is one that does not provide for every type of religious belief. What we have in this Schedule is the thing you repeat by word of mouth. If you are a believer in Christianity, you swear on your Bible (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, as long as we are a free community and as long as there is freedom of religion in this country, every man should be allowed to swear by whatever he believes to be binding upon him. If you want to make an oath and you know that the Bible is binding upon you, you swear on your Bible.

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

If a Muslim, like the hon. Leader of Opposition, wants to swear, let him swear by the Holy Koran. If somebody is a worshipper of the god of iron, like my Friend from Remo North, let him swear by the god of iron. (*interruptions*). If anybody believes in the god of iron, let him swear by the god of iron, let him swear by his boots or the key of his car or a knife, if he has one, but may I say, Sir, that what we have in this Schedule is absolutely satisfactory for the present purpose.

The Member from Remo North has also spoken about the necessity of not over-reaching the claims of the true owners of any material which has been seized in execution. May I refer my hon. Friend to the proviso at the bottom of Clause 2 (*h*) which shows that:

“Nothing in this section contained shall affect the right of any claimant, who may prove that at the time of sale he had a title to any goods so seized and sold, to any remedy to which he may be entitled against any one other than the Sheriff, the Deputy Sheriff, such Assistant Sheriff or other officer or person as aforesaid”.

In this case, if anybody's goods have been sold improperly, he has a right to follow the goods and take them back or to sue the debtor and recover the amount of his money but he cannot make the Sheriff liable for the act of a chronic debtor. (*Interruptions*).

I know what the hon. Member from Remo North is driving at. If a chronic debtor puts up a house and four days afterwards the house is attached and sold and in a month, he gets some of the members of his family to say that this house does not belong to him saying “It is our own” and they bring bogus documents to court, then how do we expect the innocent Bailiff or Sheriff to be held responsible? Let the man seek his remedy, let him go and get his house back from the man to whom the house is sold or let him recover from the original debtor. I think this is absolutely adequate for the present purpose.

The point, Sir, raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is the remission of fees collected to Local Government Councils. May I say, Sir, that although the Local Government police will have to help in executing the processes of court, the important thing is that this Law is not intended to serve the Customary Courts; it is intended to serve the High Courts and the Magistrate Courts because, up till now, the Nigerian Police and Bailiffs who are officers of the

Federal Government serve the processes of our High Courts and Magistrate Courts. We now want the Regional officers to serve processes issuing from our High Courts and Magistrate Courts. It is the fees collected in such circumstances that are payable to the Regional Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee):

Clauses 1 to 5.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, do I understand the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to say that this Bill, when passed into Law, will not affect the Sheriffs and Bailiffs of Customary Courts? The Minister said that the Sheriffs and Bailiffs referred to in this Bill are officers of High Courts and Magistrate Courts and I do know, Mr Chairman, that our Customary Courts also have Sheriffs and Bailiffs. I would like the Minister to clarify the position whether Customary Courts Sheriffs and Bailiffs are not affected by this Bill. If they are, I sincerely urge the Government to allow the remission of fees collected by Customary Courts Sheriffs and Bailiffs back to the local authorities concerned.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that there is an important point that we will like to be assured of, and that is that the Bill does not apply to Sheriffs and Bailiffs in the Customary Courts.

Chief Olowofoyeku: What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that this Law which makes provision for Sheriffs and Bailiffs and for payment of funds to the coffers of the Regional Government is designed for the High Courts and for the Magistrate Courts. If Bailiffs work in the Customary Courts, of course, they take their fees to the particular Customary Court. It is only in the case of Magistrate Courts and the High Courts that we have the money going to the Regional Government. I cannot say categorically that this may not give protection to Sheriffs in the Customary Courts. It may give them protection but certainly no fees from the Customary Courts processes will be taken to the Regional Government's coffers.

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL
—SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—

“That the Bill be read a Second time”.
Question again proposed.

Mr D. Atolagbe (Ekiti North-West I):
 Mr Speaker, I shall continue my contribution to the Debate on the Appropriation Bill from where I left off yesterday when the Adjournment Motion was moved.

The position of teachers in this Region demands more attention. No education system can flourish without proper care of teachers. It is easy to accuse teachers of breaking bonds as the Minister of Education did recently. He said that breaking of bonds does not show any moral; presumably not, but the people of this Region can testify to the political immorality of the NNNDP Members of this House. They can also testify to the fact that they had broken many bonds with the electorate that voted them in. For instance, are they serving the party or parties on whose platforms they came to this House today? The Government Benches are full of political bond breakers. I think what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. (*Interruptions*). Apart from showing moral light to the people, the so-called Government should make the conditions of teachers more attractive. They should spend the money now wasted on thugs and party propaganda on bringing the conditions of teachers in this Region to the same level as those of their counterparts in the other Regions. For example where certain grade of teachers receive less than £450 per annum in this Region, their counterparts receive nearly £700 per annum in the other Regions. I think it will be a good thing if this Government will see to these things.

What about the condition of roads in the Region? They are just very bad. For the past two years not a single mile of road has been tarred anywhere in the Region. Those already tarred in the good old days of the Action Group Government are left unrepaired. They say there is no money, but all of them on the Government Benches are Ministers. (*Interruptions*). There is money to waste but not to spend on good things for the people. Yes, that is their record.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the damages which some Legislators in this Region have done within the last two years to the good name of the Region in the outside world, as bread and butter politicians, are incalculable. When it

suits them conveniently they are NCNC, Action Group, NCNC again, then UPP, then MDF and now NNNDP all in the name of pounds, shillings and pence. They have no conscience, they have sold it for money. It was these people who in fact plunged the Region into crisis, and even now, the crisis continues and it will not end until they are thrown out by the people at the polls. The people will never make the mistake of re-electing them again.

Now Sir, this year is local council elections year in this Region. Let the Government arrange without further delay for the elections to the local councils to take place. They must not be afraid to do this even if the caretaker committees of councils will be thrown off. That is what must surely happen. The councils must be run by men of the people's own choice.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a word about the Ife University. That University was founded by the Action Group Government and its foundation was properly laid. It was designed to be a model for others, not only in Nigeria, but throughout Africa. It is indeed a pity that the UPP, instead of building on the sure foundation laid, found an opportunity to use the University as a platform to play politics to the detriment of the young institution. History will not forgive the UPP for the harm it has done to that University by robbing it of able professors and lecturers.

There is one more thing I wish to touch upon, Sir, and it is this. About three years ago, the Action Group Government made a provision for pipe-borne water to be supplied to Otun, Ijero and Iddo Districts in Ekiti Division. The work started when surveyors were sent and had the whole area concerned surveyed. This was how far the work had gone when there was a declaration of Emergency. Because the people of the area are ardent supporters of my party and because I would not sell out, the UPP Government decided not to do anything about it again and even boasted that it has refused to do anything more in furtherance of the water scheme in order to hurt us for what it called our stubbornness. Mr Speaker, Sir, is this act not a pure exhibition of savagery? For how can a rational Government refuse to extend amenities to strongholds of the Opposition party? This is a question which has got to be answered somehow and very soon too.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill ably moved by Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran. (*Opposition Benches: You want promotion*).

The hon. the Minister of Finance said that his Budget is a Challenge Budget. He further noted this fact in the Speech, and I quote:

“In spite of the slight deficit during the financial year therefore, it was still possible for the accounts to show a credit balance of about £2.8 million at the beginning of this new financial year.”

This Budget is proof positive that if it were true that in the past this Region was made the object of uncharitable attacks because of the Emergency period to the effect that our progress had been nil as claimed by the Opposition, I rise to correct this false alarm. In case some hon. Members may have doubts about the pertinence of this statement, I rise to dispel those doubts with facts and figures and to compliment Kabiyesi, the hon. Minister of Finance, and all the officials of his Ministry for having the conviction and the moral courage and energy to take the initiative in order to demonstrate the fiscal capacity and the financial ability of the Western Nigeria Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, our Budget for the next financial year shows an estimated revenue of £18.9 million with an estimated expenditure of £16.5 million.

When this Government took office after the period of Emergency, a good part of the 1962-63 financial year was over-shadowed by the Emergency period and the events which followed it. It was really the greatest cross-road in the history of this Region. After being in office for one year, our Budget showed healthy revised estimated balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, as at 31st March, 1964 with a sum of £2.8 million.

Mr Speaker Sir, another important aspect of our Budget is the growth of our surplus when compared with those of last year. For instance last year there was a deficit of £851,740, but this financial year, in spite of unjustified prophecies from the hon. Members of the Opposition to the effect that we were heading for bankruptcy and some of them in fact did lament that calamity would befall us, by the Grace of God, we are able to budget for a surplus of £2.4 million while the Northern Region, with a population of about 30,000,000, has an estimated surplus of £50,100 and the whole Federation has an estimated surplus of £539,160.

The next point I wish to direct the attention of the House to is our general revenue balance which is what the outside world would often inspect in order to decide whether our Government is really viable and solvent. By the end of March this year our General Revenue Balance will be £5,102,167, while that of the North will be £1,238,627 and the East will be £2.5 million pounds (*Opposition Benches: You better don't annoy the Sardauna.*) You will see why the hon. Mover of this Motion, Kabiyesi Oba Akran, can proudly say in this Speech that—

“Our Balance Sheet shows that at the end of the year there was a surplus of about £2.8 million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This is due to the fact that the financial year opened on the 1st of April, 1963, with a balance of £3.6 million in the Fund.”

Mr Speaker, Sir, the extent of this estimated reserve demonstrates the wisdom of the stewardship of this Government during the past financial year. This represents real, solid financial progress, and I am sure that the outside world will not be slow to accept this as evidence of our intention to maintain the financial viability of this Region.

Having demonstrated that our Budget enjoys good health, I will now make a comparative analysis in order to show that this achievement is not a fluke but a calculated progress of financial policy which is basically sound.

May I remind hon. Members that in 1936-37 the total revenue of the whole of Nigeria amounted to £6.2 million. The expenditure then was £6 million thus leaving this great country with a surplus of £198,000: that was twenty-seven years ago.

(*Chief Babatola: What was the standard of living then?*)

Mr Speaker Sir, seventeen years ago, that is in 1946-47 the revenue of the whole country was £13 million, the expenditure was £10 million with a public debt of £24 million.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like now to compare our Budget with those of the East, Midwest and North in order to illustrate my emphasis that our Budget enjoys good health. I hope Members of the Opposition will take note. The Eastern Region budgetted for a revenue of £35.5 million in 1964-65. The Midwest budgetted for a revenue of £8.9 million and the Northern Region budgetted for a revenue of £26.2 million and the West budgetted for a revenue of £33 million. This healthy state of our financial position with the population of 10.2 million people

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when compared with the East's £33.5 million with a population of 12.5 million, it is obvious that we are better off financially than the East, North and the Midwest, because every individual in the West will be able to claim £3 6s per head of population while in the East every individual per head of population will claim £2 6s. If this is subtracted from £3 6s every individual in the West will be £1 richer than an individual in the North, Midwest and Eastern Regions, despite the fact that the Midwest had been carved out of the West.

Mr Speaker Sir, let us now examine more closely the estimates of expenditure of the three Regions. The North will spend £26,199,735, for a population of about 30,000,000 while the East will spend £20 million and the population is 12.5 million and the Midwest will spend £5,566,320 with a population of £2.5 million while the West will spend £16,504,590 with a population of 10.2 million.

If hon. Members consider the figures above in relation to 1963 census population figures you will see that the West excels other Regions of the Federation in viability and stability.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on Other Charges which really reflect expenditure for public benefits the North will spend in 1964-65 Financial Year £17,695,675 for 29.7 million people, the East £10,325,125 for 12.5 million while the West with a population of 10.2 million people will spend £11,505,150. You will again notice that the individual claim of every person in this Region is higher than that of any person from other Regions. It is necessary to explain at the outset that whilst the whole expenditure of the West is straight forward revenue financing operation, those of the North and East are not.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am placing more emphasis on the Recurrent Budget because the real income of any country depends mainly on its earning capacity and on her ability to balance her Budget by imposing taxes and using other available sources of revenue to maintain liquid assets as distinct from loans and reserved funds which are usually frozen assets for special Capital Expenditure. Our Revenue from internal sources demonstrates a sign of healthy growth. According to our Estimate of Revenue, the sum of £5,315,040 will be used and this is about 27 per cent of our Estimated Revenue which will be derived purely from Regional internal sources—see page 13, Heads 301-308, Expenditure.

Some Members of the Opposition said that we depend wholly on the money from the Federal Government to finance our needs, but this is wrong, our internal resources are sound, reliable and viable. This Government only takes her share of £13,539,850 of the statutory revenue from the Federal Government, as do other Regional Governments. After all the Federal Government Revenue belongs to all of us, and we are part and parcel of the Federal Government. Our finances have been dependent upon our own resources in the main. We only have our rightful share with other Regions when distributive grants are available from the Federal Government which also has her own share.

I have given instances to buttress my argument that the Government of Western Nigeria has shown originality in its economic and financial policy to the extent that other Regions have had to follow. You will be happy to note that for the welfare of the people of this Region this Government has earmarked for roads and bridges—Head 702—£3,737,520 while the North had £1,029,500 page 10, Head 515, Northern Region Estimate, the East £1,342,820. We excel the other Regions.

You will notice, Sir, that for Urban Water Supply—Head 703—the Western Region earmarked £1,542,000 from our Estimate a Project for which external aid is granted to the tune of £1.6 million. The North £1,035,500, Head 546, page 18 Northern Region Estimates. While the East earmarked only £1.02 million. You will see that the West excels other two Regions in seeking the financial benefits for the people of this Region.

This Region also beats other Regions of the Federation in providing the greatest amount of money for Free Primary Education. The West will spend £6,103,150 on Education alone and this is about 40 per cent of the total Expenditure for 1964-65. The East will spend £2.4 million, that is, about 12.4 per cent of its Estimate, on Health £1.8 million, that is about 10.9 per cent and for Works and Transport £1.5 million, that is about 9.2 per cent, whilst on Education East will spend less. The North will spend on Education £5.9 million, on Agriculture £1,701,005, Works and Transport, £1,459,955 and Health, £3,434,480. The Midwest Region will spend £1.8 million on Education, Health, £765,000 Agriculture, £514,000 and Works, £690,000. You will also see that this Region is still leading others in viability.

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We have heard from the hon. Kabiyesi Oba Akran, Minister of Finance, the true position of our finances in this Region. How much economically viable we are, how far our economic programme has succeeded and how much effort we are putting to improve our agricultural and social development, our educational standard and our revenue resources.

In short we want to know how much contribution all of us will make for the improvement of the condition of the 10.2 million people of this Region. I am sure that you will all agree with me that the standard of living of our people should improve.

Another point of interest in the Budget Speech is the proposal for the expansion of electricity to rural areas all over the Region. I refer hon. Members to page 183, Head 707 of the Estimate. Hon. Members will notice that in Sub-heads 1-4 a total sum of £890,000 is earmarked for electricity supply both to rural and urban areas. I hope no time will be wasted in effecting this scheme especially that of Ado-Odo to Badagry.

Furthermore, Sir, Head 706, page 179, provides a large sum of money for agricultural development, farm institutes and farm settlements while cotton development will have a prominent place in our development programme on agriculture. This Government will spend £1,162,700. Whereas last year, when the Midwest was part of this Region, we had £1.2 million for such scheme.

I refer hon. Members to Head 705 and Sub-head 1, page 175—Grant to University of Ife. You will see that a grant of £750,000 is earmarked as a grant to this University. This amount compared with those of 1962-63 which was £352,500, is £397,500 more. Members will now see the high priority which this Government accords to the growth and development of Ife University. This Government is honest in her bid to consolidate progress in our institution of learning contrary to the speculations of some wicked people who propagate dangerous and false rumours about that this Government wants to close down the Ife University. This allegation is baseless and unfounded.

Before concluding, may I say that this Region has every reason to be proud of the way and manner its finances have been handled since this Government assumed office. Not only in the realm of Government financing has the Ministry of Finance displayed initiative and vision but in what

I may call private financing. It has also played a reputable part which is bound to press forward the economic development of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been proved to the hilt that our Budget enjoys good health. It should commend itself to the House.

We must now associate ourselves with the claims of the hon. Mover, Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran, Minister of Finance when he christened this Budget for we have not only increased our level of expenditure, improved our unallocated reserves, provided for our contributions towards the new Development Plan, 1962-68, but we have also taken on a major share of the cost of Local Government by giving them proceeds of the P.A.Y.E. tax and providing money under Head 705, page 175 of our Estimates for them. Once more, I congratulate the Minister of Finance and the entire staff of his Ministry for giving us a balanced Budget.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Government Whip (Mr O. Fashola): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill and I thank the Minister of Finance, Oba Kabiyesi C. D. Akran, for the balanced Estimates that he has presented before this House. I am really surprised that the Leader of the Opposition, Alhaji Adegbenro, and his colleagues criticise the Bill. During the regime of the Action Group, whatever they did, whether good or bad, the Action Group Government would not like to hear any criticism from the other side of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if you look into the whole of the Estimates, you will see that Government—the Government of ours led by Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of this Region, and Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government, and Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran, has made provisions for more roads, more hospitals, maternity centres and employment opportunities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in my own Constituency at Omi-Adio—Ido-Idi to Ido-Akujo, the people of these areas give full support to the NNDP Government and my people are prepared to pay their share of progress. We should therefore be grateful if Government could help in ensuring that our people have good health and good roads. We would like Government to tar the roads linking Omi Adio to Akujo, to see that primary education remains free and to make provision for secondary education in that part of the Region.

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Students who support this NNDP Government, who speak very well of this Government, shall be given scholarships and scholarships will be awarded to students from better secondary schools and modern schools who support the NNDP. By the grace of God, any student who supports us, we shall give him or her scholarship. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker, if I continue to say why I support this Bill I shall waste too much time; when it is time, people will see that this Government is trying to see to the progress of all Westerners as a whole; when it is time all of them will see that this NNDP Government is the Government of the people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, last year, the price of cocoa was increased by £5 per ton and I beg to appeal to this Government of ours and the hon. Premier, Chief Akintola, and the Deputy Premier, Chief Fani-Kayode, and also Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran, to see that cocoa brings more money to the farmers of this Region.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill with the following observations.

The Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance contains one big omission. During the 1960 General Election in the Western Region, the Deputy Premier, Chief Fani-Kayode, made a pledge to the people of this Region that if his party won the election he and his party would abolish the payment of tax. Although Chief Fani-Kayode did not win the election but by some design, he, Chief Fani-Kayode, is now the Deputy Premier of this Region.

Mr Speaker: In order to raise the standard of debate in this House, a provision was made in the Standing Orders for Members to be referred to by their constituencies and Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries by their portfolios.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know who are holding the different portfolios, the names of the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. It appears that these change from month to month. I would like to be told.

Mr Speaker: If the hon. Member for Remo North wants to know, he could refer to the Leader of the House or to the Clerk of the House.

Mr Ositelu: What I am expecting the Deputy Premier, Chief Fani-Kayode, to do is

to redeem his pledge.....(*Government Benches Don't call his name*). I have referred to him as the Deputy Premier.

On page 2 of the Speech, mention was made of the deteriorating future of cocoa in world markets. Nothing was said of the efforts being made by the Government to get better and fair prices for the farmers. The Minister of Finance attributed the unfavourable price situation to the high production of cocoa. The Minister went further in his Speech by suggesting a very dangerous proposal which his Government intends to pursue and I quote—

“In this battle for economic survival, the Government of this Region is at one with other producer countries in the effort to protect our common interest. Indeed, I am glad to say that we have gone a stage further in attempting a long-term solution to this problem. We consider that an effective solution to this intra table problem of price stabilisation lies in devising ways and means to correct the basic imbalance between world supply and demand, especially through increased consumption and through a properly regulated system of supply.....”

One would see from the Speech that the intention of the Government is to buy cocoa this year at £100 per ton, store them at Ikeja, next year tell the poor farmers that unless they can sell their cocoa at £50 per ton Government will not be buying from them..... (*Government Benches: No point*). Whether there is point or not, they will see.

Since this country is a producing country, since we do not have other means for the use of cocoa except for export, what assurance have we that if we store cocoa in the Industrial Estate at Ikeja in order to regulate the supply for the purpose of having good market, the consumer will not find a substitute for cocoa? This Government is woefully inefficient. This is not in the interest of the farmers. Instead of the Ministers of Finance and Trade and Industry exploring other selling avenues for cocoa in order to get good prices for the poor farmers, they continue changing their political colour everyday. Late last year, they were UPP/NCNC, early this year, they were again, “Egbe Omo Olofin” and now NNDP.

Mr Speaker: Order, order: I wish to inform the hon. Member that there has never been an “Egbe Omo Olofin” Government in this Region.

Mr Ositelu: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You may not know but the Members opposite

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me know very well. As long as these people remain there, the farmers of this Region will continue to suffer.

Mr Speaker, the Minister in his beautiful essay made some observations about the fate of cocoa. What of palm kernels, another chief export product? The farmers know that if they entrust their fate to us, the Action Group, their lot will be a better one.

On page 5, the Minister spoke about the importance of agriculture in solving the problem of unemployment. I agree that our youths must be encouraged to take to farming but how can we convince them that farming is a good job when the Premier sends his son to Eton College? (*Government Benches: Send your own son there*). How are we to convince people that it is not the intention of the Premier of this Region that he wants the children of the poor people to be servants to his own children? It is very easy for Ministers to get up in this House and ask school leavers to go back to the farm. Let us consider that a boy starts going to school in this Region at the age of six and leaves at the age of sixteen or seventeen. During this period of his life, he has not been taught how to work with hands on the farm. (*interruptions*).

I think the Government should pursue a bold and ambitious industrialisation policy. There are several industrial ventures still to be tapped. I said on the Debate on the Speech from the Throne that the Government will require a lot of money to do this. I know that the Government has not got a limitless fund, but I must appeal to the Government to try to pursue industrialisation by using every available money in order to be able to cater for school-leavers who are now roaming the streets of our towns and villages. It is not enough going aborrowing; we must find money ourselves. If this Government can curtail some disgraceful and senseless expenses, the easier it will be for this Region to achieve a sound industrialisation policy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in this regard, the Premier of this Region should be spoken to in the language he understands. The Premier does not appear to be financially responsible. We are told that there is no money for development; we are told that there is no money to maintain services. Western Nigeria, from which the Midwest has been excised, has thirty-one Ministers, eighteen Parliamentary Secretaries, two Chief Whips and two other Whips—Ah! When the Region was rich, when the Midwest had not been carved out of the West, Chief

Awolowo ran the affairs of the whole Region with only twelve Ministers and eight Parliamentary Secretaries. Mr Speaker, Oba C. D. Akran was a Minister then. I ask the Minister, through the Speaker—are you telling us that the Government has more to do now than then? (*Government Benches: Yes, yes*). Some Ministers only go to the offices to get their pay; I know some Ministers who have not submitted a single Memorandum to the Executive Council. I know some of them, my hon. Friend, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, is one. They are claiming allowances and going about and around the Region terrorising people and calling themselves Ministers. Something must be done.

Another waste pipe is the creation of posts of Directors, Executive Directors and Chairmen of Boards and Corporations. There are now in this Region not less than ninety-six such posts. These posts are created for party thugs and lazy lawyers who could not make £40 a month. And what do they do as Directors and Chairmen? They issue senseless releases on the WNBS network everyday in the name of Akintola Youth Movement and Fani-Kayode Bodyguard Association. If this Government will be more financially responsible and will not just create posts for NNDP men, part of our economic ills would be solved.

Mr Speaker: I think it is really too much to refer to our Chairmen and Executive Directors of Corporations as party thugs and lazy lawyers. I think the hon. Member should withdraw those offending words, especially as these people are not here to defend themselves.

Mr Ositelu: Mr Speaker, Sir, in obedience to your ruling, I withdraw.

Again, Mr Speaker, during the past year this Government exceeded its expenditure on recurrent Heads by £0.9 million. How this is so only the Minister of Finance can say. One would have thought that when the Midwest went away there would have been a surplus, but what we get is overspending. This Government continues to squander the poor tax-payers money in a most reckless manner. Members of the Government appear as if they are not responsible to the people of this Region; as a matter of fact, they are not. If they can only please the leaders of the NPC they can do whatever they like, however morally criminal, they don't care. Imagine a Government sending three Ministers to England at the expense of the poor tax-payers of this Region to go and inaugurate a branch of the

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NNDP. This trip, I understand, cost the Government £3,000. So it has cost the poor tax-payers of this Region about £3,000 to send three idle Ministers to the United Kingdom for the purpose of inaugurating the NNDP, a party which has not been formally launched in Nigeria, save in the Legislature. Yet the poor tax-payers, people who cannot make £3 a month on their farms, people who are not employed, are being harrassed to pay tax every year.

The last point I will like to touch is on the Census. I make one serious allegation about the Government inflating figures of certain areas and reducing figures of other areas.

Mr Speaker: Unless you can show how the Census figures affect the financial and economic policy of the Government, I shall have to rule you out of order.

Mr Oshitelu: Mr Speaker, Sir, then I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Adedigba (Iwo South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to give a very hearty support, which I think any reasonable person should do in this House, to the Budget Speech on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill so ably prepared and presented to this honourable House by our Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have only a few points to raise. I appeal to this Government to provide a bridge on the River Oshun on the new road from Ilegbo-Gbogan. Mr Speaker Sir, though I already know that this God-fearing Government has sent some workers to this road to work on this bridge but, Sir seeing is believing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I strongly appeal again to this Government to see to it that a circulating rumour about the reduction of taxi passengers within Ibadan township and throughout the Region from five to four does not materialise. This means a lot to this Government and the Government should act at once to dispel this rumour and restore the usual number of passengers.

I also appeal to Government again to increase the price of cocoa considerably this year.

With these points, I beg to support.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke (Okitipupa North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I seize this golden opportunity to congratulate Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran, the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House, on the carefully

prepared Estimates for the year 1964-65, couched and worded in a clear, simple, concise and elucidatory language understandable even to the least educated Members of this honourable House. The farmers throughout the length and breadth of this Region now have every cause to thank God for it has pleased the Almighty to entrust the welfare and progress of the farmers into the hands of these specially selected people who belong to the NNDP party.

I believe very sincerely that this Government, under its able, trustworthy and, above all, God-fearing leaders, will be equal to the task of this Region. This Government will surely achieve what the former Action Group failed woefully to achieve, namely, to give the farmers of this Region a square deal. This Government has already put the welfare of the entire farmers is the forefront in this years' Estimates.

The good news of the Integrated Rural Development Programme which will include the industrial and the agricultural sectors gladdens the hearts of all of us, particularly those of us from the rural areas.

One needs only to commend the efforts and to encourage the Government for the bold steps it intends to take to tackle the problems of unemployment in this Region.

Already several industrial and agricultural projects have been proposed for different areas of the Region. I am pretty certain that the present Government will give every area, whether rural or urban, its fair share of amenities.

My Division, Okitipupa Division, suffered immensely during the past years. While our farmers in the Division were given just £8 each as loans from the then Local Loans Board, others, especially in Ijebu area, were loaned from £100 to £200. Although we do not grow much cocoa in the Division yet we grow other crops such as rubber, coffee, oil palm, banana, yams, oranges and such things. We have fish ponds too which we can improve by getting loans.

A considerable number of people in Okitipupa Division earn their living by buying or selling *Apetesi*, illicit gin. I appeal to this Government to take up the matter of legalising the so-called illicit gin with the other Governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Surely Sir, refining the gin will further reduce the problem of unemployment in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to Education. I am almost certain that the new Government will lift the order that no new institution of learning should be opened until further notice

[MR OLAMIGOKE]

in order that we in Okitipupa Division may be able to open the only Girl's Secondary School we intend to open next year. The condition of the Primary Schools in the Division is, to say the least, deplorable owing to the fact that the Divisional Council failed lamentably to pay the Other Expenses Grant due to the schools. The outstanding debts by way of Other Expenses Grants of the Divisional Council amount to over £40,000.

When Ode-Irele Methodist Primary School building was blown off by a strong wind, the Administrative Assistant in charge of the School had no other alternative than to advise the church members to levy an amount of money to put up the building. The few secondary schools in the Division require the aid of this Government. Our Roman Catholic Grammar School is overdue for Government grant and recognition, to mention just one of the three.

Through no fault of this new Government, Okitipupa was cut away from the rest of the Region by the last flood. The bridge across River Oluwa has been washed away, and up till the moment nothing has been done and I hope this Government will be equal to the job. We thank the Government for tarring our roads. Many of our bridges are bad.

During the regime of the Action Group Government, they voted a large sum of money for the construction of the embarkment at Igbotu-Shabomi. It was when Chief Shogbein was in office as Minister of Works and Transport. Every year, this has been in the Estimates but nothing was done. We hope that the Government of the NNNDP will take positive action.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my fervent hope and belief that we have mineral deposits in Okitipupa Division, and I would appeal to my Government that a research team be sent to Okitipupa, even to exploit the possibility of discovering mineral deposits there.

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

Mr S. A. Okeya (Ekiti South-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill with certain modifications. First of all I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance, His Highness, Oba C. D. Akran, for the able Speech delivered on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to direct the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the Western Nigeria Estimates, 1964-65, Head 329. The total money voted for

Education is roughly over six million pounds. That is a very reasonable amount. Out of this huge amount, how much will go for primary school education? In short, I wish to tell the present NNNDP Government in this Region, that Primary Education is the backbone of everything in this country of ours. The Government stressed the importance of the establishment of high schools and the help rendered to the University of Ife by way of finance, but nothing has been said about the general condition of the Primary School teachers in relation to their salaries. These teachers are the pillars and the foundation of education; without them, there will be no education. All the grades of teachers are poorly paid in this Region. Teachers are made poorer year in year out, and there is no consideration for them. I heard over the radio the other day that the Minister of Education called a meeting of the Inspectors, encouraged them and gave them assurance that if they put up any outstanding ability their case would be looked into. Personally, I raise no objection to this. What about these teachers in the Primary Schools? The time is overdue, Sir. When will their salaries be revised? Mr Speaker, Sir, a teacher who has passed his Grade II Teacher's Certificate will either die or retire on £474 per annum, while a politician with a Standard Six or Primary School Leaving Certificate, if he is lucky after winning an election and is appointed a Minister of State, will be receiving over £3,000 per annum. The condition of these poor teachers should be improved; they should take a lion share of the over £6 million voted for Education.

The Government of this Region should pay for efficiency and ability to teach, and not necessarily for paper qualification. Teachers should be graded on the criteria of efficiency and ability to teach. As I have said earlier on, all grades of teachers are poorly paid, a teacher with Senior Teacher's Certificate will be marking time on £720 per annum. Before one could pass it, it is no joke! The Graduate Teachers are also poorly paid; the permanent bar for life is £1,558 per annum. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government should see that those teachers who do the spade work should be adequately paid. Their rewards may be in heaven but let them get some in this world of ours, so that they may be able to send their children to secondary schools and universities. They are human beings like doctors and lawyers.

On the question of amenities, I wish also to direct the attention of the hon. Members of this House to Western Nigeria Estimates for 1964-65, Head 703. Only about £300,000

[MR OKÉYA]

is voted for development. The Government made a particular reference to the construction of Water Supply for Ogbomosho, Ife, Gbongan, Ondo, Idanre, Akure and Ikere-Ekiti. Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to single out Ikere-Ekiti town. This is one of the towns in my constituency. I know this town very well. I was once a headmaster of one of the Anglican Primary Schools there for ten years. I know the Action Group Government started the construction of the Water supply in 1961. Some of the materials were being fixed but the pity of it, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that since the Action Group Government ceased to function, there has been no bit of improvement on the scheme. I wish to draw your attention again to the Estimates, 1962-63. You will find that £8,500 was earmarked for Emure water supply, and this was during the Government of the Action Group, but since the UPP and NCNC and the NNNDP came to power by foul means nothing has been earmarked for that town in 1963-64 Estimates. I have also gone through the Estimates for 1964-65 this year and nothing is earmarked by the NNNDP Government for this town. This Government is preaching unity, yet one area will be neglected while others will be cared for. How do they want unity then? Do they think people can cross over to their side as a result of this wicked treatment? I say a big 'No'.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is often said in the history of the Egyptians, that without the Nile, there would be no Egypt. We can say the same thing in the Western Region here that without the Action Group party there will be no good Government in Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief O. Sobande (Egba East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with Members on this side of the House and in support of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, I have to pay tribute to the hon. Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, for the careful manner in which he got up the Budget Speech and for the masterly way in which he delivered it. I congratulate the Minister and his colleagues, with whose co-operation the Estimates have been successfully prepared, most heartily.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been councillor and Chairman of Egba Obafemi District Council since the beginning of the local government set-up about ten years ago and I am still the Chairman up till the present day without any change. The Council has never got an overdraft. We believe the decrease in the

revenue of this Government has been caused in the main by the separation of the Midwest area and another factor which has further decreased the revenue of the Government by about £0.6 million is the fact that the Government, fully conscious of the role which local government can play in promoting the welfare and happiness of the masses of our people, had decided to increase local government council revenue by turning over to them all taxes collected under the P.A.Y.E. system.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Government of the West for bearing in mind that there can be no true and enduring independence at the National level if the practice and procedure of self government is not properly inculcated and sustained at the local level where people learn the art of planning their own development in order to cater for the happiness and welfare of the people in their immediate locality and in their own way. We also believe that this Government will continue to devise ways by which to make our local government bodies true and worthy instruments of progress and development.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will seize this opportunity to point out to the Minister of Finance an error in the turning over to each Council of all taxes collected under P.A.Y.E. scheme by the Department concerned. For example, 99 per cent of Councils in Egbaland were paid less than what was collected from various workers in their areas but the Abeokuta Urban District Council was paid more than what was collected from its workers, because all teachers, roadmen, forest guards, policemen, railmen, E.C.N. workers, Agricultural men, working under every District Council pay their dues to their respective headquarters in Abeokuta town from where such P.A.Y.E. taxes were deposited in the Treasury without showing the Government where the people work. I therefore appeal to the Government to institute a way whereby such P.A.Y.E. revenue can be paid straight to the Council concerned by their headquarters so that such council can deposit these sums in the Treasury in its own name. Mr Speaker, Sir I beg the Minister to use his good offices to withdraw the overpayments from the Abeokuta Urban District Council and refund them to the councils concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have to express our profound gratitude to all who sent us relief donations in connection with the flood disaster, for the prompt assistance with generous donations in cash or in kind, other Governments of the Federation, various individuals,

[CHIEF SOBANDE]

firms and societies as well as the Flood Relief Committee for the part they played in the distribution of the relief gifts especially in Abeokuta town and districts. We pray that they grow from strength to strength.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we congratulate the Minister of Finance for the provision of £1.5 million for Ibadan drainage scheme along Ogunpa River in the City. We all accept that Ibadan is the capital city of Western Region of Nigeria and that the importance of Ibadan is not only because it is the capital of the Region but because it has become a cosmopolitan and industrial centre. Yet I will appeal to the Minister not to forget Abeokuta town and see to it that in the very near future something for the benefit of the Egbas is done to the Ogun River from which the Egbas suffer from the flood always.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we praise and thank the Minister for the provision under Head 724 of a sum of £0.6 million to execute our Integrated Rural Development Scheme.

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

Mr I. A. Olukoju (Owo South I): While I am not opposing this Appropriation Bill, I have some observations to make. I want to make the following observations on what the honourable Minister of Finance described as "Challenge Budget".

I agree, Sir, that it is indeed a Challenge Budget and I would say that it is a challenge in two ways. I dare say that it is a challenge meant to be thrown to the people of this Region, and it is a challenge reciprocated through the Minister of Finance to the Government of this Region. I will first of all point to some part of the Budget Speech made by the Minister of Finance at page 19—

"It only remains for me to christen the Budget before launching it. I should like it to go down in history as the Challenge Budget."

In another part of page 20 the Minister said—

"I think it was Professor Arnold Tonybee reputed to be the greatest living Historian, who propounded the theory of Challenge and Response. It is to the effect that the response which every nation offers to the challenge that faces it determines the face of that nation."

It is in this regard, Sir, that I am making the challenge on behalf of the masses of this Region through the Minister of Finance to the Regional Government. The Minister of Finance has rightly put it that on our part

it is not a challenge alone but response. If we are to expect the farmers and masses of this Region to respond to the challenge adequately the Government should supply the challenge in some other form. On behalf of the people of this Region I will reciprocate the challenge to the Government through the Minister of Finance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what assurance will the masses have that the men managing the affairs of the Region, who now throw this challenge, are themselves alive to their duties and will not as usual divert the fruits of the people's labour to their personal pockets? What guarantee, Sir, will the masses have for fairplay to all parts of the Region when the people's labour is to yield some fruitful results?

It is a challenge, Sir, and I now reciprocate this to the Government on behalf of the masses, on the appointment by the present Government of almost all Members on the Government Benches as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, a record unequalled in any part of this Federation, where legislators numbering over fifty, are Parliamentary Secretaries and Ministers, as against twenty-one during Awolowo's regime, even when the Midwest was still part of this Region.

It is a challenge I am now throwing on behalf of the masses of this Region, through the Minister of Finance, on the shameless attitude of the Government to deliberately play upon the intelligence of the people of this Region by the said reckless appointments when only late in 1961 and early 1962 the shout of austerity was loudest in the West here. Perhaps the Government thinks that by now the masses should have forgotten. The Government now substitutes dexterity in squandermania for austerity measures. The people will undoubtedly challenge this.

The policy of holding tight to office; caring not whether the masses are moaning or groaning under the yoke of victimisation, oppression, poverty, intimidation or threats to lives and properties and serious attacks by thugs, a means by which the present Regime hopes to achieve its objective. This is a challenge which is thrown to the Government on behalf of the masses.

It is a challenge on the appointment of a Deputy Premier in this Region, an appointment unknown in other Regions of the Federation. Granting that this was inexcusably necessary at the time of the Coalition Government, now that the Premier and his Deputy have fused their bands together, it economic commonsense that the post be now scrapped and "Deputy Leader" substituted for "Deputy Premier" and divert the allowances

[MR OLUKOJU]

hitherto allocated to better the lot of the farmers, the police, the teachers, the unemployed, etc. It is a challenge.

(Government Benches: What allowances?)

Don't they know? He must have some allowances as a Deputy Premier? What of all the tours and so on and so forth and all his allowances?

An hon. Member: He is not sure. I am sure he cannot point to any allowance for the Deputy Premier in the Estimates.

Mr Olukoju: I know he has some allowances. The Government's planlessness, the indiscriminate closure of schools, mass retrenchment of teachers, undue delay of grants to schools resulting in heavy sufferings of these classes of people, must be a "Challenge" to the present Government.

The threats to and intimidations of Obas and Chiefs to willy-nilly follow the unpopular party, the NNNDP, or face immediate victimisation or complete removal, banishment, or, at the mildest, indefinite suspension, constitute a challenge. These make the Obas and Chiefs run for their dear lives and safeguard their crowns and thus become messengers of a political party and pursue membership drives about.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Region-wide imposition of caretaker committees, members of which are mere suckers and parasites and not sincere supporters of the NNNDP party which seeks support through Ibadan Radio constitutes a challenge. The duly elected councillors so heartlessly displaced will challenge this Government as soon as the expected opportunity offers itself. *(Government Benches: When?)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the face-saving devices and measures to remain in office at all costs and by all means, fair or foul and running away from the inevitable will be challenged by the masses, at least an election is bound to come, one day one year!

Mr Speaker, Sir, the assumption of wild powers beyond one's scopes and contrary to the Constitution, to publicly announce, either by the Premier or his Ministers, the dismissal, removal or discipline of heads of institutions without regard for the authority of Boards of Governors of such Schools cannot go unchallenged. The incident of Ilesha of recent is a case in evidence as carried by the Nigerian Dailies. The Government or its agents should know and respect constituted authorities by law as they themselves expect to be respected.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I would like to inform hon. Members that the Ilesha Grammar School episode is not a political one. The school belongs to the community and Ilesha people have a sound and proper control of that school. I don't think that comes within the financial policy of the Government.

Mr Olukoju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it comes.....

An hon. Member: Do not challenge the Speaker.

Mr Olukoju: I am not challenging the Speaker. I am only trying to explain. In any case, I abide by that ruling.

I am only trying to say that one should not go out of his scope to exercise power beyond the Constitution. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Board of Governors of the schools should be respected.

Mr Speaker, the absence of any record of concrete capital projects like road tarring, water supply, electricity supply, and loans to local farmers throughout the Region, during the life of the Coalition Government in 1963 to the present NNNDP regime, will be challenged by the people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the over-exertion of the Local Government Policemen and women who have been persistently engaged in day and night rigours of physical and mental exercises, and also of the Nigeria Police, as a result of keeping vigil as if this Region were a Police State, as if the masses themselves are perpetual law breakers.....

Alhaji Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of order. *(Opposition Members: Sit down, what order?)*

Standing Order 27 (2) provides that a Member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

The question of women police has nothing to do with this subject. It is a Federal subject and hon. Member will never see anything in these Estimates connected with the Nigeria Police. Therefore it is irrelevant for him to mention the women police.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I think in the Ministry of Home Affairs the Government provides for women police, especially in Ibadan. I don't think the hon. Member is out of order.

Mr Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, Ministers go after police women. You find most of them running after these police women who are supposed to guard them? *(Laughter)*.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): The hon. Member for Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) was a teacher and he had taught many Members of this House. So he must have taught the Ministers about going after the women police. (*Laughter from both sides*).

Mr Olukoju: Now, Mr Speaker Sir, I say the over-exertion of both the Local Government Police and the Nigeria Police, men and women, who have been persistently engaged day and night.....

Mr Deputy Speaker: The Nigeria Police Force is a Federal subject. I think that is outside the financial policy of this Government.

Mr Olukoju: Mr Speaker Sir, the Local Government Police is being maintained by this Government. I said the Local Government Police and the Nigeria Police. I withdraw the reference to the Nigeria Police.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Local Government policemen were keeping vigil as if this Region were a Police State and as if the masses themselves are perpetual law breakers. Mr Speaker, only a few power-seekers and money-mongers throw this Region into the unrest in which we now find ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I ardently believe that the masses will throw more points of challenge to the Government; they too know this, and this is why they are trying all efforts to cling to office.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I have this to say, that as death is an inevitable destiny of man, so is an election an unavoidable and inevitable destiny of the life of any House of Parliament, no matter how long.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Mr D. O. Orowole (Iwo West II): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for the year 1964-65 which was ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance and Leader of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill is so good and should receive the approval of all hon. Members of this House.

In giving my support to the Bill, I praise the Government for all their efforts in seeing that all Ministries are adequately taken care of. It is my belief that the Estimates will receive the support of Opposition Members as well.

There are some amenities my people desire to have. We want Cottage Hospital to cope with the increasing population of Iwo and districts, and an extension of Iwo Electricity to some districts like Oluponna, Ile-Igbo, Ogbagba, Fesu, etc., all in Iwo district, and the establishment of a Farm Settlement in Iwo.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Government to the Iwo-Ibadan boundary dispute. The Government should appoint now an independent Boundary Commissioner who should go into the Iwo-Ibadan boundary dispute. This is necessary in view of what is happening at present. The Commission will find out the bad treatment Ibadan people are giving my people.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I don't see how this affects the financial policy of this Region.

Mr Orowole: Mr Speaker Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

(Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till Monday, 13th April, 1964.)

ADJOURNMENT

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till 10 a.m. on Monday morning.

As all Members know, we have a distinguished visitor in the Region who is leaving Ibadan this afternoon and I should like us to go to the Airport to see him off. The time of departure is 3.30 p.m. and we are all expected at the Airport at 3 o'clock.

(Opposition Benches: Are you inviting Members of the Government only?) I am inviting Members of the Opposition also, except they no longer represent the people of this Region. (*Laughter from both sides*).

Chief Olowofoyeku: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.05 p.m. until Monday, 13th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 13TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance, and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

I wish to explain that today, we have an invitation extended to us. We are visiting the Tobacco Company and we are expected to be there at about 2 o'clock. If Business of the House goes on well, I hope I should move the Adjournment of the House at about 1.30 p.m. so that we can go there in a body. Arrangements have been made for our reception.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL

—SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—

"That the Bill be read a Second time".

Question again proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr L. A. Ajimobi): I rise to support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill.

I am very happy to have a chance to voice out my opinion on the Budget for the present financial year that has been so ably prepared by our hon. Minister, Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran. He deserves the praise of Members on all sides of this House. One can dare say that preparing a Budget can not be too hard if there is plenty of money both in hand and expected, especially the former. When, however, one is passing through the difficult period that we are in now it takes a certain amount of gift of God to be able to plan to lead us into better times as Oba C. D. Akran has now done.

There are so many parts of his Budget Speech that are inspiring and if one were to comment on all he would take up too much time. Consequently I shall touch only a few of the points about which I feel so strongly.

We have heard a very clear statement of our problems both internal and external. At home, to start with, unless we are prepared to forget the past and work together, all hands would not be on deck and time and energy would be further wasted in empty bickerings. Those who have won in the bitter fratricidal struggle must be magnanimous and we on this Side of the House are. Those who have been effectively vanquished should be brave enough to admit even at this late stage.

Some of our more tedious problems are external. It is becoming clearer to everyone through sober utterances in this Legislature and in the Federal Parliament that our economic independence from our former colonial masters is still to be won.

The British Prime Minister came to this country and tried to pretend he did not know of neo-colonialism. What greater evidence of this can one have than the conspiracy of the cocoa-buying countries? I am happy to hear that ways and means would be devised with which to cope with their intrigues. What is so sad and annoying today is that whatever aid these people who buy our raw materials pretend to give us they take back more through our exports and imports.

The hon. Minister of Finance deserves praise along with the other people involved, including civil servants, for the launching of the Integrated Rural Development Scheme. Given a chance this would really change the face of the Region. One must confess that the Farm Settlement idea is not really the solution to our economic and labour problems and, in any case, the contribution of that scheme, which has now been superseded, to our progress is very little. I would like to suggest that on the psychological level our Ministries of Education and Information should begin work in earnest to see that our youngsters, and even the grown-ups, are rid of the view that clerical jobs are necessarily the thing to do. We must confess that we still need to emphasise more the decency of manual work, particularly of the skilled type. One may say here that any manual work can have a serious element of skill worked into it and so it is in particular with modernised farming. The same goes for the rosy opportunities being thrown away in the Armed Forces and Police.

[MR AJIMOBÌ]

Returning to our external problems, anyone would agree by now that when we drew up the Six-Year Development Plan we were perhaps even unjustifiably optimistic about the quantity of external aid we could get. We must all congratulate Oba Akran for the firm and definite attitude he has taken on the matter. We have now seen that it would be more realistic for us not to bank too seriously on these "crumbs from the master's table". Self help only can be our true hope for progress. Again the gingering up of our people for communal efforts will need serious consideration and I am sure it is being given the attention it deserves.

One cannot omit in a speech like this to thank the Minister for considering it fit and proper and in line with general demand, to pass on some collected taxes to local authorities for their services. When one remembers that the Minister has less than enough, to say the least, one would appreciate more this fine gesture. I am sure I am expressing the true feelings of all sides of this House if I say that we all hope that the Local Councils would behave responsibly with these funds and would not engage in foolish spending or embezzlement.

The hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development has talked about the Census and how we must accept the figures. After all they favour us in every respect. We are the largest single ethnic group. If we can manage to work hard to unite we shall forever be a force to reckon with. In revenue allocation, I am sure every Member will see that our position will improve.

I would like to thank the Minister for the various plans he hopes to finance, concerning Ibadan. I say this not simply because I am from this great city, but because Ibadan is growing fast and expanding in every direction. The Water supply and the drainage schemes are two things we must thank the Minister for. He deserves the hearty congratulations of Members for the success of negotiations with U.S.A.I.D., slow as they have been.

The attention paid to University of Ife in the allocation of money is another matter for which the Minister deserves commendation. In the past in that University we had people who were not sufficiently objective in their criticisms. The Government has not decided to starve the University of funds because of this. I do hope this would clear the air surrounding allegations usually made.

At a time of need such as this, one would be too easily dazzled by would-be investors dangling millions of pounds before our eyes and hiding the untidy strings and conditions they usually attach to their loans. We must thank God that we have such a matured and shrewd man to keep our finances. I am sure he would always choose wisely for us. We are emerging fast from the immediate dark past.

The attitude of co-operation adopted by the Government has been the most sensible. It has been confused deliberately by people who choose to deceive as a policy of a sell-out. Co-operation with the Federal and all Regional Governments is imperative if we are not to throw away some of the good chances of our own kith and kin at home. The isolationist policy of the past, which led to the rationalisation of the hysterical cry "First-in-Africa", is no more necessary. There is no more need to taunt and abuse our brothers. Let us work hard and co-operate with others and our future will be as safe as that of others at least. The plan that has been so well prepared for the various challenges which face us is really wonderful.

Once more, I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance, Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill and I am very happy to have a chance to point out that last week, the Member for Egbado South-East (Alhaji Opaleye) claimed that a sum of £12,960 has been appropriated for capital expenditure (apart from £18,854,890 for recurrent purposes). This financial year, this requires more than passing attention because the hon. Member will realise that out of this sum, a total sum of £3,600,000 is to be derived as loans and grants from external sources. Therefore, the hon. Member for Egbado South-East will have to correct the graph. We budgeted more on the side of revenue this year than previously. Taking into consideration the Midwest Region, a sum of £3.6 million out of the total, which is not more than £31 million, is enormous.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in support of a Bill of this type, it does not necessarily mean that one has got to give it a hundred per cent praise. Members opposite should therefore expect some severe criticisms of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill in so far as it projects the Government's financial policy for this Region for the current financial year.

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

As for praise, there is much of it but I dare say, it goes to the civil servants whose loyal devotion to their duty continues to save a Region that politicians would have otherwise ruined economically. This is because politicians have the tendency to approach economic matters from the point of view of their individual gain in terms of election victory and acquisition of Government patronages for those they love.

Coming to the shortcomings, the bulk of the blame goes to our Ministers and the party policy they set out to implement. Sir, in Western Nigeria there has been in power these last fifteen months a party that abhors socialist policies. It has changed its name and pretends to be democratic. Democracy is good as a philosophy of political administration but unless socialism is made the basis of the economic aspect of the administration our type of Government may not differ much from primitive democracies under which disease, hunger, poor housing conditions and poor and inadequate amenities made life an intolerable affair. Democracy under those conditions would create life abundant only for the men on top.

If, therefore, the Government wants to become a Government of the people for the rest of its short span of life it must take note and remedy the following faults which I prefer as charges against it.

First, its financial policy is one of extravagance. Two many Regional Ministers—otherwise known in certain quarters as glorified Parliamentary Secretaries—are in the Government. There are ten of them where only three are sufficient. Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed to do practically nothing productive to the economy. This is particularly undesirable in Ministries where you have Regional Ministers. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has just been pointed out to me that I was a Parliamentary Secretary before. I agree Sir. When I was a Parliamentary Secretary, the Midwest Region had not been taken away and we were less than ten Parliamentary Secretaries.

One indefensible practice of this Government is the application of public revenue or resources to the furtherance of the cause of a political party as well as the cultural party which acts as its patron. I refer, Sir, to the NNNDP and the Egbe Omo Olofin. The propaganda and the advertisements that gave them birth were provided by Government funds and machinery particularly by those of the Ministry of Information. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, I prefer, as a second charge, that this Government is wasteful due to injudicious appointments. These injudicious appointments constitute a direct waste of public funds, and this Government is guilty of it. The appointment, for instance, of an organising secretary to the UPP, now the NNNDP, in the London Office in the guise of the Region's Agent-General is improper. The former holders of the post, whatever their faults, had served the corporate will and interest of this Region irrespective of our political creeds. Today, however, the propagation of the ideals of the NNNDP is the pre-occupation of the Agent-General for Western Nigeria in London. The performance of his constitutional duties are secondary to him. Money now spent on that Office therefore is a waste.

Sir, at home Government distribution of social amenities and provision of development funds are inequitable. In Ekiti Division for instance, the allocation of funds as grants for community development projects was so apportioned among the council areas as to show clearly communities that the present Government would be prepared to treat as unwanted and undesirable and who could be condemned for destruction but for their value as tax payers.

This year's estimates of expenditure do not indicate any change of heart on the part of this Government. No new pipe-borne water scheme, for example, is earmarked for any part of Ekiti. Such discriminations can only aggravate the spirit of sectionalism rather than foster the spirit of unity to which the Government party pays lip service.

A fourth deficiency in the financial policy of the Government, as revealed in the Budget under consideration, is the inadequacy of investment of capital in agriculture and the failure to assist to enlarge the farmer's productive activity. Out of a total revenue estimate of £18.9 million the contribution from cocoa export duty and cocoa sales tax is £3.5 million. This represents nearly one fifth of the total revenue although it excludes both the income tax payments by farmers and the revenue derivable from palm produce, rubber and other vegetable products. This being so, farmers, rather than politicians in general and Ministers in particular, should receive the lion share of the economic cake. This can be achieved by way of increased cocoa price of not less than £140 per ton during the coming season. Seedlings of amazon cocoa can now be sold for one penny each and seedlings of other crops can have their prices reduced in order to encourage the farmer to enlarge the acreage for his crops.

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

Bursaries should be awarded to intelligent farmers to take courses in farming and for wives of farmers to study the elements of home economics in order to make the farmer more competent at his work and thus become a greater economic asset to the community at large. In addition these farmers and their wives may be given facilities to study farming methods in Ghana, Israel, Trinidad and such other foreign countries where advanced techniques of farming are to be found.

Government policy in the administration of our forests leaves much to be desired. To accelerate the exploitation of the forest timber without providing an adequate means of regeneration or afforestation is to perpetrate a rubber economy and spell ruin for the future of this aspect of the economy. What is morally bad in this respect is that certain functionaries of the Government are benefited at the expense of the Treasury. Timber contractors pay heavy bribes in order to obtain concessions. This happened in Ekiti with regard to concessions negotiated at Aramoko and Ise.

The financial aspect of Government's education policy is lacking in foresight. Very recently, an eminent Divine criticised the Government for shifting its financial responsibility more and more from its own shoulders to those of the missionary societies that do voluntary educational work in our Region. (*Interruptions*).

Mr C. A. Williams: Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 27 (6). The hon. Member should not speak of corruption.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Ekiti has not cited any Member of the House as being corrupt.

Chief Babatola: In all socialist countries, education is the affair of the State. This is as it should be because an educated people are a bulwark against the enemies that would readily undermine the power and integrity of a State. Such enemies are ignorance and superstition. If this Government, therefore, can invest more money on education and at the same time provide more employment opportunities, most of its financial troubles would vanish.

(*Government Benches: Where do you expect us to get the money?*)

In the sphere of road development, the policy of this Government has nothing creative. It is not even determined to maintain a fair standard in the case of existing

roads. The incidence of accidents on the bumpy roads has increased exceedingly in the last fifteen months. It speaks well of the people that the Government has not been taken to court by the tax-payers who lose not only their vehicles but the lives of precious relations and the lives of their clients.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to state that a re-statement of its financial policy is incumbent on this Government. A new list of priorities should be drawn up and executed. Free education, efficient road system, agriculture of a socialist regime and a health scheme heavily subsidised from public funds ought to be conspicuous features of our financial and economic programme.

When this is done, Sir, and until it is done, I do not intend to subscribe my fullest support to the Government's Appropriation Bill.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Mr S. A. Sanni): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill which has been ably moved by our respected Oba C. D. Akran, by the Grace of God, Minister of Finance. In doing so, Mr Speaker, Sir, may I congratulate this Government for a successful job done during the 1963-64 financial year and pray that the NNDP Government may grow from strength to strength. (*Cheers*).

Through you, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is most gratifying to note the amount voted from the services of these important Ministries, namely, Agriculture, Education and Health. May they yield good dividends in return.

I pray the Government to build more hospitals in this great city of Ibadan, in view of the fact that its population increases daily, to start Ibadan Water Supply Extension work immediately, to start Ibadan drainage scheme at once, and to hasten the arrangement for recruitment of Modern III girls into the Local Government Police Force.

My contributions will not be complete should I fail to make mention of the ugly rumour being circulated in this city about the reduction of taxi-cab passengers from five to four. Since the cost of vehicle licence remains the same, there is no point in reducing the number of passengers. If this rumour is correct, I strongly appeal to the Government of the NNDP to shelve such a plan as taxi trade will be rendered unprofitable.

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

The Government Chief Whip (Mr R. A. Lana): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the progressive Budget he has presented to the House this year. It is one of the best Budgets we have had in ten years. In his speech, the Minister explained the causes of the reductions in revenue and expenditure so well that every progressive element that really understands the explanations has nothing to quarrel with in the Budget. In fact, this Government needs to be congratulated for doing so much, so soon, and so far to improve the financial position of this Region.

People who felt that assistance cannot be obtained from external countries have been told of the £4.5 million from America on long term repayment basis. In like manner, more loans shall be obtained soon from other countries for our development in the Region. This is a credit to this Government, especially as the Minister of Finance had stated that we are going to start on a clean sheet this year. When we realise that the current Budget shows an estimated surplus of well over £2 million, one must praise the efforts and ability of the Government to improve the finances of the Region so soon. There is a ray of hope for a very wealthy and healthy Western Nigeria under the banner of the NNDF Government of Western Nigeria. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

This Government needs to be congratulated on the work of reconstruction already done in this Region although enemies of truth will fail to see this. I wish to mention two most important steps taken by this Government to lay strong foundation for the work of reconstruction. This Government has taken it upon itself to promote unity in Western Nigeria. When we talk of reconstruction, something must have preceded it and that is destruction. People who say that no work of reconstruction has been done have failed to see the destruction the Action Group Government had done. (*Shame, shame*). The Government has taken it upon itself to promote unity in Western Nigeria in particular and the whole of the Republic of Nigeria in general. Unlike the Action Group Government of old—May its soul rest in peace (*Government Benches: Amen*)—this Government has improved the relationship between the Western Nigeria Government and the Federal Government; the gulf dug between these two Governments by the old Action Group regime is being filled gradually.

The first of these has been made manifest in the loans made available from the Federal Government recently. The second and

more important work of reconstruction being undertaken by this Government is the recovery of public funds from the N.I.P.C. capitalists—people who build strong financial empires around themselves at the expense of the innocent farmers of this Region. The Government does not stop there; further steps are being taken to prevent the formation of further “N.I.P.C.s” in the future. Those who think that no reconstruction work has been done forget that they themselves are the obstacles to the reconstruction when they back up those who carried away the public funds of this Region.

I should nevertheless make some observations on some vital points in the speech as far as they affect the Region and my constituency in particular. (*Opposition Benches: Where do you come from?*). I am from Oshun. One needs congratulate this Government on the bold steps already taken about the educational advancement of this Region. Despite all odds, Free Primary Education thrives on; Technical Schools are being built and maintained; Secondary Grammar Schools and other educational institutions are being maintained. However, I wish to point out two conditions to which I may draw the attention of the Ministry of Education. Some of the Secondary Modern Schools were opened for commercial purposes; fees are charged according to the wishes of the proprietors. The condition has now become so unbearable that parents are disinterested in sending their children to the schools. The population of the schools is falling at such a rate that many will disappear very soon. I will suggest that the Government comes to the aid of these useful institutions by regulating the fees of the schools and undertaking the payment of the salaries of the teachers in these schools. This is the only condition that can save these institutions. (*Opposition Benches: Fire on*).

My second point on education is on the condition of service of teachers in this Region. The Minister of Education, being a teacher in the past, must be aware of the rate at which good teachers leave the service. The teacher, knowing fully well that his promotion lies on paper qualification, spends most of his time in reading for the General Certificate of Education and other examinations. He is more conscious of his tuition for examination than of the lessons he delivers. The Morgan Report will soon be out like the Banjo Commission Report. I hope that the Government will do all it can to improve the lot of teachers and thereby improve the standard of education in this Region.

May I seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Education, on behalf of my

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people at Inisha, for a quick action in bringing Inisha Grammar School to the status of a public school thereby being eligible for Government assistance. The school was founded four years ago on purely community expenses and labour and in equipment and staffing it is second to none of its age.

May I congratulate the Government of the Western Region for the superb health scheme being pursued in this Region. Nearly every hamlet is provided with a health institution and there is no doubt that if this effort is not relaxed, we must surely build a really healthy Western Nigeria. I wish to call attention of the Minister of Health once again to the Rural Health Centre at Oyan built in 1959 but not opened till now. One other health centre built by community effort has now an average of over 300 attendants daily. The community of Inisha asks for special grant to develop the institution to the status of a cottage hospital. The community has recently launched an appeal for a fund of £30,000 towards this development. I appeal to the Government to come to the aid of this project.

I appeal to the Government through the Minister of Works and Transport for electricity supply in Odo-Otin. An electricity rate of 10s per capita has been raised for two years and we can now boast of about £6,000 in hand for this scheme. The live-wire from Oshogbo to Ilorin passes through the heart of Odo-Otin and we would like therefore to have an immediate aid from the Government to make this project a reality.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. A. Popoola (Oyo South-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, whilst I am not opposing this Bill, I have the following observations to make.

It is gratifying to note that this Government assured the youths of this Region of continued free primary education through the Governor's Speech from the Throne but it is equally disheartening to reveal that under the extinct UPP/NCNC Coalition Government, as well as under the regime of the present still-born NNDP Government, the primary schools under the different voluntary agencies throughout the Western Region suffer untold hardship today as a result of failure of the Government through one way or the other to pay the appropriate "Other Expenses Grants" for the running and maintenance of these schools. The Voluntary Agency Schools' proprietors in the Region with their different Administrative Assistants have been greatly

handicapped because of the financial embarrassment into which they are placed, thus deterring both the academic and administrative efficiency of our Primary Schools. It is not uncommon today, Mr Speaker, Sir, to find that most of our Primary School Authorities find it hard to procure pieces of chalk and notes of lessons' exercise books for the teachers' use in our Primary Schools! I would advise this Government to borrow a leaf from its predecessor, the former Action Group Government, which after procuring books, pieces of chalk, art papers, pencils, crayons and freak boards for all school beginners, paid promptly and regularly "Other Expenses Grants" of five shillings per child per annum, and ten pounds per teaching unit with equal promptitude and regularity. Teachers too were sure of their continued employment. The present system of merging of schools sacrifices education opportunities and efficiency on the altar of economy. Most children abandoned schooling because of distance from their homes and many more teachers lost their jobs overnight, as a result of the same policy. The remaining teachers have got too many strings to their bows, and academic standards have to suffer adversely.

Since the Primary School earns so-called full Government Grants and the Secondary Grammar Schools and Universities attract reasonable Government financial support, I see no reason Mr Speaker, Sir, why the Secondary Modern School should be self-supporting. How many of the 470 Secondary Modern Schools in the Region today are financially self-balancing? A number of them are dying slow but sure death because of financial stringency. Not only that; I repeat, Sir; not only that Sir, the future of the Modern School leavers is at present very uncertain. The policy of merging of schools has stopped them from teaching in large numbers; and who can tell whether this is not why parents and guardians would rather make their children resort to crude ancestral farming, rather than attend a Secondary Modern School after their primary school course? In order to facilitate the possibility of the average Western Nigerian child attending a Secondary Grammar School, the Government should reduce the fees to a minimum, within the reach of more citizens who value education.

I refer this honourable House, Mr Speaker, Sir, to the recent incident in Ilesha Teacher Training College where the whole batch of students had to be suspended indefinitely, for alleged misconduct, by the hon. Minister of Education, Chief D. K. Olumofin. Some

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reports said that either fortunately or unfortunately, the Minister of Education was in the College compound at the time of the alleged revolt. I would say, Sir, that it was most unfortunate for the hon. Minister to be in the college compound at that particular time because he had personally, perhaps through being power-drunk, aggravated the whole situation to that unfortunate extent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, of all the educational institutions in the Federation of Nigeria today, I cannot imagine any which is more morally, educationally, religiously and economically disciplined than teacher training colleges. The nature of their profession as nation-builders and the kind of training they have received make the students such. With his presence and intrusion the hon. Minister of Education meddled with the day-to-day running of that institution. He took up the work of the Principal, a work for which he was not trained, and he did not give the poor gentleman a free hand to run his college. The atrocious order came from above for indefinite suspension and the Principal had no alternative than to accept it. What a Minister of Education! What a Western Regional Government!

The University of Ife is our highest educational institution of which Western Nigeria is proud today. But recent events have got far-reaching effects on our hopes and aspirations. Through political vendetta, suppression, oppression, intimidation, incrimination and persecution, the Regional Government has attempted malicious destruction of our cherished hopes. Mr Speaker, Sir, please allow me to quote a portion of His Excellency's Speech from the Throne on the above-mentioned subject: page 12, paragraph 52.

"My Government continues to give all necessary support and encouragement, both moral and financial, to the Authorities of the University of Ife, to enable the Institution to fulfil its educational functions by planning to produce graduates of high academic standing, imbued with sterling character and high sense of discipline, who will become useful citizens, of whom this Region, and, indeed, the whole of our Republic would be justly proud. My Government appreciates all the difficulties and handicaps, which the staff and the students are currently having to contend with.

It is, therefore, doing all it can to find the funds to enable the University to erect its own permanent buildings on the site

acquire for it in Ife, and to move thereto as soon as possible."

If, according to the Speech, the Staff and the Undergraduates have been placed in any difficult position, who did it, and how was it done? This particular Western Nigeria Government did it by displacing men of substance, men of integrity, men of technical know-how both indigenous and expatriate, men whose displacement created such gaps that it will take years to fill. What a heartless Western Regional Government. What a calamity on our race!

Mr Speaker, I come home to my own constituency—Afijio. In the whole of Afijio area, there is only a mile and a half of our roads tarred and that is in Ilorra. The tarred road through Fiditi is a Federal Road. The one through Awe is a Regional road leading to Iwo. It is a disgrace to travel on Afijio roads today for their dustiness in dry seasons and marshiness in wet seasons. These roads need tarring immediately:—

- (a) Fiditi-Iware-Akinmorin;
- (b) Awe-Akinmorin-Bankole (Ibadan Road);
- (c) Fiditi-Ilu Aje-Ijaiye Ojutaiye;
- (d) Ilorra-Imini-Ilu Aje;
- (e) Ilorra-Oluwatedo-Odo Ogun;
- (f) Akinmorin-Imeleke-Alabi Olorunda;
- (g) Awe (Kiyesen)-Alabi-Olorunda;
- (h) Akinmorin-Idi Igba (Ilorra Road).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that all these will be heeded immediately since I am sure that the hon. Minister of Works and Transport is equally as interested as myself on these requests.

Happy it is, Sir, that Oyo township is now electrified. But as the neighbouring towns like Awe, Akinmorin, Ilorra, Fiditi and Iware are closely adjacent to Oyo, Afijio people would be glad to have these towns electrified as well in order to match on shoulder to shoulder with the present-day amenities of Western Nigeria.

Now to the last, but not the least point. Mr Speaker, Sir, I refer to the proposed Afijio District Council. Ever before the crisis of 1962, a Commission of Enquiry was conducted under the regime of the Action Group Government of Western Region, on the possibility of excising Afijio District Council area from the Oyo Southern District Council area. On the eve of the expiration of Dr Majekodunmi's Administration, he (the Administrator) announced the granting of the noble request. But as soon as he departed

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and the new and present regime stepped in, things took a dramatic change; not for better, but for worse. The ambitious Bales, Chiefs and people of Afijio are constantly deceived by the use of delaying tactics. I hereby appeal to the Minister of Local Government and his colleagues to use their good offices to establish the Afijio District Council forthwith.

The anomalous state of affairs as at present existing in the rank and file of Western Nigeria Government warrants a fresh election rather than making the care-taker committees of dissolved councils declare for the NNDP, because they are all men chosen by the Government.

If all these points are heeded I will then register my full support for the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

Chief S. B. Aruwajoye (Owo South II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill and to congratulate Kabiyesi Oba Akran, the Minister of Finance, on the able and laudable manner he had presented the Bill which is intended not only to give financial stability but to rehabilitate the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, last Monday in his speech, Oba Akran earnestly appealed to the people of the Region for unity by sinking their differences and joining forces in the great task of reconstruction in the Region. The immediate response to the appeal is tremendous as well as encouraging. The majority of intelligensias and the common people, particularly in Ondo Province, are solidly behind the NNDP Government. The impressive and royal reception given to the Premier and his entourage during the inauguration of the NNDP in Ondo Province is a living testimony that the people of Ondo Province have declared for the NNDP.

Mr Speaker: Order. The hon. Member is reminded that we are not discussing the NNDP now.

Chief Aruwajoye: As a farmer, I would like to express the gratitude of the farmers to the NNDP Government for the assurance that no pains or efforts will be spared to get fair prices for our main crops such as cocoa, coffee, etc., so that every farmer will enjoy life more abundant. The farmers would be happy and grateful if the Government could increase the price of cocoa by the next season.

The Government under the able and wise leadership of our beloved Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, with his team of capable lieutenants deserve our praise for the recent development in the Region.

The peculiar and strategic position of Owo in Ondo Province since the creation of the Midwest State cannot be over-emphasised. I therefore make this humble request that the Government should build bridges over Ogbese and Ala Rivers on the Owo-Idanre road to link up Owo, the southern gate-way to the Western Region, in Ondo Province, with the Lagos-Benin road so as to shorten the journey to Lagos by seventy miles for the hardworking and enterprising inhabitants of Ondo Province.

The emphasis placed on Education is noted with pleasure. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the importance of moral and spiritual education to be emphasised and encouraged so that the coming generation will be so disciplined in body, mind and spirit to be equal to any situation.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I support.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, in normal circumstances, the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, could be regarded as very inspiring and also as one which could give a ray of hope to the people of this Region. (*Cheers*). But, Mr Speaker, Sir, the circumstances are not normal. The Region, which we all belong to, is facing a period of financial difficulty. Poverty is manifest all around and the people of this Region, no matter to what political party they belong, now suffer because a Government, which is not chosen by the people, is in power today.

I could see that serious efforts were made by the Minister of Finance throughout his Speech to make us believe that a glorious financial year stares us in the face. But I will like to take you back, Mr Speaker, to the financial provisions of this Government in the last financial year, 1963-64. You will see that under the provisions for the Ministry of Education there has been too wide a gap when you compare this provision with the provision now made in the financial year, 1964-65. Refer again to the Ministry of Works and Transport, there are big proposals, like the building of roads, tarring of roads, water supply, both urban and rural, and also the supply of electricity to the towns and villages in Western Nigeria. You will see, Mr Speaker, that in the last financial year's Budget exactly these same provisions were also made. But what did we find during the last financial year? No single mile of road was tarred. Not only that, water schemes are now a thing of the past. Electricity supplies are not easy to come by. It is true that

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in one or two towns the electricity installations which had been completed by the Action Group Government, were just declared open by this Government. They cannot take credit for those. Those were the jobs done in the good old days of the Action Group of Nigeria. I propose, Mr Speaker, to dwell extensively, when we come to the Committee of Supply, on various Heads of the Estimate. By that time it will be appropriate for me to raise a number of matters which I think will serve as an eye opener, not only to the people of this Region, but even to the Government of the day.

Throughout the Speech, Mr Speaker, emphasis was laid by the Minister of Finance on the importance of agriculture in our national economy. There is no doubt about that and I share his views in that regard. But with the present policy of the Government I cannot see how this Government can achieve anything by way of improving our agricultural system. It is true that mechanisation of agriculture has been the war-cry of all Governments of this country in the past, but I fail to see any concrete proposal in this Speech, though a benevolent Speech indeed, being made by Government as to how mechanised agriculture can be introduced. If this cannot be introduced in places like Badagry or Abeokuta, why not in Ogbomosho which is a savannah land and which can do well with mechanised agriculture? I want mechanisation of agriculture in all parts of the Region so that not only will our farmers have maximum yields from their efforts but so that other young school leavers will certainly not look down on agriculture as a means of living.

The Minister has spoken extensively about the fall in the demand for our cocoa produce. It is true that in the world market today, not only Nigeria suffers in this regard, all other cocoa growing countries also suffer. But I would have thought that Government which claims to be doing the work of reconstruction—I don't know at what stage the work of reconstruction will start but the Government always claims to be doing the work of reconstruction—for the past two or three years, since the price of cocoa abroad has fallen terribly, is not aware that efforts should be made, not only to expedite investigation to process our cocoa products and even other agricultural products of this Region, but also to show in its financial budget evidence of sincere efforts on its part to tell the cocoa growers of this Region that they no longer in future have to look forward to foreign countries, or so to say, the consumer coun-

tries, for the better price of their cocoa. In this Region and all over Nigeria, and all Africa for that matter, cocoa production is so great that Nigeria as a whole and Western Nigeria, which is the greatest cocoa growing Region in the Federal Republic, will not benefit from the prices which the other countries are offering for our products. I cannot see how this Region can cease to be in perpetual bondage of consuming countries until we have taken steps to see that products such as cocoa, palm kernel and timber are duly processed here at home.

As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, the new provisions of the 1964-65 Estimates are mere reproductions of the provisions of the 1963-64 Estimates, and since the Government failed to implement their promises, there can be no guarantee also that they will be able to implement these provisions in the Estimates, the speech of the Minister of Finance notwithstanding. We want to see actual results, not only inside this House, or in Government offices in the Secretariat, but also in the field and all around.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance, he dealt extensively with the excision of the Midwest Region from the former Western Nigeria and claimed that there was no substantial or tangible reduction in expenditure as a result of such excision. I disagree entirely with that view of the Minister. In the past, when we were controlling the Government of this Region and the hon. Minister of Finance was an influential arm of the Government at that time, it used to be the Government spending £4 for every £1 realised as revenue from the Midwest and if that were to be the case, Mr Speaker, how then can the Minister argue convincingly that since the Midwest Region was carved out from this Region there was no reflection of that in expenditure? I think there should be, because the revenue of that Region will be down by £1 for every £4 and the expenditure should go down by at least £3 for every £1 that was down in our revenue from the Midwest. That also, Mr Speaker, shows the extravagance and the way the money of this Region is being wasted and also is being used for purposes for which they were not intended. However, I will not waste the time of the House on this subject as I am keeping my powder dry for the Committee of Supply.

Oba Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. If the powder of the hon. Leader of the Opposition is very inflammable, I shall escape through the window! (*laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: The powder that I will bring to the House then is one which does not break necks. It is a powder that may have to be rubbed on the faces of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development. It is certainly not a harmful powder as such.

I know, Mr Speaker, Sir, that amendments have been duly filed to most of these Heads of Estimates which require our proper scrutiny in the interest of the taxpayers of this Region but one other aspect of the Speech that I will like to refer to is in respect of grants from the Federal Government. I am not saying that the omission was deliberate, but I think the Minister of Finance omitted certain things in the financial Budget Speech. As I have said earlier, the Minister emphasised at great length the importance of Agriculture in our economy and I also agree with him that that is true but he has not told us of what use the Government has made of the £0.7 million which was a grant by the Federal Government under the Six-Year Development Plan. Mr Speaker, Sir, if you look at page 10 of the Sessional Paper on the First Progress Report on the Federal Government Development Programme, 1962-63, you will find that £1.1 million was granted to the Eastern Region, £0.7 million to the West and £2.2 million to the North out of a total £25 million earmarked by the Federal Government as Grant to other Regional Governments to finance their own Development Programmes. The Federal Government also made a grant of £1 million to be shared among the various Regional Governments but all these were kept away from the speech of the hon. Minister and where any reference was made to anything received from the Federal Government it was referred to as a grant which has been included in the recurrent expenditure. This grant from the Federal Government is intended to assist the Regional Government in financing its own Development Programme.

On Agriculture, Mr Speaker, Sir, gone are the days when the small farmers in the Region can have ambitions and try to realise those ambitions. If you go to important parts of this Region like—let me take them home, Mr Speaker—Badagry, Ogbomosho or Ago-Iwoye, you find a triangular combine of new farmers rearing poultry. We are not yet ready to say more about various Heads of Estimates but I should mention this now; that there were allegations that Government labour is being diverted to the farms of certain individuals and I can

give this assurance, Mr Speaker, that due investigation will be made and enquiries will be conducted into these allegations and those found guilty of the misuse of public funds certainly will be brought to book but I will appeal to Government to see to it that the ordinary man does realise his ambition by making it possible for him to obtain day-old chicks for his poultry rearing instead of having to face serious competition from influential Government favourites. This farming syndicate of three, I think, ought to be carefully looked into. It should be broken up in the interest of the small farmers in this Region.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I hope you are not imputing any motive.

Alhaji Adegbenro: No, not at all.

Again on Agriculture, sometime ago, I think it was when the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources introduced the Bill to establish Agricultural Credit Corporation, I made the point that serious allegations of bribery on a large scale and also corruption *in extenso* are being made against the the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Up till now, Mr Speaker, the Minister has not denied or confirmed these allegations and he, as a matter of fact, will have to come before the House and tell us whether the allegations are in fact correct or not. I also made the point that the Government set up an enquiry to look into these allegations but refused to publish the report of that enquiry. I called on Government at that time also to publish the report and damn the consequences if only to absolve the Government from the charge of dishonesty and corruption. As a matter of fact, as I speak now, Mr Speaker, I have it also being brought to my notice that in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, before a concession is given to a prospective forest exploiter, at least £1,000 per square mile is collected from him. As a result of the colossal bribery and corruption, the whole forest reserves of this Region have been wasted away and you know, Mr Speaker, because you are in a better position to appreciate the fact, that if we lose our forests, danger looms largely ahead of all of us, and therefore I will cry aloud and let the people know that in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources their inheritance is being wasted because some people want really quick money.

The Government has made a promise to retail traders; and in the Budget Speech efforts had already been made to assure retail traders of their position in the present day market but what effort is the Government

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making in order to see to it that these petty traders are protected against competition of Syrian and Lebanese combines? It is good that we talk about local petty traders but even then we still have Syrians and Lebanese in the trade also claiming to be petty traders but they are not traders as such. I think the interest of these local petty traders should be protected so as to save them from the onslaught of these expatriate petty traders.

You will find in the Speech that the Minister stressed the point that there was a surplus of £2.8 million carried over into the Region's Equalisation Fund from last year. Can I say, Mr Speaker, that the sum of £2 million was already left in that Fund since 1962 when the Action Group was in power in this Region? The Action Group left in the coffers of this Government at the end of 1962-63 financial year not less than £5 million. I wish, Mr Speaker Sir, that the Minister had been courageous enough to let us know that the money is not there and it is true that he mentioned that expenditure has gone down by about £5 million but, as I said earlier on, the expenditure ought to go deeper down than that because of the excision of the Midwest Region from the former Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker Sir, as for Local Councils, the Minister of Finance promised that all the revenues accruing from the collection of P.A.Y.E. system will be remitted to all Local Authorities in the Region. That is a very good thing really but the point is that that does not go far enough to retrieve all the Local Authorities since they have now become bankrupt financially for about two years and, Mr Speaker, the Government ought to do something to make Local Authorities viable. It is not enough to include this provision—after all it is the making of this Government that the Local Authorities are just what they are. For instance, people contested elections to these Local Authorities in 1961, they won the elections but no sooner did this NNDP Government come into office than their councils were dissolved. All councils within the Region virtually had been dissolved.

Mr Speaker Sir, your town's council was dissolved; it was dissolved even though you won an election into that council on the ticket of the Action Group. All councils in the Region virtually have been dissolved and it will interest you if I recall to your mind the statement made by the Minister of Local Government. He initially dissolved twenty-five councils, we thought that was too bad, but later he dissolved fifty-two and soon

he dissolved all. I wonder whether Badagry Council is still an elected Council?

Oba Akran: Yes; it is still an elected one

Alhaji Adegbenro: But for all I know, Ajeromi District Council, which is in part of the constituency of Minister of Finance, is under a Management Committee.

Why do I have to recall this Mr Speaker? It is because the Government tries to show that the Councils are financially not viable. But who brought this about? It is the Government. When they put crooks, who cannot even win local elections, in charge of finances of the Councils, they ought to know what will happen.

I can cite an example which will bring my points vividly home to the Government and to the Minister of Finance. I take the Abeokuta Urban District Council. Speaking quite frankly, the Council was in financial difficulty. The Council was dissolved and an expatriate civil servant was made the Administrator. This civil servant rendered very useful services. Within a year he brought the finances of the Council to a rosy position. The Emergency Administrator, and even the UPP/NCNC Coalition Government, now the "Northern Nigeria Devils Party" Government endorsed the set-up and said it was good. In a market, where only £2 was being collected daily, this man was able to collect up to £14. Because that Council is now financially strong, that is why they have been able to establish the brewery at Abeokuta. But in the Gazette published only last Thursday, Mr Speaker Sir, the Egba Urban District Council is now under the management of rascals.

Oba Akran: On point of information. May I know whether the hon. Gentleman wants to tell us that all Egbas are rascals?

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Leader of Opposition knows the rascals, he himself being an Egba man.

The hon. Leader of Opposition's time is up but I am using my discretion to allow him five minutes more.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I am so grateful, Mr Speaker, that you are so generous to me.

I would like the Government to be courageous enough, not only to test its popularity elsewhere, but to leave the Civil Servants alone.

Mr Speaker Sir, the last but not the least is the role the Obas and Chiefs are playing in the affairs of the Government of this Region. I simply want to say this, Mr

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

Speaker, that they are supposed to be fathers of all the people in this Region, because the people of this Region have a great respect for our Obas. If the great respect for the institution of Obas and Chiefs in this Region is to be sustained, I would like the Obas warned not to make themselves playthings in the hands of politicians. Politicians go, politicians come; the Oba and Chiefs should regard all the members of political parties in this Region as their children. If they regard themselves as fathers, they will continue to enjoy the loyalty and respect of the people. There should be no occasion for an Oba to play politics and, by the Grace of God, when the Action Group comes into power, the Obas will once again enjoy the prestige and respect to which they are entitled.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Cheers*).

Mr Y. Adekunle (Oshogbo South-East Urban): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for a sum of some £28.2 million for recurrent and capital expenditure for the services of Western Nigeria for the year 1964-65 and particularly for £12.75 million which is intended to be expended on capital works.

In the past, the Action Group Government which ruled this Region had concentrated most of its development energies on Remo Division; and Remo Division, with due respect to the hon. Speaker and without any intention to ridicule or humiliate any particular person, has a population of only 155,725, according to the new census figures, and only two parliamentary seats in the Regional Legislature. In this very small Division several millions of pounds of the Government of this Region had been sunk in the form of amenities like good roads, electricity, water supply, Government assisted schools, industries like the Remo Rubber Plantation, and in the distribution of Government patronages.

At the other end of the scale, there are bigger and far much more populous Divisions which received very little or no Government attention. The development philosophy of the Action Group Government was "Life More Abundant". It was indeed life more abundant for the few, and, If I may say so, for Remo Division in particular. Oshun Division, with a population of 2.08 million people, according to the new census figures, and with 18 parliamentary seats in the Legislature, is almost virtually neglected.

This brings me to Oshogbo whose interest and constituency I represent on the Floor

of this House. The town and its immediate hinterland has a population of 685,951 which is more than the population of the whole of Ijebu Province put together, and yet it enjoys not up to five per cent of the share of amenities, Government patronages and other development projects concentrated on Remo Division alone. This, to my way of thinking, Sir, is nothing short of day-light political robbery.

Looking at the Estimates for Capital Works which are now before this House for consideration, I am, however, immensely pleased that provisions have been made for the building of the High Court and the Judge's Quarters in Oshogbo, as well as the strengthening and widening of "Ogbomosho-Oshogbo-Ilesha" road. On behalf of the Chiefs and people of my constituency, I would like to register my appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for these provisions in the hope that these projects, as proposed, would be implemented as soon as possible.

I wish to say, however, Sir, that there is a vital omission. The Farm Settlement in Oshogbo is approachable both from Ilesha road and from Ede road which leads to Oshogbo township. The road which connects the Farm Settlement to these two roads is not motorable for its entire length. I would have thought that in the preparation of the Estimates, a provision would be made for the re-construction and tarring of the Farm Farm Settlement Road so that equipment, materials and labour could easily be transported from, and to, the Farm Settlement.

It is an economic truism that a good transport system is one of the arbiters of industrial progress. Any economic project which is not well connected to the market by a good system of communications would find it difficult to succeed because factors of production like labour, materials and equipment should be easily transportable to the site of the economic activity while the products or the harvests should be quickly, cheaply and easily transportable to the centre of population. It is thus a two-way process. By hypothesis, therefore, Mr Speaker, the Oshogbo Farm Settlement should be well connected to Oshogbo township by a good network of communications. The road concerned in this particular case is the Farm Settlement-Jamegbo-Itaolokan-Ede bye-pass road. It will indeed be a good thing if the reconstruction and the tarring of this road is included and considered *pari passu* with the Draft Estimates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with this important observation, I beg to support.

Mr N. A. Adibi (Ogbomosho North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support whole-heartedly the Appropriation Bill, 1964-65, as presented by our able Minister of Finance in person of our respected Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran. The Budget has been rightly termed "Challenge Budget". Today we are faced with the challenge of unemployment, the challenge of education, the challenge of agriculture, of health, of unity, peace and progress and the challenge of living a real and full life in our God-given land of unparalleled resources. There is no doubt that we shall, all of us, rise as a man, to the occasion and respond responsibly, honestly, and successfully to these very highly exciting challenges of our time.

I like, Mr Speaker, Sir, to make some observations on some points touched in the Budget Speech. Firstly, the Government should be praised for the prominence given to the development of Agriculture in the scheme of things. Development of Agriculture is one of the few, surest ways of providing profitable employment for our youths. The field of Agriculture, very potential as it is, is not yet fully exploited. We cannot all be teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and so on. The Region needs modern farmers in order to promote our health and stabilise our economy. I think, Sir, the Government will consider making greater propaganda on what is going on in our Farm Settlements, Farm Institutes and Integrated Rural Agriculture Scheme. Cinema shows of the activities of these establishments should be shown more frequently to students in our schools in particular, and to the public in general.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now turn my attention to Education. This item has the biggest claim on the revenue of all other individual items in the Budget. Any amount of money spent on this item is wisely and well spent. The rate at which literacy is growing in our Region today is highly commendable to the glorious credit of this Government.

There is a point, Mr Speaker, Sir, to which I like to invite the attention of the Government for consideration. A circular has been sent to Secondary Grammar Schools that students, no matter how weak, who are in Form V in a school which runs a Six-year course, or Form IV in a school which runs a five-year course, should be automatically promoted to the final year class, much against the judgment of the masters who have been working with those students since their first year in school. The West African School Certificate results always prove the teachers right and those of such boys already employed temporarily in Government offices are kicked

out immediately it is known that they fail their examination. Secondary school teachers will greatly appreciate Government's help and co-operation in making effective their judgment in the promotion of students to the final year Form in their respective schools.

Again, Sir, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for the invaluable help rendered to this country by making available to our schools the services of the Peace Corps Volunteers. The members of this Corps are doing their best to help us, as a young developing country, in the task of nation-building. To the United States Government and to the members of the Peace Corps now serving us in this Region in particular, and in Nigeria in general, we owe an incalculable debt of gratitude, a debt which cannot be expressed in terms of pounds and shillings. In the same vein, we thank other various foreign agencies who have contributed to our educational development.

Local Government Councils form the foundation of our national Government. It is therefore very reasonable and kind of this Government to provide a means of improving the finances of the local government councils by allowing them to retain certain tax assessments. But, Sir, a Local Government Council cannot function well and serve its useful purpose without good staff. Efforts already made to improve the service conditions of Local Government Council workers are commendable. There is room for improvement; senior staffs should be given the opportunity of seeing local councils at work in foreign countries. Seminars could be organised to improve their work and efficiency. I appeal to the Government, Sir, to review the question of vehicle advance for local education officers and other senior officials of our Local Government Councils. I think they all deserve encouragement from the Government.

There is considerable improvement in our Local Government Police Force generally, and I thank the Government for the encouragement given from time to time to improve the lot of members of the Local Government Police Force. It is hoped that the Government would continue to encourage the Local Government Police Force and soon bring their conditions of service in line with the service conditions of their counterparts in the Nigeria Police Force.

It is the avowed policy of this Godly Government of the Nigerian National Democratic Party to restore the lost glories of our Obas and chiefs, enhance the dignity of their office, and put them in the respectable

[MR ADIBI]

position befitting them as fathers of all. Long may our Obas and chiefs reign to help the cause of unity, peace and progress in our land. Our Obas and chiefs deserve all encouragement.

We all are grateful for the many and various schemes and aids given to our farmers of different categories by the Government. The establishment of the new Agricultural Credit Corporation ushers in a new era of boom for our farmers. Farmers will have greater opportunities for obtaining loans to improve their land crops and stocks. It is hoped that farmers will make good use of the golden opportunities given them by the God-fearing NNNDP Government, their friend and bene factor.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is to the great credit of this Government that hospitals, maternity centres and rural health centres are provided all over the Region. "Health is wealth" so an adage goes. The success of all development programmes is inseparably woven with the health of the people for whose benefits the programmes are planned. Our people know the value of their health and are therefore making a profitable use of the health services provided by the Government on a surprisingly increasing measure. As a result, many hospitals, rural health and maternity centres are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with rising number of their in and out-patients. More doctors, more experienced nurses, and technicians are needed. The Ogbomosho General Hospital is a typical example. That hospital today can do with the services of two more doctors in addition to the one there now. Ogbomosho is the gate-way between the North and the South along the Trunk A Road.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Ogbomosho General Hospital is not patronised by Ogbomosho people alone but people in surrounding towns and villages, and even from abroad, patronise that Hospital considerably. One doctor alone cannot cope with the work in that hospital. When adequate provision has been made for doctors, adequate provision should also be made to equip the hospital with drugs and other things, such as X-Ray equipment, blood bank, technicians, etc. Without enough good tools a workman will labour in vain, because he cannot achieve much.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the Minister of Health to help us in Ogbomosho by getting the X-Ray equipment, the laboratory and the blood bank to start full operations at the earliest possible time. We in Ogbomosho thank the Government most heartily for past

consideration and co-operation. We certainly are looking forward to receiving more.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a Government established by God Himself, and no power or principality shall be able to assail it.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Appropriation Bill, I should like to direct the attention of this House to some points which will guide this Government. In the interest of our progress and development, to which we are all committed, I will once again appeal to the Government to provide jobs for our boys and girls.

I could remember last year, when the Premier and his Deputy drove in a procession round the town of Ibadan, the people of this Region sounded a key note to their hearing by telling them that NCNC/UPP coalition Government was welcomed but the people wanted jobs. They therefore appealed strongly for jobs. The then NCNC/UPP Government promised jobs but they did not provide any job before the NNNDP seized power overnight.

If I may, Sir, I should briefly like to explain this. An important source of revenue on which we rely every year for financing our Development Programmes is the surplus we are able to make on our Recurrent Budget. In these days when free grants and other similar assistance are hard to come by, the surplus from our Recurrent Budget has always formed the most dependable source of revenue for financing our Capital Projects but if Recurrent Expenditure were so high as to completely swallow up Recurrent Revenue, there would be no surplus available to transfer to our Capital Development Fund and this Government shall be the worse for it as it is now.

Turning to page 50 of the Estimates, over £2 million is to be spent in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In fact, the Government is doing everything possible to improve agricultural assistance to the farmers. The officers' duty is to educate the farmers on how to improve their products in order to make them feel happy. If the farmers are well treated, many people will like to join them but their poor condition makes it impossible for young men to think of farming. Mr Speaker, Sir, many Primary School leavers and Modern School leavers do not have work to do and none of them will like to go and do farming work because they are not interested in doing it. Why? The farmers are very poor and the Government does not think any good of them.

[MR OYEWOLE]

All the roads leading to many villages in Ibadan District are bad. I visited Akufo village one day, the bridge which had been damaged since last year had not yet been repaired. The farmers living in Akufo area suffer whereas the Ministers do enjoy in their Government quarters. All the roads in Ibadan are not properly maintained. The Government does not care for the roads but it chooses to introduce municipal buses to this town to run on these bad roads. Tell me, Sir, when the roads are bad, how can the people or passengers in the buses enjoy their travelling? Really, there will be no enjoyment whatsoever. If this municipal bus scheme is introduced, I am sure the Government cannot gain anything for it will only support the Ibadan City Council to run the buses in Ibadan at a loss because the I.C.C. supports the Government of the day.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I praise the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government for the way and manner in which he dissolved all the councils which failed to team up with the NCNC/UPP last year. But this year, I must warn him not to apply that old method; if he does, certainly law and order will break down once again in this Region.

I could remember, Mr Speaker, some staff in Ibadan working for I.C.C. failed to get their salaries last year. I like the staff to get their salaries at the end of every month without any difficulty or any delay. We cannot imagine the Ministers not getting their salaries between the 18th and 25th of every month. I do not know, and I see no reason, why these people serving the councils cannot also get their salaries regularly every month. The people serving our councils are making the work of the Regional Government very easy and without them the Government may not know how to handle the affairs of a town to the best interest of the inhabitants of that town. If the condition of things in this Region is not improved, the people will ever continue to hate this unpopular Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr A. O. Akingboye): I beg to support the Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. The financial policy of the present NNDP Government is really good and the general control of the Government finances by the Treasury is worthy of credit and that credit goes to the able Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran.

Normally, Sir, one would have thought that the Region would not be able to budget for both last year and this financial year because of the difficulty created in the way of financial stability caused by the diversion of the funds of this Region to the coffers of the N.I.P.C. which came to light two years ago.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank goodness that the Government has been able to recover about £8 million worth of properties from the Company. You will see that the general control of Government money by the NNDP Government is very good. A practical example of this is that the Government has a surplus of £2.8 million as at 31st March, 1964. The Government has set aside a substantial amount of money to solve unemployment by the introduction of Rural Integrated Development Programme Scheme which was recently launched at Eruwa about three weeks ago. This will give employment to our youths in the rural areas.

The Government need be praised for the creation of Western Nigeria Agricultural Credit Corporation which will give loans to farmers especially those who will plant permanent crops such as rubber, cocoa and coconut. You will notice that sales tax on rubber in particular is terribly marked down by the creation of the Midwest Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that there are prospects for our export duties on cocoa and palm produce during this financial year. May I say, Sir, that the financial policy is definitely very practical and sound and I need only at this juncture to praise the prudence and the hard-work of the Premier of Western Nigeria, Chief S. L. Akintola, and his Deputy, Chief "Fani the Power", and the able Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, and their colleagues in the Government and the officials concerned.

Sir, at this time, I must show the gratitude of my people at Okitipupa to the Government of this Region for the great amount of about £23,000 given to the town. There is no doubt, therefore, that this Government is working steadily towards the economic stability of Western Nigeria, especially of our finances and Development Programme. I am sure, Sir, and I can boldly say, that Western Nigeria is already on the track to stability.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (E. O. Oke): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill ably and courageously moved by the Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran. In this respect, I praise the efforts of the Minister of Finance.

[MR OKE]

The speech is a masterpiece in that it portrays the beginning of another chapter in the new era of the social, political, economic and educational development of this Region. Socially, the Budget Speech reveals some aspects that will make the people of this Region live in peace and not in pieces. It makes people understand their problems and how to solve these problems more systematically.

Economically speaking, this Budget Speech shows possible ways of solving the problem of mass unemployment which is one of the conventional headaches of the whole world.

At this juncture, Sir, I am filled with ecstasy of joy in that the economic aspects of the speech deal with the following:

(i) labour—which welcomes all classes of workers into the same organisation idealistically and humanitarily;

(ii) trade—which is basically utilitarian form of union, responsible for collective bargaining to secure better wages by all measures;

(iii) industry—which is responsible for the unity of all workers into a more coherent and centrally controlled organisation;

(iv) it deals with business because it expresses immediate and Ministerial objects of trade unionism; for fixing prices, control of production, institution and consumption of articles.

Having considered all the above-mentioned thoroughly, the Minister of Finance deserves special wealth of encomium in that the realisation of the above-mentioned explains the economic consciousness of the Region.

Again, Sir, another point of emphasis in the Speech is on Education. This must be mentioned in that it is not anything that we should omit in this Debate. We must mention the advantages and disadvantages derived from Education. The outcome of these systems throughout the years was a standard of excellence on the part of the Government of Western Nigeria. It is in the interest of Ministers, inspectors, teachers, parents or voluntary agencies.

Amidst all these, I wish to stress strongly that today we live in the age of machines. There are some households in the township that do not depend now-a-days upon machines, directly or indirectly. Manual labour is being superseded by electrical

power. Handloom weavers are going out of date. Things can be done by machines, transported by machinery, planted by machinery, designed by machinery and electricity and especially for the everyday amusements which are being provided by radio and television. Every home in the township and, sometimes in the district, has had to depend on electricity. Nearly every office is equipped with telephones and operating machines of all kinds and this mechanisation of life will increase and expand from day to day. Hence we must have well-qualified mechanics and technicians to manage them.

The need for industrial education in our Region is no longer a subject for debate. Today, we are eager to get to our places to site industries, get power driven machines and engines. Not only this, with the music of the progress of our Region, and in order to accelerate progress in this direction, I am making an appeal to the Minister of Education that a larger and much larger room must be found for science subjects in our curriculum and courses of study. If it is possible, new schools may be opened for this now or the fate of the redundant schools examined so that they could be used for this purpose.

Before I go to another point, Sir, I cannot but emphasise the following to the Minister of Education. If people believe that special education raises the morale and intelligence of a nation, making it to understand democratic responsibilities in the proper spirit, it then improves the culture of the people. It paves the way for the appearance of great men and we feel that it ensures that they will not only live but contribute generously to the progress of this Region as a whole. It will also solve unemployment in the Region and I, therefore, strongly submit that the Minister of Education needs find possible measures to see that specialisation of education is encouraged in the Region.

Before I take my seat, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Education. Though we realise all his activities on education in the Region, yet I cannot but mention certain analysis for the benefit of the schools. Some teachers are working vigorously, still others depend on reading for examination. If there will be any form of promotion, remuneration, or encouragement in the schools, I am now making an appeal to the Minister of Education that he should not depend on paper work, on passing any examination, but should depend on ability as well.

[MR OKE]

My words of praise go to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources for his policy about farmers which I appreciate very much. If the farmers are encouraged to plant some permanent crops, such as kola-nuts, coco-nuts, cocoa, etc.; they will fetch them money at old age and they will have enough to eat at old age.....(interruptions). As I was saying, Mr Speaker, the man who is ungrateful when an act of mercy is bestowed upon him is like a thief who meets another person on his way and deprives him of his gold.....(laughter)

I wish to express my sincere thanks to this Government for all the amenities to my area but we still need the following: we want industries; we have electricity or electrical power; we have plenty of water and we have pieces of land—all these things can be installed and if these things can be done by the Government, we shall be very grateful. We need extension of electricity to some parts of the town which are not enjoying these amenities; some parts of the town are enjoying these things and we still want it to be extended to other parts of the town. Again, we need the immediate completion of our water supply. If this is done, our people will be happy...(interruptions).....

Mr Oyewole: Point of order.—Order 27(2). A member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion.....

He should not come here to tell us we want this, we want that.....

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Gentleman is treating the subject under discussion. He is not out of order and he could continue to say what he wants the money to be used for.....(cheers).

Mr Oke: I am grateful, Mr Speaker.

As I have said before we still need loans from the Government to repair our roads, both in the township and in the district. I am appealing to the Government of the Federation through this Government that we need big and standard post offices at Ogbomosho.....(interruptions).

Before I conclude, I cannot but repeat the expressions which have been made by one of our popular orators which run thus:

Mr Speaker: There is one thing: I hope Members will heed the appeal of the nation's leaders about tribal sentiments. I think it will not be very proper for us in this House if we allow the floor of this House to be used for fanning tribal sentiments.

Mr Oke: Thank you, Mr Speaker, they cannot understand.

Before I conclude, I will like to quote the words of an orator that run thus:

“Life seems to be a Mission

In which each individual is bound to play his or her own part;

However small, However great in this performance,

Will either make history or will not leave any footprint on the sand of time;

And the Mission of any individual is to make his life better for others;

If by dint of the pen or of the gun or of the brain or of brunt or by a combination of any or all the above.

This can be well achieved or well-angled in this life time”.

I am now making my appeal to the side of the House opposite me, that whilst others are playing the game of life, they will not be punished, they will not be killed, they will not be exterminated, they will not be chastised or ex-communicated or tabooed....(interruptions).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to praise the Budget Speech so ably delivered by the Minister of Finance, His Highness Oba C. D. Akran. He has carefully analysed our financial problems and how to solve them. I want, however, to make these observations on the Speech.

It appears, reading through the Speech, that the Minister of Finance was struggling to impress on us that our sources of income were grossly inadequate for our expenditure on developments, especially Capital expenditure. Elsewhere, when the Minister was talking on the Casino (Licensing and Taxation) Bill, in reply to our worthy Leader's suggestion on increasing the Casino revenue tax from 12½ per cent to 25 per cent so as to replenish the Treasury, the Minister's answer was “We have not been in trouble with our recurrent expenditure. What we have not got is sufficient money for capital development but for recurrent, we have quite enough”

May I state clearly, for example, Sir, that the Budget now before this honourable House for approval provides for the personal use of the Premier, the twelve Ministers in his office and their dependants a total sum of £63,710.

Apart from the Premier and these twelve Ministers under him we have twenty-two other Ministers and fourteen Junior Ministers, making a total of thirty-six Ministers, whose

[MR AKERELE]

relatives and dependants must be kept as gardeners, drivers, etc., at the expense of the tax-payers of this Region. Our present Government claims that it has fifty-eight Members on its side. Of these thirty-two are Ministers and seventeen are Junior Ministers; there are altogether forty-nine Senior and Junior Ministers whose relatives and dependants must be maintained by the tax-payers of this Region as drivers, gardeners, nightwatchmen, cooks, stewards, etc. I have carefully studied the Budget now before this House and have noticed that this present Government squandered over one-quarter of a million pounds in this way.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government has plenty of money to do all these things and trot round the globe ostentatiously at enormous expenses; yet they have no money for capital expenditure such as construction and tarring of roads as in the days of the Action Group; they have stopped provision of pipe-borne water; a scheme that was vigorously pursued under the Action Group Government. There is no money for erection of electricity beyond where the Action Group left off; no money to build more hospitals or even rural health centres. There is also no more money to help the farmers or pursue agricultural projects as zealously as in the days of the Action Group. Grade III Teachers' Colleges have to be closed down because there is no money. Allowances to Government scholars; the few pounds that are paid them, had to be reduced from £55 to £15 because there is no money. Schools have to be merged and teachers dismissed because there is no money. Establishment of local industries has to be curtailed because of lack of funds, and yet our Government has plenty of money to line their personal pockets as already analysed. The remaining six Members who are holding no offices now are waiting, Sir, to become Provincial Commissioners on equal privileges as their Comrades in the Ministries.

I challenge this Government, Sir, to deny that they deliberately and fraudulently diverted the money paid by the tax-payers of this Region to either their personal use or to propagate the party they have surreptitiously established. I have already proved how sumptuously these people vote money for their own use; now Sir, you will want to know how they propagate their fraudulent party at our expense. A Minister has been busy parading my constituency and saying that:

(i) The road between Egosi and Ire (6 miles) surveyed for tarring during the

Action Group regime will not be commenced until Egosi and Ire people embrace the NNNDP. The same warnings by the same Minister, through his emissaries, were given to Osi, Ilogbo, Ifishin, Orin, Irele-Ikeado, Ipawo, Omu, Iye in Ekiti North-East area for the roads between Aiyedeun and Irele (18 miles); Aiyede and Omu (5 miles); Itapa and Omu (8 miles); Ido and Osi (6 miles); Igbole and Aye (2 miles); Ido via Orin and Ifaki (10 miles); that these roads will not be tarred until the inhabitants in the areas declare for the NNNDP.

(ii) The Minister went to Oye and publicly declared that he withheld the community grants due to Oye for their Post Office and Maternity Centre built with communal effort because the inhabitants of Oye town refused to embrace the NNNDP.

(iii) What is most disgraceful, Sir, is that this Minister has threatened the Oye people that their Grade III Teacher's Training College will not be up-graded and will be closed down at the end of the year unless they all declare for the NNNDP. Moreover he said, the Principal of the College will be put on the extended scale if Oye people denounce the Action Group and declare for the NNNDP. Similarly that the provision of pipe-borne water for Oye which the Action Group had no time to complete will not be touched by his Government until Oye people declare for the NNNDP. He also insisted that no new local industries will be sited in my constituency until the constituents declare for the NNNDP. Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two types of selfishness guiding the principles of the financial policy of this Government, namely how to enrich the Members of the Government, and how to force the public to embrace their party which knew no election and is much afraid of it. Mr Speaker, Sir, their financial policy constitutes a shameful and violent rape of democracy and a gross misconception of the use of power.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before the financial wreck of this Region can be redeemed. Ministers' salaries and allowances must be reduced to £2,000 per annum, Parliamentary Secretaries' salaries and allowances to £1,000; Member' salaries, etc. reduced to £600. The fifty-two Ministers must be reduced to twenty-two; redundant posts created by this Government merely to provide work for their relatives and friends must be nullified. No salary and allowances whatsoever must exceed £3,000 per head in the Region, and the financial policy of the Government must be entirely insulated from

politics. The NNNDP must be voted out of power because it is the Action Group, in alliance with the NCNC, that can carry out all these vigorous plans.

With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (Mr I. A. Adelodun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to support this 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

In doing so I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran, for the Budget Speech he delivered so clearly and eloquently. The Minister never felt tired for the two hours and some minutes he spent in delivering the impressive speech. Anybody who listened to Kabiyesi would think he was younger than that. And to be candid, everybody would agree with me if I say that our Oba C. D. Akran is by far younger than his age in cheerfulness, in smile, in speech and in many other respects. (*laughter*).

The Ministry of Finance has started enjoying the fame and popularity it deserves since our Oba has been in charge of the Ministry, unlike the time the Action Group Minister was in charge. This year after the departure of the Midwesterners there is a decrease of £0.65 million. The difference is indeed very meagre in comparison with the number of people that went to form another Region.

It is gratifying to note that Ministries like Health—my own Ministry—Education, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lands and Housing, Works and Transport and some departments like Audit, Public Prosecutions and Legislature have all co-operated and responded admirably for savings on previous years' expenditure. Such savings will evidently afford the Government maximum efficiency for further developments all over the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this new financial year opened with a credit balance of £2,751,867 and it is also estimated that there will be a surplus of £2,350,300 at the end of this financial year. We will then have a total estimated surplus of £5,102,167 in the fund. Our detractors on the Opposite side will therefore note that the devil is not as black as it is painted.

(*An Opposition Member: Is the Government a devil?*) (*laughter*). Asking for loans from abroad is not necessarily an indication of poverty or that this Government is bankrupt. All of us, including Members of the Opposition, ask this Government for tarring of more

roads, construction of more bridges, building of more hospitals and rural health centres, establishment of industries in each constituency and all these cost money. Where do these people expect the money to come from? Our Minister of Finance is not a money maker, neither is the Premier nor his Deputy one. The money must come from somewhere, hence all these loans. These people who find nothing good in this Government should remember that even the Federal Government, which is the custodian of the money of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, asks for gigantic loans from abroad.

The effort of the Government in making provision for hospitals, rural health centres, dispensaries, water supplies, tarring of roads, constructing of bridges, grants for more schools, more grants for looking after the welfare of Ife University College is really praise-worthy.

I am indeed grateful to the Minister of Works and Transport, Chief A. O. Adeyi, and the Government at large for making provision to the tune of £30,000 in the new Estimates for the reconstruction of six bridges washed away in my constituency by the catastrophic floods of last year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also seize this opportunity to repeat my request for pipe-borne water supply in the final Estimates for 1964-65 at Okeho, Ilero and Iganna. I also pray for tarring of roads from Okeho to Ijio in my constituency. We seriously need a cottage hospital to be sited at Okeho for the use of the whole constituency. I discussed this often and again with my Minister, Dr Omitowoju, and I believe he will look into it at the earliest time possible.

I conclude by saying that Members opposite us may say anything about this Government; honey, called by any other name, will be as sweet. (*Hear, hear*).

The people of this Region will be told practically that this NNNDP Government is their saviour and it will deliver them from oppression, victimisation, suppression and all other vices of the Action Group and its allies. (*Cheers*).

I finally congratulate the Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, for the Appropriation Bill so ably presented.

With these remarks I support the Bill.

Mr A. O. Obadara (Ibadan North-West Suburban): I beg to rise and support my Colleagues on this side of the House who had spoken a lot about the Appropriation Bill moved by the Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran.

The Government Whip (Mr Fashola): On a point of order. Order 3 (2)

"A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that Mr Speaker may change the allocation from time to time".

I want to know whether he is speaking from his seat or the Speaker has allocated that seat to him.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman, from what I have noticed, is now an Opposition Front Bencher and as such he can sit anywhere on the Front Bench. (*shame shame*).

Mr Obadara: I say I am starting by supporting my Colleagues on this Side. This matter is a very delicate issue because the financial and economic position of the Region depends on the Appropriation Bill. In this regard we must economise the resources of the Region.

For instance I will say that the Farm Settlements in this Region should be cancelled. The Farm Settlements are very poor and I will say that it is a sheer waste of the time of our young school leavers. It is necessary and advisable for Government either to cancel it or improve it. For instance in Odeda Farm Settlement there were 600 trainees. Out of these 600 Farm Settlers about seventy-five per cent of them left the Farm Settlement looking for another job outside because Government told them that they were to be given certain amount of money to start on their own. The farm settlers do not even know how much they owe Government. Those settlers at Akufo, for example, do not know how much they owe the Government.

Another point which is responsible for the exodus of these farm settlers is the fact that Government told them they were to be given £3 a month and they would earn it for twelve years. In this regard it is very necessary for our school leavers to be trained as printers, carpenters, mechanics and so on, instead of going to the farm settlement which is a sheer waste of time. I say it should be cancelled.

Another method of economising the resources of this Region is that Ministers should be paid according to their work. This is a challenge because there is going to be enquiries set up to enquire into the bank accounts of these Ministers. (*interruptions*).

Mr Kotoye: On a point of Order. Order 2 (2). The hon. Member is not audible enough. I will like him to repeat the last sentence. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I have said often that Members ought to be attentive, not to judge the grammar or phonetics, but to listen to the essential points in regard to the economic and financial policy of the Government.

Mr Obadara: There are many Ministers who are not working for the benefit of the people of this Region but for their pockets. We have seen the Estimate for 1964-65 for this Region. The financial and economical(*interruptions*) (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Gentleman has been unduly interrupted. Order 29 (5) "Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking".

Mr Obadara: I will like to give warning to Ministers because we have seen the Estimates for each Ministry and we will watch and the Ministers will have to curtail their expenditure economically. (*Laughter*). Many of them are not doing the job for which they are paid. For example Fani-Kayode will be launching a new political party soon and with Government money.....(*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

(*Further Debate on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill adjourned till Wednesday, April, 1964.*)

ADJOURNMENT

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

I also wish to seize this opportunity to remind Members that we are all going out as a body to visit the factory of the Nigerian Tobacco Company where they are already expecting us.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun) I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m. until tomorrow Tuesday, 14th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 14TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.45 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

INTRODUCTION OF IBO, HAUSA AND FRENCH LANGUAGES IN WESTERN NIGERIA SCHOOLS

The Government Chief Whip (Mr R. A. Lana): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads:—

“That this House urges the NNNDP Western Nigeria Government to approve the introduction of the teaching of Ibo, Hausa and French languages in all schools throughout Western Nigeria and that each student be compelled to study any two of these languages in addition to Yoruba”.

In making this Motion, Sir, I have no doubt that it will receive the approval of all progressive, peace-loving and untribalistic elements of this Region. (*Prolonged applause*). In doing so, too, I am proud to say that we of the NNNDP put forth the intention to see that all diverse elements are united in the Republic of Nigeria. There is no doubt that when we teach these languages in our schools, we shall afford the coming generation of Nigeria the opportunity to understand one another and get more united than ever.

The educational value of the teaching of these languages cannot be over-emphasised. These languages are living languages; they are examinable and therefore can be offered by our pupils in higher examinations

In Nigeria today, like in any other community with diverse elements, when a different language is spoken among a group

who do not understand it, one is suspected of planning against such group or showering abuses on it. Therefore, the more we understand these other languages, the better for our mutual understanding.

It is necessary to mention the economic value of the teaching of these languages. Hon. Members will agree with me that the Yorubas, like any other ethnic group, are hard-working traders; they go to other parts of Nigeria, the French Territory and Ghana. For some time, lack of understanding of other languages has been a barrier to their trade. This barrier will automatically be removed if these languages are understood right from the school.

Judging from these facts, we can all see that the introduction of these languages in our schools is long overdue.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East): I rise to second the Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, the Government Chief Whip, Mr Lana.

In seconding the Motion I should like to say that the teaching of French Language has already begun in some schools in Western Nigeria and also some schools have started teaching Ibo and some other languages. I think the most important aspect of this Motion is that the introduction of Hausa language must be encouraged in the West.

Much has been said about unity in this country and I think if our children in Western Nigeria could familiarise themselves with these languages, they will be in a better position, both in their education and in their social dealings with themselves and also in the commercial fields. I hope the Members of the Opposition will not read any other ulterior motive into this Motion because much has been said in this Region that the Yorubas are more or less appendages of the Hausas. But, I feel that whatever happens, Hausa is one of the most important languages in this country and the language has a very predominant role to play in our affairs.

For instance when we went to Kano sometime ago, we almost felt we were in a foreign country because we were not familiar with their language and if much effort is made to learn this language rather than making our students learn Latin, which is of no use to our students, I think much useful purpose will be served.

For instance, when I was in the secondary school, I was asked to study Latin for about eight years. Today, I see that this Latin language is almost dead. Apart from the

[CHIEF OLAITAN]

academic value of the language, I cannot see where this language is spoken as a dialect.

I therefore support the Motion that the Western Region Government should take the initiative to introduce Ibo, Hausa and French into our schools.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Government Whip (Mr O. Fashola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion that this honourable House urges the NNDP Western Nigeria Government to approve the introduction of the teaching of Hausa, French and Ibo languages in all schools and colleges throughout Western Nigeria and that each student be compelled to study any two of these languages in addition to Yoruba.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this will enable our boys and girls throughout Western Nigeria to understand what is going on throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Not only that, it will bring unity and stability among Hausas, Ibos and Yorubas and among all the people of the Federation of Nigeria.

After leaving secondary schools, our boys and girls will not be afraid to go to Northern Nigeria to work or, if transferred to Eastern Nigeria, they will be able to work in co-operation with the people of the East.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief S. O. Sogbein (Egba North East): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not opposing this Motion. For the sake of one Nigeria, Yoruba, Hausa and Ibo languages should be taught in our schools. I wish the Government to persuade the other Governments of the Federation to do the same. After all, the hon. Leader of the Opposition speaks Hausa fluently. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: On point of information; the hon. Premier also speaks Hausa.

Chief Sogbein: So do many Members on this side of the House. But may I say that all the Members of this honourable House should start to study these languages. Of course, I have warned once that Yoruba language should be spoken in this House along with the English language so that many Members on the Government Benches may be able to understand what is going on in this honourable House.

We, Members of the Opposition, are lovers of Nigeria—one Nigeria. Therefore, we support this Motion.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion is good but we on this Side of the House are afraid of the Motion. The motive behind it we cannot definitely say.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the trouble in this Region is not a matter of languages, it is just how to carry on or to feed our schools well; finance our schools well and train our teachers to teach well; not a matter of multiplicity of languages.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are afraid. This appears, in a sense, a Motion from an obedient servant. Many of them on the Government Benches have been advocating that the Hausa language be made the *lingua franca*. We are afraid, Mr Speaker, Sir, if this is not a cunning way of making Hausa language the *lingua franca* of this Region, and the Federation of Nigeria. If not, we see no reason why this Motion should be brought here.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, the students have a lot to learn. They study English and their own language, and here it is stated that two of the languages will be compulsory in the schools. Mr Speaker, Sir, I see no reason why two of the languages should be compulsory. In any case the ones which should be compulsory should not be Hausa or Ibo. Leave the choice to the children themselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this Side of the House will not agree that any tribal language be forced on our children, if this is so, Mr Speaker, Sir, we shall oppose it. (*Interruptions*) . . .

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I): Mr Speaker Sir, I am not opposed to this Motion, but there are two points I would like to make. Already, our children learn Yoruba and English at school and if we make two other languages compulsory for them, we will make our schools, schools of languages. We who are teachers know how difficult it is to learn these languages.

The first part of the Motion is quite good but when it comes to the last part where, according to the Mover of the Motion, two other languages will be made compulsory in our schools, this will be very unfair to the children. Mr Speaker Sir, while it is possible and quite easy to force people to join the NNDP, it is quite difficult to make children learn what they have no interest in. Therefore, I advise that the learning of languages should not be made compulsory. Neither should

[MR AREOLA]

Hausa, which is the political language of the Members on the Opposite Benches, be made compulsory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order; if Hausa is the political language of the Members of the Government Benches then Ibo is the political language of the Members of the Opposition.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker cannot speak; he can only make rulings.

Mr Speaker: What I said should be made a ruling.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in support of this Motion. It seeks the unity of the Federation of Nigeria. You will agree with me that this Motion shows that this NNDP Government has shown its belief in the unity of Nigeria and its desire for better understanding among the major groups of Nigeria and the French speaking Countries, our international neighbours. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that all true lovers of this country should support this Motion.

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

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to say that the attitude of Government towards this Motion is a favourable one.

The Motion is:—

“That this House urges the NNDP Western Nigeria Government to approve the introduction of the teaching of Ibo, Hausa and French Languages in all schools throughout Western Nigeria and that each student be compelled to study any two of these languages in addition to Yoruba”.

Generally it would appear to be a good thing for our school leavers from Western Nigeria to be able to speak several languages, particularly Ibo, Hausa and French. Ibo and Hausa are spoken by a large section of the population of the Federal Republic of Nigeria while French is spoken by a very large number of African States in different parts of Africa. The introduction of Ibo and Hausa languages into schools and colleges in the Region is, therefore, likely to prove to be a potent, unifying force in the Republic. So is the introduction of the French language likely to prove a potent, unifying force in West Africa in particular, and the whole of the continent of Africa in general. The question of the

timing of the introduction as well as the question whether students should be compelled to study these languages requires very careful consideration before any final decision is taken.

Although it appears desirable to introduce these languages into our schools, the matter is not one that should be initiated in a hurry by the Western Nigeria Government. Several problems are involved, not the least of which is the question of the level at which the languages could be beneficially introduced in the first instance. Should they be introduced at the primary school, secondary school, or teacher training college level? Time is required to examine this question critically before a satisfactory answer could be given. For instance, if it is decided to introduce these languages initially in the primary schools, will this warrant the extension of the length of the primary school course or will it necessitate the dropping of some subjects from the existing curriculum in order to make room for the languages? If the languages are to be introduced at the secondary level, will it be necessary to provide what are known as “Language Laboratories” for their effective teaching? If the “Language Laboratories” are deemed necessary, it would be expedient to consider whether or not the Government is at present in a position to meet the cost, which is likely to run into many thousands of pounds.

Another problem which should be carefully considered is that of recruiting suitably qualified teachers to handle the subjects effectively. From this it follows that it is absolutely necessary to train the teachers of languages first before the languages can be introduced into the schools whether on a voluntary or on a compulsory basis. In this connection it might be easier to solve the problem of the teachers of the languages if, before the languages are introduced into schools, discussions take place between the various Governments of the Republic on the question of exchanging teachers and this also means that it would be wise not to introduce the teaching of the languages unilaterally in one Region. What is desirable here, for instance, is that teachers who could teach Ibo and Hausa in Western Nigerian schools should be supplied from Eastern Nigeria and Northern Nigeria respectively while teachers who could teach Yoruba in Northern Nigeria and Eastern Nigerian schools should be sent to those Regions from Western Nigeria in exchange.

Finally, there is the question of the cost which must be related to the commitments into which the Regional Government has already entered in other sectors.

[MR OLUMOFIN]

The teaching of the French language has already been introduced into thirty-seven secondary schools and teacher training colleges in the Region. The progress made in this field has been most encouraging and it is expected that as more teachers become available to teach the language it will be introduced into many more of our institutions.

It may be well to mention here, however, that it is not advisable to make the study of any of these languages compulsory to students until we have an adequate number of teachers available to teach them properly in all the institutions concerned. Moreover, I am sure that Members will agree with me that most of the problems raised earlier need very careful consideration before we commit ourselves one way or the other.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been pointed out that the Opposition has no objection to this Motion, and may I say, Sir, that the attitude of the Opposition to this Motion is equally a favourable one. But before I make one very important observation I would like to say that the second part of the Motion does not justify the purpose the Motion seeks to achieve.

The Minister of Education has already indicated that the Motion which now seeks compulsory teaching of the languages referred to cannot be accepted by Government. I do not know whether the statement of the Minister—because he speaks for the Government—can be taken by this Side of the House as an expression of the rejection by Government of this Motion.

In any event, be that as it may, the Motion being brought forward by the NNNDP, I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, is an after-thought simply because the Prime Minister of this great Republic has knocked the bottom off the claims of the NNNDP by his appeal to the Nation to sink all tribalistic tendencies and, if you remember, Mr Speaker, Sir, the NNNDP was formed on a Yoruba tribalistic platform. However, only last week, the Prime Minister came out openly in an outright condemnation of such tribal organisations as the NNNDP. If our Friends on the Other Side of the House now have a change of heart, it is welcome and I think it will be better for the people of this Region if they sink for a while their tribal outlook and try to work in harmony with all and sundry in Western Nigeria.

As a matter of fact, I was anxiously waiting to hear the Mover of the Motion tell this

honourable House that the Government of this Region had already consulted other Governments of the Republic so as to make this suggestion, which is very good in itself, acceptable to all the Governments of the Republic. The Mover has not given that indication nor did the Minister of Education give that indication and if the Governments of the North, the Midwest, the East and even of the Federal Republic, do not accept this proposal, where do we stand as people of Western Nigeria? Mr Speaker, where do you and I stand in this case? Our students will be compelled to learn these languages in addition to the French language which is already being taught in our Secondary Grammar Schools in this Region.

I wonder why our students should be compelled to study Ibo and Hausa languages? The NNNDP was formed principally as an anti-Ibo organisation but today, they appeal to us that we should learn Ibo language. (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, you gave a ruling a few minutes ago that that Side belongs to the Hausas and that this Side belongs to the Ibos. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I did not say so.

Alhadji Adegbenro: You said so, it is on record that you said so.

I do not know in what light our students will find themselves if this Motion is accepted in its entirety. I, however, have the consolation that the Minister has given an assurance that it will take a lot of consideration before the Motion can be implemented by Government. I know this is just a popularity-catching Motion to deceive the masses that the NNNDP members are democratic, they are not tribalistic but are only principally for Yorubas so that the unwary may be swallowed up by the introduction of this Motion.

In any event, Mr Speaker, Sir, it augurs well that our Friends are now having a change of heart. But may I warn also that the Government of this Region, before embarking upon the implementation of the terms of the Motion, should ensure that the provisions of the Motion are going to be reciprocated in terms by other Governments of the Republic of Nigeria. (*Cheers*).

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Under normal circumstances, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would have thought that the winding up of the hon. Minister of Education would have been sufficient. Under normal circumstances, Sir, I would have felt that the Leader of the Opposition should

CHIEF FANI-KAYODE

support this Motion. But apparently, Mr Speaker, Sir, we do not live under normal circumstances these days. Mr Speaker, Sir, despite the fact that circumstances under which we live have been compelled by persons who have no faith either in God or in themselves, it is not surprising that the Leader of the Opposition can say that the NNPP was formed on a Yoruba tribalistic platform.

If it is tribalism for us on this Side of the House to demand equality in this Federation for the Yorubas of Western Nigeria, then I am tribalistic. Again, Sir, if it is tribalism to demand that Yorubas should not be left behind in the scheme of things in the Federation, then I am tribalistic. (*Cheers*).

These people on the Other Side of the House want to throw the Region into perpetual domination by others for their own revival because they are dying. Mr Speaker, Sir, how can the Leader of the Opposition have the guts to stand up in this House and talk of tribalism? Yoruba people of Western Nigeria are the most detribalised people in the whole of the Federation. We have become so detribalised that we preach one Nigeria while other people carry away every amenity and every benefit provided in this country. Sir, may I say, the more education given to us the more detribalised we become. We have become detribalised because we have succeeded from generations to generations of educated people. We have thrown away village tribalism and parochialism. Yorubas have been carried away by slogans. They say we are tribalistic because we say that in the Cabinet of the Federation there should be representation of the North, there must be representation of the East, representation of the West and of Lagos on equal grounds. (*interruptions*).

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Point of Order. Debate upon any Motion, Bill or Amendment shall be relevant to such Motion, Bill or Amendment, except in the case of a Substantive Motion for the adjournment of the House. The hon. Member is quite irrelevant to the Motion we are discussing.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said before, I know that the issue of tribalism may be completely irrelevant. But as long as the Leader of Opposition, with all his experience in parliamentary practice, could bring in any irrelevant issue, it is incumbent on us on this Side of the House to give him an adequate reply.

Why is it that we who are not tribalistic suffer? It is because we are the only tribe in the Federation that has second generation education in this country. We are the only people with second generation education. It is the people who come from villages and shout "one Nigeria" that are still so parochial, tribalistic and selfish.

Though the Prime Minister has given us words of caution, Sir, no appeal can solve our problems. Mr Speaker, Sir, forgive me, Sir, if I speak with such heat. I shall endeavour to reduce it if reduction will give them more enlightenment on that side of the House. As the Leader of Opposition said, the Prime Minister has appealed to us to stop talking about the demands of our people for wrongs to be righted without an assurance that this will not happen again in the future, without an assurance that these wrongs will be righted. I would say that the battle for equality of the Regions shall not stop until it has become an actual fact. We are not playing a game of dice, we are not having funny games, it is all politics. They have children and their children will have children. They can afford to educate their children and they can afford to pull strings to educate them. How many people in Nigeria can afford to pull strings to educate their children?

Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Leader of Opposition started this talk about tribalism, he said without shame, Sir, that one Side of the House belonged to the Ibos, and that the other Side of the House belonged to the Hausas; which Side of the House belongs to the Yorubas? We here, Sir, belong to nobody but to our people in Western Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: That is a very wrong representation. I want to make that point very clear. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, I can well imagine why the hon. Leader of Opposition has become so agitated.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I am not agitated, why should I be? I am unruffled.

Chief Fani-Kayode: I know, Sir, and I sympathize with him very much under his present circumstances, but I will say Sir, before I take my seat, that I am looking forward to the day, Sir, when all of us here will belong to nobody but ourselves. (*Cheers*).

As I was saying, Sir, we on this Side of the House are looking forward to the day when the whole of the Federation shall belong to all of us in Nigeria, when every man in Nigeria shall be entitled to have his due share of amenities and benefits in the Federation;

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

(*Cheers*), when an Ibo man can stay in Western Nigeria and feel he is at home, when a Hausa man can stay in the East and feel at home. We can then exchange thoughts, ideas and feelings as members of the same society and no Region shall be made up of second rate citizens. But until that time comes, Sir, I can assure our Friends that any form of peace in Nigeria will be false and unwhole. Members on that Side of the House who form a barrier to unity should show a change of heart which will ensure solidarity in Western Nigeria in order to assure us the unity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (*Cheers*).

Mr R. A. Lana: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank everybody who has spoken in favour of this Motion.

It is unfortunate that some Members on the Opposite Side started to read tribalism into the Motion. Though those who started to support changed their minds just a few minutes after they have started yet I have to reply.

We introduced this Motion in order to dispel the fear of our Opposition Friends who think we are tribalistic in our ways. We want these languages to be taught in all parts of the Republic. It is unfortunate that these people started to introduce tribalism into this very short Motion by trying to spotlight only two languages: Ibo and Hausa. As far as making these two languages compulsory is concerned, we feel that they will give our children a very fine chance of understanding other languages.

As far as consultation with other Governments is concerned, I think the suggestion should have been a very fine one if it had been brought out with a clean mind. However I hope the Government will not hesitate to send the request to other Governments of the Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

INTEGRATED RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Motion by leave withdrawn

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE DOCTORS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

Motion by leave withdrawn.

APPOINTMENT IN FEDERAL SERVICE AND CORPORATIONS

Motion by leave withdrawn.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE NNNDP GOVERNMENT

Mr I. Ositelu (Ikeja North): Mr Speaker, I rise to move:—

“That this House has no confidence in the NNNDP Government of Western Nigeria because it is unrepresentative of the electorate, inefficient, corrupt, extravagant, vindictive and oppressive”.

This Government is unrepresentative of the electorate of Western Nigeria. During the 1960 General Elections in the West the people of this Region voted for both the Action Group and the NCNC with their policies presented to the electorate. There was nothing like the UPP or the NNNDP then. Those who now make up the NNNDP are the expelled members of the Action Group and those who stabbed the NCNC at the back. The electorate of the West do not know the NNNDP as yet. The NNNDP has not presented itself to the electorate of this Region. As a matter of fact, there is nothing like the NNNDP outside the Western House of Assembly, save on the pages of daily newspapers. The party has not been formally launched. It has no officers and no constitution yet. If the NNNDP Government feels that it is in effective control of the Region and that it is true, as is being announced daily over the WNBS, that all Obas, Chiefs, elders and the entire people of the West have declared support for the NNNDP, what is holding up the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, from dissolving the House and ordering for a fresh election? Mr Speaker, the Premier will then be in a position to present his programme to the people and leave them to judge.

Mr Speaker, when the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, was being returned to the West after the Emergency period, the nation was told by the Prime Minister, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, that this was in conformity with the decision of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. But what happened after another court, the then highest Court of our land, reversed the decision in favour of Alhaji Adegbenro? The Premier and the carpet crossers around him amended the Constitution retrospectively although they hadn't the required two-thirds majority to do this. The NPC Federal Government also passed a Law supporting the Amendment. It is clear to everybody in this country that the present Government was imposed on the people of this Region.

[MR OSITELU]

Mr Speaker, I say this Government is corrupt. I shall cite some occasions where Members of this Government had openly and cleverly stolen taxpayers' money from the Treasury. During the Emergency period in the West, the Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, told some friends of his in Lagos that if they were returned to Ibadan, he and his colleagues would come to this Region to commit daylight robbery on the Government. True to pledge, Mr Speaker, when they came back, what did they do?

During the Republic Celebration in October last year every Minister in this Region was given £1,000 from the Treasury as gift for the celebration. In addition all Ministers were given Local Purchase Orders to purchase goods up to the amount of £500 on Government account. It is interesting that workers earning 5s per day were not considered fit for 5s *ex gratia* award in spite of their services to the Region. At that time members of the Local Government Police in this Region were not paid salaries for months, because, as they were told, there was no money. Even the labourers working on Badagry road were laid off.

Mr Speaker, Sir, during Christmas last year, on the order of the Premier, every Minister was given £300 as Christmas present. I have never heard of any country in the world where Ministers are given Christmas presents by the Government.

The way Ministers make use of Government vehicles in this Region is highly revolting. Imagine cars purchased with the money of the poor taxpayers being used as taxis by some Ministers.

Whilst every effort is being made by the various Governments of other Regions to increase their revenue, the Premier of this Region, Chief S. L. Akintola, aided by his Ministers, is trying to suck dry the already nearly empty Treasury in the West. Recently the Government started to build a Cocoa Store at the Industrial Estate in Ikeja. The cocoa store should have been built at Apapa but for reasons best known to the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, he is building the cocoa store where he should have been building factories that can give employment to thousands of school leavers now roaming the streets in all towns and villages in the Region. There was a tender from a reputable firm of building contractors to build this store for £1.6 million but the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, gave this contract to Guinea Construction Limited for £2.6 million. I understand that £650,000 was given to the

NNDP by the Guinea Construction Limited after the award. It is part of this money that has been used in purchasing some of the NNDP Members in declaring for the party.

The other point I intend to make concerns the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr Onabamiro, has since the return of this Government to the West last year appointed himself the Forest Reserves Allocation Officer. During the first six months of their return to Ibadan last year, he made the sum of £17,000 on allocation of forest reserves to contractors. Mr Speaker, I am informed that this money was deposited in a Bank in a woman's name. I appeal through the Speaker to the Premier to allow the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr Onabamiro, to defend this allegation. If he denies I shall urge the Government to institute an enquiry to probe this serious allegation and I shall go to the Enquiry to give evidence on oath. I am sure the Minister cannot escape.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this Government is corrupt. Imagine the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources using Government labour to cultivate their private farms. At Ilogbo in Badagry the Minister of Finance has a four-mile square plantation. If hon. Members will go there—I have been there myself—they will see not less than twelve tractors and caterpillars belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture working on this farm. They will also see officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources working there.

Mr Speaker, also I have it on good authority that one Mr Sobo Sowemimo, a Lagos lawyer and brother to Justice Sowemimo, was paid £15,000 by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board in September last year. This amount was paid to him as professional charges. Mr Speaker, will it please the hon. Premier to tell this House what services this Lagos lawyer rendered to the Marketing Board before this huge sum of money was paid to him? I know the Marketing Board retains its own lawyers.

Mr Speaker, I say that this Government is extravagant. When Chief Awolowo was the Premier of this Region, when the Midwest had not been excised from the West, when the West was the richest Region in Nigeria, there were only twelve Ministers and eight Parliamentary Secretaries. But what do we get now? We are told the Treasury is empty and now that the Treasury is empty and the Midwest carved away, what do we get? Thirty-one Ministers, eighteen Parliamen-

[MR OSITELU]

tary Secretaries and four Whips. I leave the people of this Region to assess how financially responsible is the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another point which must be made in this House. There was a Nigerian destitute in United Kingdom. This man is a relation of Justice Sowemimo. He was employed by the U.A.C. before leaving for the United Kingdom. He spent three years in the United Kingdom and made no headway and eventually this man came back to Nigeria. On Justice Sowemimo's approach to the Premier, this man was employed by Co-operative Sales Association on a salary of £1,600, even though there was no provision for his office. Hon. Members, I leave the rest to you.

One other point of extravagance. Mr Speaker, Sir, at Ikeja there are three Government Rest Houses. There is also one Rest House belonging to the Western Nigeria Development Corporation. In addition, the Ikeja Arms Hotel, which is jointly owned by this Government, is there for the use of Ministers, Civil servants and other visitors. But what do we see? A house belonging to Justice G. B. A. Coker, of Coker Enquiry fame, a house whose rentage should not be worth more than £800 per annum, a house which has been vacant for almost three years, has now been hired by this Government at an annual rent of £2,500 and ten years rent has been paid in advance. Hon. Members, this must be a big compensation.

Another evidence of extravagance, Mr Speaker, is that during the census campaign tour undertaken by the Premier last year, one *Aro* and *Sekere* orchestra followed the Premier about his tour. I understand that this orchestra was paid £20 daily by the Government for amusing the Premier during his tour.

Recently, the employees of the National Bank of Nigeria Limited asked for a salary revision. The employees of this Bank are the most poorly paid Bank workers in Nigeria. But this Government refused to revise their salaries and instead proceeded to increase the salary of the Chairman of the Bank, a Chairman who knows nothing about Banking, to £7,500 exclusive of other useless allowances.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said here last week, there are now in this Region not less than ninety-six chairmen, executive directors and directors of Boards and Corporations. These chairmen and executive directors do nothing but issue senseless press releases everyday in the name of Akintola Youth Brigade and yet they are paid like Ministers.

Mr Speaker, I say that this Government is oppressive. I will list some of the oppressive acts of this Government since the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, was imposed on the people of this Region early in 1963.

The first job the "agents of reconstruction" did when they got to Ibadan early in 1963 was mass dissolution of Action Group controlled councils. They knew that these Councils were democratically elected but as they themselves were imposed on the people of the West by the NPC, they must also impose puppets of their choice thinking that by so doing the people of this Region will accept them. Mr Speaker, Sir, what is the result? There is no support for them other than on the floor of this House.

Reckless use of the power of Government was made to dispossess people of their belongings. But for the impartiality and the no-stake-interest of a Judge in this Region, the late Chief Shonibare could have lost all he had. The same goes for Chief Lanlehin. I know they will soon get up to say that the action they took was as a result of Cokers' Inquiry. Every sane person in this country knows what the Report was intended for.

Last week some Obas were sent to Lagos to protest to the Prime Minister against the treatment being given to Yorubas working in the Railway Corporation. Mr Speaker, Sir, I condemn the action of the Chairman of any Board or Corporation who victimises people because of their tribe. But how can this Government explain the sacking of over 500 employees of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation and of other corporations simply because these employees come from Ijebu Province? How can this Government explain the sacking of about nine lecturers at the Ife University because they did not share the politics of the Premier?

How can the banning of Ogunde's Concert Party by this wicked Government be explained? What has Ogunde done? Many of these people including the Premier have witnessed the play by H. Ogunde which he staged on the day of the inauguration of the 'Egbe Omo Olofin' and the Government has thought it right to ban the concert party now because the Ogunde's party appealed to them to "think and think".

These fake Apostles of unity has no time to plan for the welfare of this Region. Instead of employing their time in planning for the good of the people, what is their main pre-occupation? Changing of streets' names: Awolowo Street was changed to Ogundiran Street, and Adegbenro Street was changed to Kotoye Street.

[MR OSITELU]

They have been trying to destool Alhaji Adegbenro as the Balogun of Owo, yet they shout very loudly about unity. It is a pity some Obas in this Region are allowing themselves to be used by these unwanted people. Let these Obas be warned to steer clear of party politics. Let these Obas stop attending party political campaign meetings. Only last Saturday in Ondo, the Premier and his Ministers went to Ondo, so they say, to launch their unwanted NNNDP and the Oshemawe of Ondo was brought to campaign for the NNNDP.

It is the duty of Obas to support the Government of the day but not to take part in politics. As I said, I like to warn all the Obas to steer clear of party politics, because they are fathers of all, if they do not, we shall treat them as politicians and they will have themselves to blame.

With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion of no confidence in the NNNDP Government, headed by Chief S. L. Akintola, for many reasons. These can be summed up in three words, namely: incompetence, wickedness and wastefulness.

The hon. Premier is a square peg in a round hole. His administration of the affairs of this Region betrays gross incompetence, indolence and squandermania. This loquacious Premier, of the West, who is endowed with the gift of the garb, excels in indescribable acts of duplicity, mendacity and perfidy. He believes he could talk everything off with his vitriolic tongue by hurling crude abuses on opponents. The hon. Premier has yet to be educated that vulgar vituperation and vicious calumny are no answers to the problems facing Western Nigeria.

Sir, the antecedents of the hon. Premier conjure him up to one's sight in bold relief as a personification of ineptitude. As a teacher he was a misfit; as a civil servant he was a failure; as a journalist he was a flop; as a lawyer he was an untimely abortion; and as a politician he was, and still is, a bungler. No wonder he lacks all the qualities required of a Premier or a leader!

As a Premier he lacks administrative ability, political sagacity, capacity for hard-work and respect for truth or simple veracity. I wonder how he came to the post. Of course it was Shakespeare who said—

"There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall proceed to recount

the catalogue of misdeeds and acts of incompetence of the hon. Premier. They are very many but I shall just name a few:

1. Betrayal of the Action Group and the NCNC.

2. Reversal of the decision of the highest Court of the land.

3. Betrayal of friends, *i.e.*, Alhaji S. O. Gbadamosi, his benefactor. But for Alhaji Gbadamosi's help he could have been stranded in England, and he could not have been able to qualify as a lawyer.

4. Attempted and wrongful acquisition of the properties of political opponents and former friends.

5. Waste of public funds—Premier's Office cars are used as taxi cabs. They are used to carry tarts and prostitutes and women of shady character and to do NNNDP work and private business.

6. Forming political parties from among legislators—parties which never contested a single seat in any election.

7. Using Government vehicles for party political campaigns.

8. Using Government press and stationery to print the private document of another political party—the NCNC document on tribalism.

9. Depriving honest men of means of livelihood. For example mass dismissal of Ijebus from Western Nigeria Development Corporation, etc., the banning of Ogunde's Concert Party, a concert party owned by an Ijebuman. This party was banned simply because this man appealed to the Premier to "*ronu*". The Premier asked this man to compose a play for him. When the play was staged he was there, listening with rapt attention and with saliva almost running out of his mouth. Maybe somebody told him that this would ruin the Premier's party and he immediately said: "ban that party". One would have thought instead that this Government should have banned the particular play. After all this man had composed about twenty other plays. Instead of banning that play which is objectionable, the Premier banned the whole concert party. This man, who is supposed to be the father of all, instead of being father has turned a veritable wolf devouring honest people.

10. Base recourse to sectionalism or sectional prejudice and interest as political method and policy. It is the hon. Premier who propounded the philosophy of the differences between the Yorubas and the Ijebus on one hand and between the Yorubas and the Ibos on the other. (*Interruptions*).

[MR AWOPEJU]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to you to speak to the hon. Premier, for this is too base, sordid and mean propaganda stunt by the Head of a Government. Then also he always peddles tribal misunderstanding between the Yorubas and the Ibos. I will urge the hon. Premier to read the appeal by the hon. Prime Minister. It is recorded at page 24 of the Official Report of the House of Representative's Debate where he said that those fanning the flame of tribalism in this country are not more than 200,000 people. He said:—

"I am afraid we have been carried away by the masses. We appear to be petty minded and the worst thing about it is that the people who are preaching tribalism are only a very small group of the population. When I refer to the group I mean that it is confined, I think, to no more than 200,000 of the vast population of this country. It is confined to those of us who are in the Regional Legislature and those of us who are in the Federal Legislature. It is confined only to those of us who have the privilege and the opportunity to serve the best interest of the country, but unfortunately because they are too selfish they want to remain always in office. That is why they went to steer up this inter tribal misunderstanding".

They were the people who were called upon by the people to form the Government and who, instead of catering for the welfare of the people when the going was good, did not, and when they were told to go, they did not want to go but sat tight *Nwapaistically*.

11. The hon. Premier retains Chief Moore to conduct his own case and it is the money, of this Government, the poor taxpayers' money, who tried all they could to rake money to pay their taxes, that is used to keep this man in office by fair or foul means, in fact I would say, by fell and foul means.

12. Allowing members of his household to engage in unwholesome competition against the product of a trade or industry of his own Government. For instance the Fanta industry by A. G. Leventis is being advertised by members of his household against our own Mirinda and Pepsi Cola industry.

13. Constituting our Obas and Chiefs as Organising Secretaries of his ill-fated NNNDP.

14. Diversion of Government funds into the coffers of his party. There was a story of the Jute Flax deal, whereby through the machination of this Government these people stole £175,000 of the poor taxpayers of this Region's money—the Marketing Board's

money—to recruit hooligans, thugs and other undesirable characters, as NNNDP members.

15. Appointment of illiterates as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, while lawyers and other intellectuals are left out as back benchers, thereby subordinating "meritocracy" to "mediocracy". The hon. Premier and his brilliant Deputy Premier, Chief Fani-Kayode, with prodigious brain—his brain is very very fertile—hate people who are intelligent. Elushade must not be there, Olaitan must not be there, because they are lawyers, lest they be very good rivals in the Cabinet. They just put some illiterates there. (*Government Bench: Who are the illiterates? Tell us*). I don't want to embarrass some of my Friends there who cannot even write their names. It will be a painful exercise for some of these Parliamentary Secretaries to write their names. (*Opposition Bench: Shame, shame*). (*Government Bench: What of Obadara? Laughter*).

16. The use of thugs and rascals to overawe and intimidate political opponents.

17. The use of police and thugs for protection during his tours. He has over-worked the Police in his wolf cry, running away from his own shadows, this Premier and his henchmen. The hon. Premier can be described as Dr Faustus in the play of Christopher Marlow while the hon. Deputy Premier, Chief Fani-Kayode, the bearded man, as Mephistopheles. Indeed, "there is no peace for the wicked", so said Prophet Isaiah. Rightly was it asked 'Has Zimiri peace who slew his lord?'

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Too much learning has made him mad.

Mr Awopeju: The hon. Gentleman interrupting is a Professor and, as a Minister, he is very corrupt. He has been exposed here this morning but could not say anything at all in his own defence.

18. Bribery and corruption in Corporations.

I shall have to carry out the painful duty of exposing the hon. Premier and the hon. Minister of Finance. I know the Minister of Finance cannot forgive me because he has nursed grievances against me because of the exposure I made of his selling his car to Government for a fantastic sum during the Coker Inquiry. That is very mean of somebody who is an Oba.

Oba C. D. Akran: Is he apologising to me here?

Mr Awopeju: No, I am not apologising. I am telling the hon. Minister of Finance that if he knew that I offended him he should have asked me, but the true fact is that I was

carrying out the instructions of my client in the highest tradition of the Bar and I have no fear of anybody. I told him that if he had instructed me as a client I could have presented his case in a way that suited him. It is not open to me to be making investigations of what he told me or to be cross-examining him. It is against the ethics of the legal profession. (*Laughter*).

Oba Akran: I know he is going to apologise again.

Mr Awopeju: You know what the hon. Premier and the Minister of Finance had done? They collected thousands of day-old chicks from the agricultural farm at Agege *gratis* and sent them to their farms. When the poor people are just stinting themselves to rake up pennies to pay taxes and to feed themselves, these Ministers are just looting and feathering their nests as best as they could. May God have mercy on them. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the logical sequence is simply this. Hon. Premier, S. L. Akintola must go. He must resign now. He is an unwanted person as Premier. I know, Sir, that he is nearing his exit, and I say "Exit, S. L. A.". Sir, you may like to know why the hon. Premier must go: It is this. He has failed. God has voted no confidence in him. This is evidenced by the flood and other tribulations which plagued this Region. This regime has witnessed the betrayal and incarceration of friends by friends, unemployment, dearth of money, deprivation of jobs and properties, hooliganism and thuggery. All these show the finger of God is against the hon. Premier and his regime. The hon. Premier has failed, and the Scriptures abhor and reject men of his stamp.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hear the warning made in the Koran in Chapter 4, verse 58.

An hon. Member: Alhaji Awopeju.

As I was saying Mr Speaker, Sir, hear the warning made in the Koran in Chapter 4, verse 58.

"Surely Allah commands you to make over trusts, duties, governments and affairs of State to those worthy of them, and that when you judge between people you judge with justice. Surely Allah is ever hearing, seeing".

The Holy Prophet amplified the word "trusts" as meaning "Governments or affairs of State". He said: "when Government is entrusted to those unworthy of it, then wait for the doom".

Those were the words of Hadith Ben Al-Imam Al Bukhari in chapter 81 verse 35.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hear the word of Solomon in Proverbs.

It is said that it is only righteousness that exalteth a nation. (*Government Benches: Are you righteous?*). Yes I am righteous (*laughter*). Since therefore the Western Region cannot be exalted, that is why we must all join in the vote of no confidence in the Government otherwise we will all suffer like the hon. Premier.

Mr Speaker, Sir, both David the Psalmist and Prophet Micah confirm the punishment of God for wicked people. David in Psalm 107, verses 33 to 34 says:

"He turneth rivers into a wilderness and the watersprings into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness for the wickedness of them that dwell therein."

The Western Region revenue has gone to naught because of these people and so long as these things continue we shall continue to suffer because these people must not be without position. The wrath of God is on these people; not only on them, but on all of us if we do not shout aloud enough. We pray for Western Nigeria, which was the richest in the whole of Federation, but is now the poorest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let the hon. Premier be warned to resign immediately; let these people on the Other Side of the House denounce him immediately, otherwise they will share in the condign punishment awaiting the hon. Premier both at the polls and with God.

Mr Speaker, it was Paul who said—

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man seweth, that also he shall reap....."

(*Government Benches: That is what your leader is reaping now*). Hon. Gentlemen, whom God had rejected, let nobody support. Here is the opportunity to show we prefer God to Akintola. Let the hon. Premier ponder on the warnings given by Job in Chapter 20 verses 4 to 29 out of which I shall only quote a few verses:

"Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds. Yet, he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, where is he? He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found; he shall be chased away as a vision of the night".

Mr Speaker, Sir, see also Proverbs Chapter 29 verse 2—

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn....."

[MR AWOPEJU]

As we are mourning today in Western Nigeria. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any peace.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would commend to the Members on that side of the House the Book of Job Chapter 18 verses 5 to 12 and Chapter 28 verses 13 to 23, to learn of the doom awaiting them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance quoted John Milton's—

"Let truth and falsehood grapple, who ever knows truth to be worsted in such encounter?"

Let me refresh his memory, and I will like to answer very briefly because it is appropriate on this occasion. In the words of the prophets—

"The lip of truth shall be established for ever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment"—Proverbs 12 verse 19".

They can only be telling lies to the people for a moment.....(*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, we would urge the hon. Premier to desist from his acts of organised thuggery, hooliganism, oppression, victimisation and suppression of Action Group men and their supporters and to resign forthwith. Otherwise, Sir, he will surely fall into his own pit, for those who live by the sword will perish by the sword.

Mr Speaker, Sir, so Abimelech, the son of Jerubal, conspired with his mother's relations to kill seventy of his own brethren. What happened? It was a woman who cast a millstone that hurt him on his head and when he was about to die, what did he do? He asked his armour bearer to kill him with his own sword so that it might not be said of him that a woman had killed him. Mr Speaker, see Judges 31 verse 4. So also was Hamman hanged on the 50 cubit high gallows which he erected to hang Mordecai. Those who draw the sword must perish by the sword. Those who organise thuggery, victimisation, oppression and suppression will die by it. (*Interruptions*).

Mr C. A. Williams: Point of Order—Order 23 (2). No Member shall be entitled to address the House or a committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes. It appears the hon. Gentleman is spending more than the stipulated time. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is right in his quotations but they do not apply. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*)....

Mr Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, see Daniel Chapter 6 verses 21 to 23. So also those who conspired to see Daniel eaten up

by the lions became victims of the same beasts. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Let the hon. Premier resign for he is morally and administratively incompetent to run the affairs of this Region. We are only admonishing him as friends without any bitterness. But if he takes it in bad spirit and plans any mischief against any of us, I would urge him to desist lest he falls into the pit he digs. Read the words of the psalmist—

"They have prepared a net for my stepsthey have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves."

Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this Side of the House are fortified by the assurance of God to us, His own, and He asks each of us on this Side to say and repeat—

"But the Lord is with me as a mighty terrible one; therefore, my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed they shall not prosper; their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten."

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Motion of no confidence in the NNDP Government and in the hon. the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola . . . (*Cheers and jeers from both Sides*).

Question proposed.

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to crave your indulgence to move an Amendment to the Motion which has been moved by my very good Friend, the Member for Ikeja North *Mr Ositelu*.

The Amendment is in the following terms—'Delete all the words after "this honourable House" and substitute the following:—

"expresses its implicit confidence in the NNDP Government of Western Nigeria led by Chief S. L. Akintola and his Deputy Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, and notes with appreciation, the efficiency, integrity, honesty and incorruptibility with which this Government has handled the affairs of this Region". (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure all citizens of Western Nigeria who have listened to the Mover of this Motion will go home with a feeling of sadness and regret that the old saying is proved once again—that the Yorubaman is the greatest enemy of himself (*interruptions*). I charge the Mover of this Motion with the greatest act of cowardice.

I condemn the Mover that he is not able to level home the charges which he made against eminent and reputable Judges of Yorubaland, which charges he had made on the floor of this House. He has suggested by implication that Judges, who had cause to try the leaders of

[MR KOTOYE]

the Action Group, had been influenced by this Government. He has also suggested, and by implication, that a High Court Judge, who had cause to examine the iniquities and shameless conduct of the Action Group for the past eleven years, was rewarded. (*Interruptions*). The Opposition are filled with nothing but cowards and men without spunk. If they are courageous, they should be man enough not to rely on parliamentary privileges which this House provides some irresponsible Opposition Members; they should be courageous enough and go outside this House to repeat every word of the allegation which they have made against these responsible and reputable sons of Western Nigeria who are holding office as High Court Judges. . . . (*Prolonged interruptions*). This is a place for legislators. It is true indeed—this is not the place for cowards; this is not the place for people who have no guts; people who have not the courage of making their case before the High Court of Lagos and before the Coker Commission of Enquiry.

Where was hon. Ositelu—the coward from Ikeja North—when Justice Coker was presiding over the Coker Commission of Inquiry and where was Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro, Leader of Opposition, when Justice Sowemimo was enquiring into the subversive activities of the Action Group? These people should not come here under the umbrella of parliamentary privilege to say things they dare not say outside this House. . . (*interruptions*). Let me assure them that if they are thinking of the record of their leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, when he was the Premier of this Region and of his fruitless attempts to influence the Judiciary, we are not of that stamp. We know that right on the floor of this House Chief Awolowo, after his failure to influence the then Chief Justice of Western Nigeria, did go as far as to attack him. We also know of the various efforts made by the Action Group to subvert the Judiciary in recent months. We know too of the fruitless efforts which the Action Group made before the Coker Commission of Inquiry to impugn the integrity of the Commissioners, to impugn the integrity of lawyers who appeared for the Commission and to impugn the integrity of almost everybody except the Action Groupers (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: If hon. Gentlemen will not take advantage of the privileges being given to them, I will refer them to our Standing Order 37. If Members interrupt so much, if necessary, I shall invoke the order and send them out.

Mr Kotoye: I am grateful, Mr Speaker.

Whilst on these vague and cowardly attacks on Judges of the High Court of Lagos, I should like to make it clear to this House that Mr Sowemimo, a responsible and able lawyer, the like of whom I do not see on the Opposition Benches, was employed by the Marketing Board and the National Bank in a number of professional matters. He was never paid £15,000 by the Government; he was paid by the Marketing Board for the services which he rendered later in connection with the acquisition of NIPC properties. Those who are competent to tell them will tell them, that he was never paid any sum near £15,000 for the professional services he rendered.

The suggestion which the Opposition is trying to make that this man was employed because he is a brother of Mr Justice Sowemimo, who tried and sentenced their leader to imprisonment for his evil acts, is unfair and not correct. Mr Sowemimo was employed by the Marketing Board long before Chief Awolowo was actually found guilty.

I will now proceed to answer the hypocritical criticism which some Opposition Members, not only in this Debate but in other Debates, have made against the Government. It is now sweet in their mouths to talk of too many Ministers. I recall that sometime last year, it was necessary, because of an apparent change of heart on the part of my hon. Friends opposite, that the UPP and the Action Group should come together. There was an agreement entered into on that occasion and it has a bearing on the criticism which they are now making against us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to read from the *Daily Express*, the newspaper of the Opposition party, and I am quoting from the issue of Tuesday, July 16th—

**“PARTY LEADERS SIGN
SECRET DEAL—UPP AND
ACTION GROUP PACT EXPOSED”**

I am reading only paragraphs 3 and 4.

Paragraph 3.—“The two parties do hereby agree that, as soon as effective arrangements can be made, the distribution of all ministerial offices, boards and corporations, etc. shall be carried out on the principle of parity and justice between the two parties”.

Paragraph 4.—“That arrangements shall be made as soon as possible to provide a suitable office for Alhaji hon. D. S. Adegbenro, Parliamentary Leader of the Action Group”.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, all the offices of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Board and Corporation chairmen and directors which we were going to share together then on the basis of justice and parity were not greater than the number of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Corporation and Board chairmen that exist today.....(*interruptions*). What was also more significant was that they were even going to cause us to incur further expenditure by creating the office of Deputy Governor for this luckless and unfortunate Leader of Opposition . . . (*prolonged interrutions*). Now the grapes have become sour in the mouth of the Opposition because they have lost for ever the hope of ever sitting on the Government Benches of this House.

We have been treated to a number of boasts in this House by the Opposition Members. We have been asked to dissolve the House because we have no supporters. I can appreciate the venom and bitterness with which the Opposition Members have spoken on the floor of this House. I have a photograph, which I am going to pass to some of them who were not present, of the mass meeting of the Action Group yesterday. I ask Alhaji Adegbenro to confirm the fact that apart from those who went to the Race Course to purchase their rams for the Iléya Festival, the number of people who were present was not more than 100. I have documentary evidence to prove this and, what is more, I challenge Alhaji Adegbenro to publish his own photograph of the people who were present in the newspapers for the people of Ibadan to see?

My Friend, the Member for Ikeja North said: "dissolve the House and see if you shall shall come back". Let me remind him that "pride goeth before destruction". We have listened not quite long ago to boasts from a man whom one would have regarded as a greater enemy than himself; we have listened to the boast that Chief Akintola would be destroyed within twenty-four hours. We have also listened to the boast that the Akintola vs. Adegbenro case would be disposed of in five minutes by the High Court of Ibadan; we have listened to the boast that no power on earth could restrict Chief Awolowo: we have listened to the boast that Chief Akintola would never come back to this Region as Premier, we have also listened to the boast that the UPP/NCNC coalition Government would never come to this Region and we have also listened to the boast that Alhaji Adegbenro in May last year was going to be Premier. All these boasts have been proved to be empty boasts and nothing more.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these people are challenging us to dissolve the House. Let us examine the claim of the hon. Member for Ikeja North. In the last election, when the Action Group was alive and kicking, he stood in Ikeja North, his constituency. I shall tell you the number of votes he scored. On that occasion, my hon. Friend, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Oshitelu*) scored 13,317 votes. His opponent, who is still alive and kicking today, scored 12,107 votes. He had a majority of barely 1,000 votes and that is the man who is boasting and threatening that we should dissolve the House. I can understand, Mr Speaker, if you boast about the next election because you won with a majority of 6,000 votes in the last election on your own merit. (*interruptions*). I can understand the Deputy Speaker, a leading Member of the NNDP, boasting because he won with a majority of 7,000. (*interruptions*). What claim have Members who entered this House by the very skin of their teeth to dare challenge us, who came here with comfortable majorities of people who are still behind us.

A number of wild allegations have been made against us. My Friend, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Oshitelu*) has accused us that Ministers were given £1,000 and Local Purchase Orders during the Republic Celebrations. He also said further that each Minister was given £300 as Christmas gift. All these allegations are absolutely incorrect and unfounded. But I know why they indulge in these reckless and irresponsible allegations. When he was a Parliamentary Secretary in the Action Group Government, and there was Independence Celebration, on the instruction of the Action Group Leader, all of them were given Independence bonuses. Because they were given Independence bonuses and Local Purchase Orders to purchase anything they wanted for the independence celebrations, they think we are rogues like them, they think we are treasury breakers like them. We are not that, Sir. I assure you that no Minister of this Government received half a penny for the Republic celebrations. My Friend, Member for Ikeja North, who comes to my house every now and then . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Oshitelu: He always comes to my house too.

Mr Kotoye:can bear witness to the fact that during the Republic celebrations and the Christmas I did not give parties which we were giving when we were in the Action Group. Some of these people, including my Friend opposite, were in the habit of inflating—particularly the Leader of the Opposition, he was the worst offender in the old Action

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Group Government—travelling allowances. For instance, the Leader of Opposition—I challenge him to dispute this because I will get the Treasury officials to produce the records on the floor of this House—was in the habit of collecting, as mileage allowances, an amount of money greater than his salary as a Minister. Matters reached a stage when Chief Akintola, as Premier, had to carpet him at the meeting of Ministers. These people with dishonest characters are shameless to even challenge the integrity of people like Chief S. L. Akintola whose integrity has never been in doubt. (*Prolonged interruptions from Opposition Benches*).

We have been also accused of sinking this Region. We have been accused, Mr Speaker, of diverting Government money to our pockets and of receiving £650,000 as commission on a contract to build cocoa stores. These allegations are wholly untrue and malicious. But I will like to refresh the memory of our accusers once again. I will like to draw from memory a picture of the Action Group when it was in power. We know that out of £11 million lent to the NIPC, £4 million went to the pockets of these our accusers. (*Interruptions*). We also know that some piece of land in Moba not worth £2,000 was sold by these people to the Western Nigeria Government for £850,000 and about £700,000 of this went to the pocket of Chief Lanlehin, the Action Group Finance Officer. These people also sold decrepit houses to the NIPC. I learnt that Chief Awolowo sold two houses in Ikorodu Road to the NIPC. These houses were not worth more than £8,000 but Chief Awolowo sold them for £25,000.

Allegations were also made that we are using our Constitutional powers arbitrarily. I like to say again that we on this Side of the House are God-fearing people. (*Interruptions*). If we are not God-fearing people, if we are going to be like them, some of them who are now accusing us will not be in this House today. (*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are the people who are pointing accusing fingers at us. They said that we banned Ogunde Concert Party. These people are trying, through Ogunde, to paint the picture of the crisis in Western Nigeria in a different way. These people boast that Ogunde will go to Lagos and stage the play. Ogunde has gone to Lagos and the Federal Government has not banned the Ogunde Concert Party yet Ogunde has not staged the play. Ogunde now knows that these people are going to ruin him. (*Interruptions*). If

they have any sense of honesty they will not deny that they offered Ogunde £500 to stage this play.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I come to the Amendment, there is another point I should like to make. We have been accused of clannishness in this Region. We have been accused of terminating the appointments of Ijebus in the Corporations. We have also been accused of terminating the appointments of Lecturers in the University of Ife. This will make me say something of what happened when this Region was ruled by Action Group Government. A Member for Ijebu-Remo stood up in this honourable House and said what he felt about the type of people appointed in some of these Corporations. When we got back to the Parliamentary Council Meeting, he was challenged as to his right to say all such things in the House. Alhaji Adegbenro was one of his accusers then. But I was one of those people who defended him. I maintained then that back-benchers should be given the opportunity to say their minds and what they felt. These people went and employed their sisters, brothers, relatives and girl-friends in these Corporations. And, as you all know, the evil which the hon. Member for Ijebu-Remo foresaw came up at the Coker Commission. Those people who were sacked were redundant or not good at their work. They were not just Ijebus alone there were Ekitis, Egbas, Ijeshas, and so on and so forth, among them.

Coming back to the University of Ife, we are not to blame for the termination of the appointments of these Lecturers. The Action Group is the cause of it. They employed these Lecturers of the University of Ife for mischievous ends and subversive activities against this Government and the Federal Government. The Action Group, but for the grace of God, had nearly wrecked the institution before it ever started.

I seek your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, to quote from a recent article by Dr S. O. Biobaku, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ife, in the Quarterly Journal, "Insight". I quote from page 5:

'... and later working drawings, of pleasant, functional and flexible edifices began to appear and, if all had gone according to plan, actual construction work was to have begun at the Ife site in August 1962'.

Why then did actual construction work not start at Ife until now? The truth, of course, is that £1 million earmarked for construction work for the University at its Ife site and which was on deposit in London at the time was quickly transferred on the instruction of

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the Action Group Leader to the NIPC to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the financial moguls of the Action Group. And because of the Action Group, our University which should have started work in its real home at Ife in 1962, has to wait until now for the noble resolve of its founder, Chief S. L. Akintola (*Opposition Benches: Is Chief Akintola the founder of the University of Ife?*) Yes, I repeat Chief S. L. Akintola, whose inspiration and leadership now make it possible for us to provide ample funds for taking the University to Ife, its home, this financial year. These Treasury breakers transferred the money for the construction of the University of Ife to the NIPC.

These are the people who are accusing us of sacking the lecturers whom they bought over to carry out subversive activities in the University. They are accusing us of sacking these lecturers who, instead of doing their work, instead of devoting their attention to the progress of the students in the University, continue to waste time criticising Ministers for riding cars and earning their pay. They do not see themselves riding cars and they do not even know that many of them earn more than these Ministers. They have turned this Region into the enemy of the Federal Government and other Governments of the Federation. (*Interruptions*). We did not sack them. These people still boast of these lecturers. They are not even ashamed. They can even still say that these lecturers are marketable and that they will easily get jobs elsewhere. I do know for certain that Dr Aluko is still a letter writer for the Action Group. (*Laughter from both sides*). The Action Group can only boast and continue to boast but God, who is against boasting, will reward them with destruction.

What happened? When the time came for them to pay back the money with which to start the building of the University, they could not pay this money because the Treasury was empty, the Marketing Board was empty, the National Bank was also empty and the Action Group was still looking for more money from the Government and the NIPC.

Unlike the Action Group we have not sat upon the just dues of Local Government Councils. We have demonstrated our faith in the ability of our people to manage their own affairs at local levels by ensuring that they have ample funds with which to discharge their responsibilities. By this provision we have underlined our determination that progress at Regional Government level is not enough, that it must be coupled with more

dispensaries, more maternity centres, prompt payment of the salaries of Obas and Chiefs, good health services, which are the responsibilities of the Local Government Councils in this Region.

I come now to the Amendment which I have moved—

‘That this House should note the efficiency, integrity and the honesty with which this Government has handled the affairs of the Region’.

We are very proud of this. I know our enemies and detractors go about with their eyes closed so that they may not see our solid and great achievements. If there are any of them in this House still with their eyes closed, I pray they open their ears for I shall now repeat some of our great achievements—

(i) We have achieved peace and tranquillity in 1963 at a time difficult from the point of view of internal security;

(ii) We have produced a balanced budget and have ended the financial year 1963-64 with a comfortable balance;

(iii) We have restored Obas and Chiefs to their former position of dignity and importance, from which Action Group’s stubbornness, hard-headedness and disobedience, had removed them;

(iv) We have aroused awareness in our people and thereby obtained for the Yorubas a significant result in the population census with the result today that Western Nigeria now has a population of 10.2 million, an increase of 110 per cent over the 1952 figures.

(v) We have carried through undiminished the very expensive but desirable Free Primary Education inspite of Action Group prophets of doom and woe who daily foretold our imaginary determination to abolish free primary education;

(vi) We have successfully paid all our staff and teachers employed throughout the Region whereas teachers in another Region from which the Opposition receives support are daily groaning that their salaries for two to four months in arrears have not been paid;

(vii) Contrary to Action Group speculations, we have attracted foreign loans and capital to the Region.

These are some of our achievements of which we are very proud. Because of them we believe we are entitled, not only to the acclamation of Government supporters, but also to thanks of Opposition Members, for salvaging the Region from the wrecks and disaster into which it found itself as a result

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of Action Group excesses. For the future, we have bright hopes backed with a will and faith in God. More capital works programme than last year will be carried out and many more visible evidence of progress will be seen around. The Rural Integrated Scheme which was launched towards the close of last financial year will receive greater impetus and fillip by the provision of a handsome sum of £0.6 million. For once, the NNDP Government will be in full combat against the dragon of unemployment and we are sure of victory. To cap it all, the University of Ife, which the Action Group did its best clandestinely to wreck, will now go to its home in Ife.

Mr Speaker, Sir, whilst not necessarily alluding to the Debates on the Budget, I would like to recall on this occasion the number of challenges which the author of the 1964-65 Budget had posed to this House and, I dare say, to the whole Region. I grieve for my Friends opposite that the only response they have for these challenges is the demand for a new election and empty boasts of the imaginary success of the Action Group. In fact, my good Friend, the Member for Ikeja North, thrusting his chest forward in imitation of pride himself blared forth. "Dissolve this House now and none of you shall come back". We are not afraid of an election now. All those who were responsible for the good fortunes of the Action Group in any election are now in the NNDP. All the contrivers of the electoral successes of the NCNC in Western Nigeria are now in the NNDP. What is more, we have an ideology which is popular and which the Action Group can never rival.

We believe in peace and unity of Western Nigeria and of the Federal Republic. We believe that Western Nigeria must co-operate with all the other Regions of the Federation in order to usher in progress and prosperity for our people. We believe in socialism and equality of opportunity for all our citizens. Above all, we believe in the rule of law and the equality of all citizens before the law.

On the other hand, what are the beliefs of our Friends opposite? What is their ideology? Mr Speaker, Sir, if you will tarry with me a minute, I shall unfold to you the latest Action Group manifesto for the next election.

The Action Group believes in hate and disunity. It believes in the vanity and vaingloriousness of one man. The Action Group believes that the interest of one man is greater than the interest and wellbeing of ten million Western Nigerians taken together. The Action Group believes that public funds must be used to enrich a few individuals at the top. It

believes in mass deceit of the public by shouting "democratic socialism" when all its members practice capitalism. The Action Group believes in subversion and the overthrow of lawful and constituted Government. The Action Group believes in importation of arms and ammunition.

That is the Action Group manifesto and that is the record on which these hate ridden and unpatriotic sons of ours hope to contest the next elections. Who will vote for them? Not in Western Nigeria anyway.

They tried in the East with Alhaji Adegbenro riding a wooden horse. They came back with *Bako Daya*. They lost all the four seats and they left ignominiously because all their candidates lost their deposits. If it were during the time we were in the Action Group, the Action Group could have comfortably won all the seats. They tried their strength in the Midwest, they failed miserably. Alhaji Adegbenro said they would win forty-five seats out of sixty-five. At the end he found an alibi for failure. It was that the election was not fair. Even in the Western Region they have started with an alibi for failure. My Friend, the hon. Member for Ikeja North, has been making wild allegations about ballot papers being distributed to Ministers, and about elections being rigged. When the election comes we shall give them a good fight. When it comes they will say: "In April 1964, Ositelu said that the NNDP had ballot papers and that was why they won." They can go on finding alibi. God has completed his task of wiping them out as evil men. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me end on a more serious note. We are the very image of God on earth, so the Bible says, and what we do say today God in heaven has stamped. It is not today that this battle started, it is not today that we are just joining battle but since the 29th of May, 1962. I challenge them to mention one occasion when the right hand of God has been on their side. (*Laughter*). Every good thing the Action Group has laid its hand upon turned into evil and destruction. God has not finished with them yet unless they repent. It is not too late for hem to repent.

Mr Speaker, I will like to end my speech in support of the Amendment on this very serious note. I think on the Opposite Side of this House are a number of persons whom I can count as my very good Friends. With some of them I fought a number of political battles on the platform of the Action Group in 1951 until its fall in 1962 due to its excesses. I ask them in the name of this Region to re-examine their response to the various

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challenges which this Government in its good faith, has given them. Let it not be said that when we offered a challenge of peace, the Action Group answered back with war, with hatred and with disunity. Let not history say of them that when we offered a challenge of unity the Action Group response was for further disunity and the destruction of this Region. I appeal to my Friends opposite to repent and clean their lenses and be able to see the wider and long term interest of this Region and of this Federation which is greater than the interest of one-man.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Education)

(Mr A. Ajibola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment that this hon. House expresses confidence in the NNNDP Government led by Chief S. L. Akintola and his Deputy, Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, and notes with appreciation the efficiency, integrity, honesty and incorruptibility with which the Government has handled the affairs of the Region.

In supporting, I will start by reminding my hon. Friend the Leader of Opposition (*Alhaji Adegbenro*) that I gave a warning. I told him when the light was red, Chief Sogbein was a witness, that it was no use playing to the gallery. After all the battle had been lost the only thing left for my Friends in the Opposition is to rally round in the name of all that is good in this country, in the name of all that is good for their children, in the name of everything that is peaceful for us all, for once and let us plan to stop talking and stop criticising. Many of them are teachers and I will go home with them when I get to what I will say. Let us reconstruct this Region. After all in Yorubaland, we regard a child who comes out facing his father's house to urinate as a bastard. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: The word "bastard" should not be used in Debates.

Mr Ajibola: I would say, Sir, that he was not born in the house. If there should be anybody who will join forces with outside interest to destroy his own home, the inference is left to them. Let us all co-operate. It is over fifteen months since the right hand of fellowship has been stretched. Shall we fight and die there? If the battle has been won, let it be won by those who have won it and the vanquished should take defeat as men. Let us settle down to the work of re-construction.

It is shameful that this type of Motion should come again. Last year it came to this hon. House, and today it has come again. When Ibadan people spoke they told you:

"we do not hate anybody, we hate the ideology". We do not want to make Ibadan the battle field any longer. It is unfortunate that these people could simply come here because our supporters are not here to say that we have no following. If they have the following, we shall see when the Action Group and the NNNDP contest elections and the majority on this Side of the House shall win. Who caused the misfortune of unemployment of teachers? Many of these people caused it. Many of them who are supervisors, many of them who are headmasters, gave false reports, false returns. I will speak the truth. This Government is so modest, so sympathetic, not to take these people to court. While the Inspectors of Education went round and detected these practices, the merging of schools started as a result. If one teacher is teaching only three children, these people will cry and make every noise out of it. Now we have made adequate arrangements for those who have been thrown out. By the insincerity of some people, the teachers who are their brothers, or their supporters, gave us false returns. If they want to talk about teachers, I am a teacher myself and I shall speak loud and they will know how good teachers are.

They say that the teachers are not paid adequately or that they are being retrenched. The supervisors under the Action Group Government had given false information about those teachers. They will come with reports that the teachers are not doing their work well. They will say that such and such schools should be manned by two or three teachers, whereas such schools may require about five to six teachers. Why were they doing all these? It is just to be able to say that they were writing good reports. These reports contained information which, at last, worked against the teachers in the Region. Now you say that you like the teachers, but this Government, the Government of NNNDP, is out now to right the wrongs which had been done by the old Action Group Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to the question of Integrated Rural Agricultural Development Scheme. The Opposition has alleged discrimination by the Government of the National Democratic Party. What about the Integrated Rural Agricultural Development Scheme launched recently at Ibarapa by the hon. the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola? The Scheme was launched in Ibarapa area. It is a pity that the hon. Member for Ibarapa West (*Mr Adeniran*) who comes from that area, is not here. Anyway, the Scheme has been launched and more will be established

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as soon as possible. For their information, one is going to be established at Ado-Ekiti soon. This is going to be done, not because of those who are ungrateful, I mean those people sitting on the Opposite Side, but because of the hon. Minister of Economic Planning, (*Chief Oshuntokun*). Because of his ability and his efforts in seeing that the Region is united as one, the scheme will be established there in due course. Because of one man and some other people, Ekiti Division is going to benefit from the Scheme. This is just a start, other Divisions will take advantage of such benefits. We do not discriminate against anybody. We love all and we hate no one. To be telling untrue things about us is unfair. Speak the truth and let the devil be ashamed. I wish to assure some of our Members from Ekiti Division that an NNDP Branch will be launched at Ado-Ekiti as soon as possible. Chief Babatola may now try to arrange his thugs as usual. By the Grace of God we are going to succeed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I know the Opposition talk about hooliganism all round the country. They have been defeated already and the best thing is to take the defeat. We are a peace-loving Government, we want peace for the people of the Region and for the Federation as a whole. It is not reasonable for anybody to say that we are undemocratic. Being in power does not mean that we are going to oppress anybody in the Region. Our duty is to see that justice is done to the people who have confidence in us. It is certain that the common people, I mean the electorate of the Western Region, have confidence in this Government of ours today.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to employment opportunities. During the Speech from the Throne, delivered by the Governor of the Region, it was made clear that this Government is ready to provide employment opportunities for the school leavers in the Region. The Government is ready to bring more industries into the Region. But I want to sound a note of warning. The children who are going to be employed in future into many of these industries should be taught good manners. We all know that education without manners is like a cup of tea without sugar. The Opposition should not try to teach the children, the future leaders of tomorrow, bad manners. If they spoil the children, history is there to bear every one of us out. This Government is trying to provide employment opportunities for our children, the future leaders of tomorrow, and it will be an act of ingratitude to incite the children against the brains behind the scheme. I wish every

Member on the Opposition Benches to think again; it is not too late to mend.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr O. O. Gbolahan (Oyo North-West I):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Motion. In doing so I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following points.

Bribery and Corruption: Today in this Region before anybody can be employed, the person who wants employment has to appear before a Minister, and what is the qualification? To possess money. Each Minister has got an agent who collects money for him from those who want jobs. I can point to two Ministers here in the House who always have illicit dealings in their offices with girls who come to them to ask for jobs.

Before the candidature of any contestant to a vacant chieftaincy stool is approved, a lot of money must have passed to the pockets of the Minister. Recently, in Oshun Division somebody had to give the sum of £1,000 to a Minister before his candidature was approved.

That this Government is hated by the masses is an axiom that needs no proof. At Ilaro, the Premier was thoroughly beaten up. Is that not a shame? A Premier of a Region being beaten up! I think we should ask the Premier to resign, people don't want him any more, they are fed up with his so-called Government. I want the Premier to resign. At Ijebu-Ode, the Premier was stoned by small children. At Ire, the Premier was slapped. At Ilesha, the Premier had to run for his dear life. He can no longer go to Oshogbo in the day time, he can not now pass through Ado-Ekiti. At Shaki he was also called "Ole! Ole!" At Ibadan, whenever one hears the shout of "Ole! Ole!" it is the Premier who is passing. All these points indicate that the people of this Region no longer have confidence in the Premier. Therefore I would like him to resign.

The Government of Western Nigeria is wicked and cruel. It is wicked of a Premier to come out of his car and order his thugs to beat people up and damage their properties. Recently, at Ekotedo, the Premier ordered his thugs to damage my own car because I do not support his party. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is time now for the Premier to resign.

In order to find another constituency for the Minister of Works and Transport, Chief A. O. Adeyi, the Aseyin was removed and banished. Now the Minister cannot go to Iseyin to campaign. The Minister is now

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regreting. By the grace of God, the Aseyin, Oba Raji Adebowale, will return as soon as the Action Group is returned to power.

On so many occasions the Premier called me, the Olowo of Owo was there, and he gave me £5,000 in order to cross to the NNNDP. He promised that he would give me a Ministerial post. He asked me whether I liked to be Minister of Home Affairs or Minister of Information. Chief Adeyi also offered me £5,000 so that I may cross to NNNDP. I am not boasting. I know if I cross today, Oyo people will support the party. Hon. Sanni came to my town. Meeting him on the way he offered me money and persuaded me to cross over to NNNDP.

The Western Region is poor today because foreign investors do not like this Government. I know that if this Government is kicked off today, everybody in this Region will become rich like the time when Chief Awolowo was the Premier of this Region.

My appeal to the Premier is that I want him to resign now. The police are tired of going up and down. Today, Ado-Ekiti, tomorrow Iwo, day after, Owo. He is depriving them of spending time with their family. They have children, and these children are crying daily because they want to play with their fathers. Not the Police alone, the people are tired of him. They have no confidence in him because they live in fear and in poverty.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

The Minister of State (Economic Planning and Community Development) (Chief S. A. Layonu): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the original Motion that this Government . . .

Mr Adibi: On point of information. May I know whether the Speaker has permitted cats to be brought to this House?

Mr Speaker: Cats, natural or artificial, are not wanted here. (*Laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Oshitelu: I want to know from the Speaker whether I will be permitted to wind up this Debate, because the Mover of a Private Motion in the morning, at the end of the Debate, was given permission to wind up by the Speaker.

Mr Speaker: On point of explanation. The Motion that was referred to, which came before the honourable House this morning, was not amended. This has had a different colour because the Amendment which had

been proposed to it had altered everything. What I propose to do is not to allow the hon. Member to wind up, but if he wants to speak at any time again after others have spoken, at my discretion, I may allow him to speak. But the person who moved an Amendment is the person who has the right to wind up.

Chief Layonu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment to the original Motion and to oppose entirely the original Motion. Mr Speaker, Sir, envy is as foul as the weed that grows and cankers all the wholesome plants that are round it. We should not envy our neighbours and to be jealous of them is bad enough.

The original Motion is ill-conceived, ill-motivated, ill-timed, envious, unwarranted, uncalled for and it must be killed outright. The Mover, the Seconder and all those who support the original Motion, are like the ostrich which hides its head in the sand and they must be regarded as victims of vanity. They are intolerant, prejudicious, ignorant, proud and superstitious. At present, they are suffering, they are displaced politicians, they are shadow Premier and shadow Ministers without Ministries, without Government, without constituencies.

Mr Speaker: Shadow Premiers and shadow Ministers have shadow portfolios!

Chief Babatola: Mr Speaker, Sir, does he expect us to bring our constituencies here?

Chief Layonu: I agree they have shadow Ministries. They are enemies of the Yoruba race who want to enslave us. When the Action Group Government was governing Western Nigeria, man was a wolf to man, the teeming people of Western Nigeria were denied the heritage of democracy, despite the people's loyalty to the Action Group Government. These people had made Yoruba tribe to lose its glory. They have created enemies for us in other parts of the country. They have lost their golden opportunity and yet they want to come back to power. May the Saints forbid!

Opposition Members have emphasised several times that one of the most urgent problems confronting the Government was mass unemployment which was also rightly described as a menace to peace and progress, not only of Western Nigeria but also of the Federal Republic. For our own part, this Government has allayed the fears of every individual by providing solutions to this menace. The Integrated Rural Development Programme has been launched. This programme is for industrial and agricultural

[CHIEF LAYONU]

purposes. It is a first step towards the realisation of the economic dreams of the Region. It is a laudable scheme which will solve problems of unemployment, industrialisation and the production of food and primary products. This scheme will be launched throughout the whole of Western Nigeria.

Government will also spend over £3 million on the siting of industrial estates in six big cities before the end of 1968. Opposition Members are not worried by the menace of unemployment, they are not worried by the problems which the dead Action Group Government had made the present Government to face because they do not have the love of the people of this Region at heart. Our people want food, they want clothes, they want houses, they want happiness, and in order to have them, they want to work for these things. That is the problem that should confront the Government—the welfare of our people and not the holding of an election which the Opposition Members clamour for. This Government is fully aware of the fact that the life of the present House does not expire until August 1965. Government is not going to tackle the problem of un-employment in the negative, because in the present Government we have morally strong men, skilled in action, honest, free from bribery and corruption, men with compassion and firm determination and not men who could sell their posts and their tribes to other tribes, either by taking cars purchased with money from other Regions or receiving in lump sum, their salaries and allowances as Ministers, Executive Directors, etc., from another Region and when they have resigned from their posts.....

Mr Speaker, Sir, every right-thinking person knows that coalition Governments are always unstable. (*An Opposition Member: Has that just occurred to you?*) When this Region was having a coalition Government, foreign investors and manufacturers were often scared away for the mere fact that they would not like to invest in uncertainty. They preferred to run to the East and the North where there were no coalition Governments. (*Opposition Members: Do you admit that now?*) As a matter of fact, our detractors want this Region to be in perpetual crisis because they are enemies of progress. They want the Government to fail in its duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is only inveterate lampoonists who will describe the speech of the Mover of this Amendment as bluff, wishful thinking, short sighted or propaganda. As a matter of fact, time has taught its lesson. The boldness of the leaders of the NNDP still

spurs many people to action and in spite of the acts of disloyalty to the people of this Region by some enemies of Yoruba race within the Coalition Government who have sold their conscience and their ministerial posts for the love of money and the love of "Peugeot" and "Mercedes Benz" cars, the economic plan of this Region is successfully carried out without delay. The economic successes and industrial achievements have forced many people to see things in a new perspective. It would be absurd, Sir, to explain these achievements as a miscalculation.

Coming back to the comments of the Members of Opposition, there has always been cloudy thinking on their part. Every one of them is optimistic about the results of future elections in this Region. Everyday, every second, every minute and every hour they call for election. No one among us is afraid of election. They have forgotten that the life of the present House does not expire until August 1965 when, if we feel that we have not put aright the misdeeds of the Action Group, we may use our constitutional power to extend the life of the House. They do not know that, by the Grace of God and the will of the people, we have the right and the power to make election arrangements which will be fair when the time comes. They should go and prepare for us on the field instead of crying Hosanah and singing Hallelujah chorus to praise the Action Group which is already a politically dead horse in the political arena of Nigeria.

Obviously, I notice that there are mental diseases eating deep into the anatomy of Opposition Members which are:

- (1) Political idiosyncrasy;
- (2) Temperamental rudeness;
- (3) Intellectual arrogance;
- (4) Intolerance, ignorance and pride.

As for us on the NNDP side, the love of liberty has brought us to this party which every true Yoruba person must support. This is an awful moment for our tribe and I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom and the safety of our common heritage, freedom to have our fair share economically and financially from the Federal Government. Freedom to attain financial, political and economic stability in our own Region. Safety by refusing to allow our Region from being a perpetual crisis Region and safety for our common heritage by refusing to take instruction and dictation from either Ibos or Hausas as to the running of our own Government. As for me, I am tired of going to Okpara in Enugu, Benin or Port Harcourt.

Question agreed to.

Amendment—

“That this honourable House expresses its implicit confidence in the NNDP Government of Western Nigeria led by Chief S. L. Akintola and his Deputy Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, and notes with appreciation the efficiency, integrity, honesty and incorruptibility with which the Government has handled the affairs of the Region”, *put.*

The House divided.

AYES—53; NOES—23

DIVISION LIST No. 3

AYES—53

1. Abioshun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebessin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adekunle, Mr Y.
6. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
7. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
8. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
9. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
12. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
13. Adibi, Mr N. A.
14. Adigun, Chief J. O.
15. Ajibola, Hon. A.
16. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
17. Akerele, Mr S. O.
18. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
19. Akran, Oba C. D.
20. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
23. Ashiru, Mr B.
24. Bello, Hon. A. B.
25. Elushade, Mr T. E.
26. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
27. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
28. Fashola, Mr O.
29. John, Hon. C. O.
30. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
31. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
32. Lawal, Mr J. L.
33. Layonu, Chief S. A.
34. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
35. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
36. Ogunyeye, Alhaji Y.
37. Oke, Mr E. O.

38. Olaitan, Chief O.
39. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
40. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Orowole, Mr D. O.
44. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
45. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
46. Sanni, Mr S. A.
47. Sobande, Chief O.
48. Somotan, Mr A. S.
49. Tifase, Chief J. L.
50. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
51. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

52. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
53. Lana, Mr R. A.

NOES—23

1. Adegenger, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Adisa, Mr A.
4. Aina, Mr V. A.
5. Akerele, Mr S. A.
6. Areola, Mr R. O.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Mr J. E.
10. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
11. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
12. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
13. Okeya, Mr S. A.
14. Olaniyan, Mr B.
15. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
16. Olusa, Mr R. A.
17. Onasanya, Mr S.
18. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
19. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
20. Popoola, Mr D. A.
21. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

22. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
23. Obadara, Mr A. O.

Amendment agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed:

“That the House do now adjourn”—
(Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.55 p.m. until tomorrow, Wednesday, 15th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Lands and Housing:—

Housing Corporation.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation Law, Cap. 130: read the First time; to be read a Second time later in the day.

2. By the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:—

Theatres.—A Bill for a Law to provide for Regulating Theatres, Stage Plays and Musical Entertainments, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith: read the First time; to be read a Second time immediately.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THEATRES AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS (REGULATIONS) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to provide for regulating Theatres, Stage Plays and Musical Entertainments, and for other Matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

In moving the Second Reading of the Bill I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the Objects and Reasons as

published with the Bill. The absence of any provision for regulating theatres, stage plays and musical entertainments has, for some time past, been felt as a serious omission in our Laws because short of declaring a group of players an undesirable society there is nothing to prevent the group from performing any play in any part of the Region. It has therefore been decided that a Law should be enacted to control and prevent the performances of specific plays and rendition of obscene songs which might bring the Government into ridicule or might have seditious import. To this end Clause 4 and 6 of this Bill provide for the licensing of theatres, theatrical employers, musical entertainers, stage plays and musical entertainments and Clause 3 confers power upon the Governor in Council to appoint local government councils as licensing authorities for the purposes of the Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to invite the attention of hon. Members to clauses 7 and 11 which provide for the refusal of licences or renewal thereof, for the imposition of terms, conditions or restrictions on licences, the closing of theatres, the suspension and revocation of licences and the prohibition of stage plays and musical entertainments or part thereof and to say that necessary care has been taken to ensure that the provisions of section 25 of the Constitution of the Federation Act, No. 20 of 1963, about the Fundamental Human Rights of freedom of expression, are not infringed by the refusal of licences or the prohibition of stage plays in that such refusal or prohibition would only be made in the interest of public safety, public order, public morality or public health.

Clauses 4 and 6 would also confer power upon the Governor in Council to exempt from the requirement to take out licences, or of licensing, any person owning, occupying or managing a theatre or performing any stage plays or musical entertainments, or in respect of any stage plays or musical entertainments, performed for educational, religious, social, cultural, philanthropic, charitable or other purpose as the Governor in Council may, by order, specify.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the third time that this Bill will be put on the Order Paper of this honourable House during its current Meeting. On each of the two previous occasions, when the Minister of

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Finance failed to move the Second Reading of this Bill, I had thought that that was the end of the matter but, curiously enough, when this Meeting is now drawing to a close, there has been another attempt at presenting this Bill all in a rush. I had thought, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Minister of Finance had had a second thought as to the presentation of the Bill and that that was the reason why he declined to move the Second Reading on the two previous occasions. Mr Speaker, Sir, here is the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of this Region accepting responsibility for this Bill. On the two previous occasions, when this Bill was scheduled to be presented, it was listed for presentation by the Premier of this Region but the Premier had not the courage to present this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I call your attention to the fact that the Premier, in whose name the Bill was to be presented, is nowhere to be found here. If you look at the Objects and Reasons of the Bill—the last page—the Bill was published by the Premier of the Region. I am aware that the Standing Orders of this House provide that a Minister of Government can move a Motion on behalf of another Minister but I think this is a very momentous Bill, and so momentous that the Premier ought to come here and shoulder the responsibilities for the Bill. I know the Premier is a man who is touchy about theatres. Let him come and tell us what is wrong in Ogunde's Party staging the play, "Yoruba Ronu", in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must let you know that the arch-gangster behind this Bill, who is the Premier, called on the Ogunde Concert Party to stage the "Yoruba Ronu" Play on the eve of the launching of the Egbe Omo Olofin. May be you were invited to witness the play, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: On a point of information. Mr Speaker was not officially invited, although I might have been invited personally.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Alright, Sir. Perhaps the hon. Member for Remo North was invited. (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, before the play, "Yoruba Ronu" was ever staged, a rehearsal took place and two prominent Egbe Omo Olofin members watched the rehearsal. They were Chief H. O. Davies and Chief Abiodun Akerele and they both certified the play as being good enough to instil in the minds of the Yoruba people an occasion for them to "ronu"; but the imaginations of the play swept through the minds of the people of

this Region like wild fire and there were requests for the play by Mr Hubert Ogunde to be staged in several parts of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, two or three days before the ban, the play was staged in the Centenary Hall at Abeokuta on a Monday. That play was a crowd puller. I have some of my Friends here on this Side of the House who witnessed the play. The play was scheduled to start at 9 p.m. but some of my friends who got there after 7.30 p.m. had no seats. The gate fees were, for the galleries, 5s and, for the V.I.P. seats in the hall, 7s 6d, but may I tell you, Mr Speaker, that the play attracted such a large crowd that people were trafficking in the sale of tickets. The place was overcrowded.

The third day after the play, we heard that Ogunde's Party had been banned by this heartless, soulless, atrocious and oppressive Government under the regime of the most touchy, the most sensitive person to criticism, Chief S. L. Akintola. Today we are being presented with this Bill not only to ban or to prohibit Mr Ogunde from staging his plays all over the Region, but these people are asking those of us here to support them to pass this Bill. They are deceiving themselves, we are not going to lend our support to an obnoxious Bill of this nature which deprives a citizen of this Region the right to his living. (*interruptions*).

They say they will pass it, very well, I know they do not require the necessary two-thirds majority and even where this is required they have their strategy of not publishing the *Hansard*. (*interruptions*). They published eighty-three names instead of eighty the other time and when we challenged them in Court they came and rushed a Law through to say the *Hansard* should not be tendered in evidence in the Court unless they certify it. (*shame*).

We are very very happy about that. The days of reckoning are just at hand, (*interruptions*). They are laying a pattern vividly and clearly so that when, by the Grace of God, they come to reap the whirlwind it would not be a surprise and we are not going to leave our supporters and people of this Region in doubt that we had warned them. We are opposed to any law in this Region that deprives citizens of their avenues of earning a livelihood, more so when the Region is facing a very difficult situation. Jobs are not around, people have to devise all sorts of ways of earning a living and these shameless braggarts have the effrontery to come to the Floor of this honourable House to pass this sort of Bill. So I am not bothered at all. (*interruptions*).

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Mr Speaker, Sir I now come back to the subject-matter of this Bill. If you look at the definition clause—clause 2 you will find that “musical entertainer” means a person who carries on musical entertainment for a living. That man is going to be deprived of his means of living. “Musical entertainment” means a concert or similar entertainment consisting of the performance of music (not being music played in the course of any cinematograph exhibition) with or without singing or recitation, and so on and so forth. You will find that “theatrical employer” means any person who for a living by himself or any agent engages or employs at any one time ten or more theatrical performers. There you are, Mr Speaker, if people can rack their brains and devise a mean of staging a play to earn a living—is it right for a Government which claims to have restored peace, tranquility and progress in the Region to deprive these people of the chance of earning a living under this Bill?

I warn the Government that we, as Opposition, certainly will look after the interest of the masses of the people and not the interest of those that have usurped power today and we will not co-operate in passing this Bill. Let them pass it but the record will be there, and through this Bill, people will see that certain people on the 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1964, assembled in the honourable Western House of Assembly and passed a law, an obnoxious law, to deprive the tax-paying masses of this Region, the poor people, the right to earn their livelihood. We are not participating in the passage of this Bill, Mr Speaker, (*Government Benches: Walk out then*) (*prolonged interruptions*).....

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, before dealing with the points which have been raised by the Leader of Opposition, I will like to draw the attention of the House to section 25 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and I read.....(*hear, hear*)—

“25 (1) Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference;

(2) Nothing in this section shall invalidate any law that is reasonable and justifiable in a democratic society, in the interest of defence, public safety, public

order, public morality and or health. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government will be failing in its duty to protect public order and to protect public morality, if it fails to introduce this Bill. It is interesting to hear the Leader of Opposition say that they will not support us in passing this Bill. We shall pass this Bill (*Government Benches: Yes!*) and if he has courage enough to come out in the open and join Hubert Ogunde’s party, we shall pass him along with this Bill!.....(*loud ovation*).

I see that my Friends opposite are very anxious for me to make my points. I will make them. They only need to have liberal minds and listen to the points that I will make. Perhaps my Friends opposite do not appreciate the reasons which had motivated our action in banning Hubert Ogunde’s Party. I will repeat once-again that there are five solid reasons, and the reasons are very strong, why that play and the party putting up the play ought to be banned.

The version of “Yoruba Ronu” play which was staged for the amusement of the Leader of Opposition at Abeokuta was a calculated contempt of the Judiciary of this country. It was a calculated contempt of the Judiciary because the play portrayed the falsehood that those who were innocent had been found guilty and those who were guilty had been left free. The great pity is that the best legal brain in the country which for many years used to save the Action Group from the warm embrace of the law has now deserted them. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Awopeju: We still have brains here. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Kotoye: I understand the Queen’s Counsel on the Opposition Side is honourable Atioro.....(*laughter*).

None of my Friends opposite will dispute the fact that amongst the songs in Ogunde’s “Yoruba Ronu” were some which suggested, not only suggested, but actually asserted, that the Courts of this country had actually miscarried justice. If they are sure of their facts why do they give this poor man Ogunde £500?.....(*interruptions*). Why can’t the Leader of the Opposition, if he is courageous enough, mount the soap box and make this allegation and let us see, when the law gets grip of him, how he is going to prove this defamation against our Judiciary.

The Action Group version of “Yoruba Ronu” was one which was designed to distort and falsify the history of the Action

[MR KOTOYE]

Group crisis. Nobody stabbed Awolowo at the back. Yesterday, my learned Friend said "those who live by the sword will die by the sword." The history that we all knew was that Chief Awolowo drew the sword and perished by it. All the Obas and Chiefs in this Region begged him; all the leaders of this Region begged him. I would repeat with modification the citation of my honourable and learned Friend, the Member for Ijebu Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) that those who had pulled the sword have now perished by the sword. What we do know is that our conduct throughout the Action Group crisis will stand the test of time. We are courageous enough to be able to defend our role at any time.

The Action Group version of the play "Yoruba Ronu" ridiculed and put to public hatred the Obas and Chiefs of this Region. (*Opposition Benches: No, not at all*).

Fourthly, the Action Group version of the play constituted a danger to public order and tranquility. It is amusing to hear the hon. Leader of Opposition, in an attempt to demonstrate his phantom support, talk of what happened in Abeokuta. It is an exhibition of our tolerance that those teachers..... (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of the Opposition should have the liberality of mind to listen when we are trying to give them back a bit of some of the insults they tried to heap on this side. (*interruptions*).

As I said earlier, Mr Speaker, the fourth reason is that in the exercise of our duty to maintain the public order and tranquility of this Region that play had to be banned.

Fifthly—it is a subtle and cowardly attempt to boost the prestige of a party which had been found guilty of trying to overthrow by force the constitutional Government of this country.....(*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, at the time my Friends opposite were planning to overthrow the constitutional Government of the Federation, they were importing fire-arms and amunitions, as they themselves confessed yesterday.....(*interruptions*).

The last point I think I should make is this. It is not correct that the Premier of this Region, Chief S. L. Akintola, as a member of the Egbe Omo Olofin, invited Hubert Ogunde to stage this play. Those who organised the Egbe Omo Olofin were the people who invited Ogunde to stage the play. (*Interruptions*). If they want me to name them, I will name them. Dr Akerele is one, M. A. Majekodunmi, very well-known, a good number of Obas and Chiefs in this Region

are also among the founders. They were the people who organised Egbe Omo Olofin and in an effort to induce the Members opposite to think for once in their lives, they decided that this play should be staged. Unfortunately, their efforts were not rewarded because the Opposition were not willing to see this very straightforward version of "Yoruba Ronu".

It was the very honest version that was staged in Ibadan. Since this innocent version of "Yoruba Ronu" was staged in Ibadan, the ingenious brain of the Action Group started to work and as a result Ogunde was subverted. Those who were guilty of subverting Government started to work to subvert Ogunde. The Action Group had to throw in hints this way and that way for this distorted version to be developed and it is the version that has been banned.

A good deal of quarrel had been picked against this Bill. I must confess however that the Attorney-General and the Premier of this Region have not gone far enough as I would have wished them to go. I would have urged them to bring the laws of this Region into line with the laws of the British people.

In Britain no play can be staged, no song can be sung in theatres, the words of which have not received the approval of the Lord Chamberlain's office.

I hear the Leader of Opposition talk about the peoples daily bread being taken away. Only the daily breads of evil elements, subversive elements and those who are planning to overthrow Government, are being taken away by the Government... (*cheers*). For those who want to practise their trade within the four walls of the law, those who want to obey the laws; their daily-breads are not being taken away. As a matter of fact, by virtue of this Bill, their daily bread is guaranteed and they are assured that when once they get the licences from the authorities under the law, they can stage their play whenever and anywhere they please in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I know that guilty conscience is worrying them. They have put Ogunde in the position where he is now. To ensure that some students in the various universities are not subverted, as Ogunde had been, we are going to pass this Bill thereby ensuring that the morality and public order of this Region are placed on a firm basis.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, under normal circumstances, if a Bill like this had been brought to the House, nobody would have quarrelled over it. But the circumstances which have brought about the publication of this Bill and its being brought to this House at such haste make it suspect. After all, what is wrong in a play, a play which is out to correct? There are students of literature here, and at different stages of English Literature, there have been people who have put up the satires and various types of plays.

I have myself not seen Ogunde's play and therefore I am not in a position to say whether this Bill is in respect of Ogunde at all. The hullabaloo which has been made in the press as well as on the Bill by the Leader of Opposition points to two incontrovertible facts. That this Bill was brought up with a view to making it difficult for people who want to put up plays which may have effects on the Government or on individuals for that matter. I read in the papers the other day that some students of the Ibadan University were going to adapt the Ogunde's play. It may well be that that is the reason which prompted this Government to bring this present Bill.

Mr Kotoye: I have said so.

Chief Odebiyi: I do not even know that the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Local Government had said so. I feel, Sir, that this Bill is a complete negation of fundamental human rights, (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*) and of freedom; freedom for which the President of the Country recently made to the whole nation a public broadcast.

It was stated by the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government that Ogunde's play was a calculated attempt to indict the Judiciary. I think the Nigerian Laws are full of sufficient provisions to bring anybody to book if he does anything against the law. If Ogunde has done anything against the law, why was he not brought to book?

There are provisions for criminal libel, sedition, slander, why couldn't he be brought to book?

Mr Kotoye: This is a sort of preventive detention.

Chief Odebiyi: By the time preventive detention is introduced in this country we know where some people will be. I think, Sir, that all that is required in this matter is a sense of humour; there is no sense of humour on the part of Government at all.

If tomorrow a Member of the Opposition is passing along the street and happens to catch a glimpse of the daughter of the Premier

and she re-acts badly there will be a Bill the following day about it. (*interruptions*). If the day after a member of the household of the Premier happens to clash with an ordinary man at the bus stop, there will be another Bill brought to this House. After all this is not a personal Government belonging to somebody; after all this Government is held in trust for the whole people; it is not a personal Government but the Government is being personalised. I think this is very wrong and I will appeal to all the Christians among them to have a change of heart, hon. Olowofoyeku, Oba C. D. Akran, hon. Oshuntokun, and my Friend, Doctor Onabamiro—I do not think he can have a change of heart—when they have had a change of heart, they will see a change in the whole of this Region.

Somebody said that the Action Group gave Ogunde £500. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am amused. The Action Group did not give Ogunde £500 because "a hungry man is an angry man". If £500 is given to me to be given to Ogunde, I will not give it to him. (*laughter*).

In seriousness, Sir, I think in a situation like this if it was found by the Government that the play which Ogunde staged had contradicted the Government, it would have been better for Government to call him and speak to him, that is how I feel about it. If he did not make the necessary amendment then, of course, they will be at liberty to stand by their right. I think, Sir, that the way the Government has dealt with him is wrong and severe.

I overheard somebody say that Ogunde is a member of the Action Group party. He has never identified himself with Action Group Party, when we were all together, he was never a member of our party, and even now he is not a member of our party.

When the Egbe Omo Olofin contacted him to come and stage the play for them, they had the right to tell him that if there is a change in the copyright they will deal with him, and when they discovered that they saw something different in the play, they should have called him to order.

There is another provision of the Law which I think is obnoxious. We are being told, Sir, that it is a local government council that is going to be the competent authority. Whilst I do not impugn the integrity as well as the ability of members of local government councils, I think if Government had taken up the responsibility of looking into this matter themselves it

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

would have been better. For example, if it is an English play, the script of which is written by Wole Shoyinka, who is going to be the judge? (*Laughter*).

I think, personally, that the Bill has been hurriedly brought up. Therefore, I oppose, Sir.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, my remarks will be short; but it is important that I make them. I overheard a Member of the Opposition Bench asking yesterday that: "why should I, an Ijebu man in the Government, make it possible for an Ijebu man to be deprived of his livelihood?" (*Interruptions*). I think the man is here and he knows himself.

I am sorry, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Opposition have not taken the trouble to study the provisions of this Bill. It is this Bill that will make it possible for Ogunde to come back to Western Nigeria and stage other plays. (*Interruptions*). If he is ready to stage other good plays later it is this Bill that will make it possible to stage them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I was trying to drive home is that we all know that Hubert Ogunde has many plays to stage and "Yoruba Ronu" is not the only play. He has been staging these plays for almost twenty years now. If Ogunde has twenty plays and one of them is obnoxious, according to the provisions of the present ban, he cannot come to this Region to stage the other nineteen. The provisions of this Bill, however, will make it possible for Ogunde to come to Western Nigeria and stage these other plays which are not obnoxious.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, we consider this Bill a sort of censor, that being so, may I say, Sir, that this Government has no right to impose this censorship. Why do I say so? The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government has told us that one of the purposes of this censor is to protect the morality of the citizens. I think, Sir, that anybody who has to protect the morality of others must himself be morally good. I do not consider this Government competent to judge the issue of morality. It is a Government that relishes in naked and crude power. The slogan of the Government is "power". How does it want to protect the morality of this Region when it has no regard for morality itself?

Secondly, Sir, this Bill ought not to be passed into law because any law which is to be

passed ought not to have features of vindictiveness. This Bill is brought up because the Government is aggrieved in that Hubert Ogunde staged a play it considers destructive to its plan and to its fame in the Region. Therefore if this law is being passed against that background it is vindictive and a good Government does not pass a law which is vindictive.

I am sorry that our learned Friend, the hon. Attorney-General, who knows..... (*interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Are you a lawyer?

Chief Babatola: I do not arrogate to myself that honour. But as a citizen I am qualified to say so.

I am surprised that the hon. Attorney-General cannot advise, being a lawyer—and all lawyers know this simple thing—that laws which are discriminatory and vindictive should not be made.

Another reason, Sir, why this Bill ought not to have been brought to this House, is the fact that the people of this Region have indicated sufficiently that they enjoy the plays of Hubert Ogunde, and especially his play "Yoruba Ronu". In every nook and corner, in every town and village, people like the play, and members of the Government, who at the same time are members of the Egbe Omo Olofin, even liked it when they invited Ogunde to stage it. If therefore Government should take this action against Hubert Ogunde on a play which the people of this Region delight in, I think this constitutes a wrong step and is not in the interest of the people and in order that this may not increase the odium which the people have against the Government, Government ought to withdraw this Bill.

Another point, Sir, is this. The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government referred this honourable House to the practice in the United Kingdom. This reference, I think, is misleading. The purpose of censoring in the United Kingdom is merely to protect children and young persons from exposure to immoral and vicious suggestions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, several people have watched Hubert Ogunde's "Yoruba Ronu" and I do not believe that the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government can vouch that Hubert Ogunde's play has an immoral suggestion to the minds of the young people. There is no immorality suggested in it at all. What actually appears to have been conveyed in the play is an unpleasant revelation of the activities of certain personalities in this

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Region. That, of course, is not vicious immorality. May I remind the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Local Government that England would be the last place where such a vindictive law like this will be passed. As far back as 17th century people like Milton have fought for the emancipation of the people against those who would have suggested unnecessary restrictions on their mind. We find that Milton spoke against the power of Government in limiting the sphere of literary production which Government may have any reason to suspect. So England would have been the last place to introduce such a Bill as this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am opposing this Bill.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker Sir, I observe that there has been a lot of muddled thinking on the part of the Opposition as regards the provisions of this Bill. Much effort has been expended in trying to suggest that this Bill was brought up to prevent Ogunde from carrying on his plays in the Western Region. May I say, Sir, that on this very day the Ogunde Theatrical Party has already been banned in Western Nigeria and this Bill has nothing to do with the banning. This Bill has nothing to do with anything that Ogunde has done and it has nothing to do with "Yoruba Ronu". May I say, Sir, that if Members of the Opposition have patiently gone through this Bill clause by clause they would have discovered that at no point of the Bill is there any reference to the necessity for banning any play.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the earlier clauses speak about the appointment of licensing authorities, pure and simple, the licensing of theatres, the fees to be paid and then the powers of the Governor in Council to make regulations. There is nothing in the whole Bill which refers to "Yoruba Ronu" or Ogunde. May I say, Sir, that I expect the Members of the Opposition to pinpoint certain aspects of this Bill which might affect the humble drummers, juju players, sekere players and so on. These are the people I think the Members of the Opposition should come here to protect. But instead of directing their attention to the lot of these people, all they are concerned with is Hubert Ogunde.

May I say, Sir, that on our own volition we have brought in amendments to this Bill to protect the ordinary man in the street—the ordinary drummers, the juju players, the sekere players at birthday ceremonies and sango worshippers. All these people will not be affected by this Bill.

Sir, what is strange in bringing up this kind of Bill? In this country all cinemas are licensed; there is no reason why the theatre should go scot free. They also should pay something to the coffers of the Government. That is precisely why this Bill has been introduced.

The hon. Leader of Opposition has mentioned an important point. He said he would not like this Bill to be used to deprive simple citizens of their means of livelihood. May I say that this Bill cannot be used to deprive anybody of his livelihood. All that the Bill requires the big theatrical parties, like Ogunde, to do is to pay £5 each year, and according to the Leader of the Opposition, this man was able to make thousands of pounds in Abeokuta, why should he grudge Government if Government asks him to pay only £5 a year by taking a licence?

Alhaji Adegbenro: Of course he will be refused a licence and that is our fear. The Local Authorities will refuse him a licence.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I may even say that Hubert Ogunde, about whom the Opposition is so much concerned, will profit under the provisions of this Bill.

(*Opposition Benches: How?*)

I will tell them.

I repeat that Mr Hubert Ogunde will profit under the provisions of this Bill. May I direct the attention of Opposition Members to clause 14 (e). That is the only point which I think will interest the Members of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*). It is the clause which allows the Governor in Council to make regulations for controlling and regulating the production of stage plays and musical entertainments in order to prevent the performance, during such production, of acts prejudicial to public order, public safety, public morality or public health, or to the rights, reputation and freedom of other persons or to the authority and independence of the courts. Mr Speaker, it is under the regulations that particular plays could be prohibited and when such regulations are made, if the Government considers that 'Yoruba Ronu' alone should be banned, then it would be banned. The general ban on Ogunde Theatrical Party would then be lifted.

The hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) has said that this Bill is a negation of freedom. May I say, Sir, that the freedom of the individual, as enshrined in our Constitution, will always be upheld by this Government, and if anybody is aggrieved

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when this Bill should have been duly passed, and if any member of the public is aggrieved that the law, when enacted, is against fundamental human right, he is at liberty to go to court and challenge it. (*Interruptions*).

I will appeal to Members of the Opposition to study this Bill carefully. It is nothing that they should oppose. Just as when one pays fees for producing cinematograph, so one has to pay fees to Government for producing theatres and plays and other theatrical entertainments. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman from Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) has asked me to talk about clause 10. Clause 10 only gives liberty to anybody who is refused a licence to make an appeal to the Government. That is the right of appeal and if this Bill provides for the right of appeal, I think the Bill has taken everybody into consideration.

Question put.

The House divided.

AYES—51; NOES—23

DIVISION LIST NO. 4

AYES—51

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebasin, Mr K. S.
4. Adekunle, Mr Y.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
9. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. A.
14. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
15. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Arowojolu, Hon. E. B.
21. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
22. Ashiru, Mr B.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
26. Fashola, Mr O.
27. John, Hon. C. O.
28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
30. Lawal, Mr J. L.
31. Layonu, Hon. S. A.

32. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
33. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
34. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
35. Oke, Mr E. O.
36. Olaitan, Chief O.
37. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
38. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
39. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
40. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
41. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
42. Orowole, Mr D. O.
43. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
44. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
45. Sanni, Mr S. A.
46. Somotan, Mr A. S.
47. Tifase, Chief J. O.
48. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
49. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

50. Lana, Mr R. A.
51. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—21

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Areola, Mr R. O.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
11. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
14. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
15. Okeya, Mr S. A.
16. Olaniyan, Mr B.
17. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
18. Olusa, Mr R. A.
19. Ositelu, Mr D. O.
20. Popoola, Mr D. A.
21. Sogbein, Mr S. O.

Tellers for Noes

22. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
23. Oyewole, Mr S. O.

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I am moving an amendment to clause 2. In the first line of the definition of "musical entertainment" delete the words "a concert

or similar"; and in the last line of the definition substitute the word "of" for the word "or" appearing immediately before the word "sound".

Amendment proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, before we went into Division, I had an undertone discussion with the honourable Attorney-General and, as a result of that, we agreed that if he will give us that assurance which he promised, the Opposition will participate in discussing this stage of the Bill, which is the Committee stage, otherwise we gave an indication that we would not participate in the Committee stage of the Bill. But being very important he promised he would give an undertaking to that effect. I will like to listen to the undertaking before I know what next line of action the Opposition will take in respect of this Bill at the Committee stage.

When the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General was winding up the Debate on the Second Reading of the Bill, he said that the intention of the Government is that Government will be able to lift the ban on Ogunde's Concert Party and will thereby, under this Bill, be able to give him a licence and ban, if necessary, only the "Yoruba Ronu" play. This is just one of the many plays staged by Hubert Ogunde. (*Interruptions*). Why didn't he say so on the Floor of the House during the Second Reading? If he gives this undertaking at the Committee stage, in keeping with the undertaking which I made when this House started meeting that we, of the Opposition, will give constructive opposition and will not be unduly obstructive of Government business, then we on our Side will participate in discussing all the other Clauses of this Bill.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I did say earlier that this Bill is going to be of advantage to Mr Hubert Ogunde about whom the Opposition feels so much concerned. I said that under this Bill, it will be possible to lift the general ban on Ogunde Theatrical Party and only prohibit the staging of "Yoruba Ronu" but the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants me to commit the Government on this issue and, may I say, Sir, that there is nothing sacrosanct about it. There is nothing particularly fearful about it. It is the intention of the Government to prohibit the staging of "Yoruba Ronu" alone and Government has no desire of preventing Mr Hubert Ogunde from earning his livelihood. As soon as the Regulations are completed and "Yoruba Ronu" is prohibited,

the ban on Ogunde Theatrical Party as such would be lifted. (*Interruptions*).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I beg to move an amendment in line 2 of Clause 3; between the word "appoint" and the word "any", insert—"an officer of the Public Service of the Region not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary or"

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, although the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has tried to meet part of the objections which I raised when I was making my main speech on the Second Reading of the Bill, I still feel that the provision of Clause 3 whereby apart from appointing an officer of Public Service whose grade is of Senior Assistant Secretary grade and appointing the Local Government Councils is still defective. There are grades and grad defective. There are grades and grades of Local Government Councils all over the Region. (*Interruptions*). There is a ridiculous example of a play, for instance, which might be staged by a person like Wole Soyinka. I am thinking of really first-class classical plays which are going to be vetted and I think, Sir, that the best thing would be for "Local Government Councils" to be divested completely of the responsibility. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) can insinuate that Local Government Councils have no capable staff. May I remind him that the Secretary of the Local Government Council at Abeokuta is a qualified lawyer and so is the Secretary of Local Government Council in Ibadan. But the power is only permissive. It allows the Governor in Council to give the power either to the Local Government Council or an officer of the Public Service of the Region. So I think the Governor in Council will be expected to exercise discretion in the interest of the public.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I propose this amendment in Clause 4. Delete sub-clause (2) and substitute the following new sub-clause:—

"(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) of this Section shall apply or be construed as

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applying in respect of any theatre owned, occupied or managed by any local government council, or by or for any educational, religious, cultural, philanthropic or other charitable organisation or purpose, or by or for any such other organisation or purpose as the Governor in Council may by order specify."

Amendment proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, I do not oppose this amendment as such but it appears that in the concluding portion of the amendment, on the attempt to exempt educational, religious, cultural, philanthropic or other charitable organisation or purpose, the only thing missing is social. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Olowofoyeku: The word "social" will be outside the ambit of these exemptions. Every word there has a particular legal notation and when you talk about "other purposes" at the end of it, the interpretation can only be applied to other things, so you have cultural, philanthropic, charitable or any other purpose which is similar to that. We cannot catalogue all the purposes which have been exempted. (*Interruptions*).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Clause 6 be amended as follows:—

Delete sub-clause (4) and substitute the following new sub-clause:—

"(4) Nothing in this section shall apply or be construed as applying in respect of any person performing or proposing to perform, or of the performance or proposed performance of—

(a) any stage plays or musical entertainments for any educational, religious, cultural, philanthropic or other charitable purpose;

(b) any commonly acknowledged indigenous Nigerian type of plays, masquerades, carnival, music, song, dance, drumming, or other entertainment in or along any street, or public thoroughfare, or any open place, as part of a community or other festival, or as part of any other social occasion;

(c) any stage plays or musical entertainments for any such other purposes as the Governor in Council may by order specify."

Mr J. O. Awopeju: In this respect, Mr Chairman, Sir, as you come from Ijebu we want "Aghemo" to be specifically included. (*Laughter*).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 9 agreed to.

Clause 10.

Mr Awopeju: This Clause 10 is the most dangerous of all. Now what does it say, Mr Chairman?

"Any person aggrieved by any decision of a licensing authority not to issue him a licence or renew his licence under this Law, or by any decision of a licensing authority to revoke his licence or impose any terms, conditions or restrictions in respect thereof, may appeal to the Minister who shall in considering and determining the appeal have the same powers as a licensing authority has under this Law in making the decision against which the appeal has been brought."

Mr Chairman, this does not appear to be fair enough having regard to the fact that the Minister is a politician and nothing precludes the Minister from protecting his agents after he should have given direction for certain things to be done. When the man's licence is revoked, then he appeals to this very Minister who is a politician. The fact that the Minister is a politician will be a case of appealing from Caesar to Caesar, and as a Yoruba man would put it, "it is like reporting your wife to your mother-in-law". (*interruptions*). It will be nice Mr Chairman, Sir, if the hon. the Attorney-General would substitute "appeal to the High Court" instead of "appeal to the Minister".

Chief Odebiyi: I think, Mr Chairman, in order to give the impression of impartiality, when a licensing authority refuses to give a licence to a particular theatre manager, what ought to happen is that he appeals to the High Court. Take for instance tax appeals. There is a local appeal court which is approved by the Minister himself. When a particular appellant is aggrieved by the decision of the tax appeal court, all he does is to go to the Magistrate's Court or the High Court as the case may be. He does not come to the Minister of Finance to determine whether what

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he has paid before is high or not. I think, Sir, in order to give the appearance of impartiality, instead of appealing to the Minister, we would allow the man to appeal to the High Court, so that when his licence is refused finally he knows that it is because what he has done is against public morality and public order.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I am afraid that the advice in this respect is not acceptable. This is a case where you have people paying fees of £3, £1, £2, and £5. In such a case you cannot appeal to the High Court. I would like to remind the hon. Leader of Opposition that when he was Minister of Local Government there was no occasion, when power was delegated to a Senior Assistant Secretary or even a Local Government Adviser, that appeal has been allowed to go to the High Court. In the case of income tax a man can be asked to pay £500. Such a man should be able to go to the High Court if necessary. A man can be asked to pay £100; he could appeal to the Magistrates Court if he likes but not in cases where you refuse to give a licence, which is only of the value of £3. Besides, Sir, it is not a judicial matter at all, it is administrative and in an administrative matter of this nature there is normally no appeal to the High Court.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, I would like you to read Clause 11 along with Clause 10 and see the danger which we foresee in this clause. We are not party to the new amendments being proposed. We saw this just now. But what I am trying to point out, Mr Chairman, is the fact that where a man who is a dealer in gramophone records probably has a large stock of various kinds of records which happen to be objectionable to the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General then he will say that that gramophone records store be closed. Is it morally right for the person whose shop has been closed to appeal to the very Minister who has the last say? I would suggest, Mr Chairman, that in all seriousness, while we leave the appeal in the first instance to lie with the Minister, opportunity should be given for any person who feels aggrieved to go to Court and he will be satisfied that justice at least has been done. Therefore I think the Government should accept this amendment because a person may wish to appeal in the first instance to the Minister and if he is still further aggrieved he can go to the Law Court.

Clause 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I beg to move the following amendments to Clause 11—

(1) *Delete* paragraph (d) of sub-clause (1) and *substitute* a new paragraph as follows:—

“(d) prohibit the acting, presentation, performance or publication of any stage play or musical entertainment or any act, scene, song, prologue, epilogue, or other publication of any other song or music, whether the same is vocal, or is played by gramophone, phonograph, musical-box recorder, automatic musical instrument, wireless loudspeaker or any other form of mechanical reproduction of sound or otherwise either absolutely or for such period, or throughout the Region or in any such part thereof, as may be specified in the order”;

(2) In the third to the fourth lines of sub-clause (2) *delete* the words “any person to whom a licence has been issued” and *substitute* the words “any person concerned.”.

Amendment proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, may I refer to this as another important and dangerous Clause of the Bill. I have already indicated that we do not wish to obstruct the passage of this Bill into law unduly but we have our fears, as already expressed when discussing Clause 10, and under clause 11, in the new amendment proposed by the Minister, you will find there, Mr Chairman, that what I have said exactly on clause 10 applies here. How can the Government take it upon itself to prohibit the relaying of tape recordings and gramophones, and so on and so forth? I can understand if this is limited to licensed theatres where stage plays attract a crowd. I still have my fears, Mr Chairman. Unless this clause is taken off from the Bill, the purport of the Bill will clearly be that the Government, or the “father” of this Bill, is extremely sensitive to what goes on in all parts of the Region. It is alright to say they are in power but when they go out they find everybody: men, women, boys and girls, singing in praise of their political opponent. Why do they come here and bring this clause into the Bill if they really want to prevent immoral plays to be staged in public theatres? To extend the purpose of this Bill to refusing licences to petty dealers in gramophone records simply because they dislike the type of records that are being played is not good. The ordinary man in the street, reading this amendment, will deduce nothing but what I am saying now, that the intention is to go out and begin to listen, under cover of night

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in their cars, to music being relayed by a man who will always try to advertise his own gramophone records which are selling like clothes; then the following morning the Minister will say the licence is withdrawn or he will close the shop within twenty-four hours, and that is the end of the thing. Is this not another avenue of depriving small traders of the chance of trying to find their means of livelihood?

Mr Chairman we are very serious on this particular clause, it is a danger, and we would register our protest against this very clause. We oppose clause 11.

Mr Chairman Sir, we want it to be on record that we oppose this clause because we feel it is very harsh on the poor people who do not understand what we are doing here. That is our point Mr Chairman. We don't like it. They will pass it all right but we want it to be on record that these people are the enemies of the petty traders, the enemies of the small men who are not even Theatre Managers and so on and so forth. We want it to be on record for everybody to see and the names of these people and their constituencies should be bodily written in the Hansard that they are the people depriving the poor masses of their means of livelihood.

Mr Awopeju: Mr Chairman, Sir, this is the most obnoxious and objectionable clause in this Bill and if it is passed, everyone of us present in this House, the Chairman himself not excluded, will be held guilty by the common people whose interest we represent. Mr Chairman Sir, I am speaking very seriously.

This is an attempt to impose a party regime on this Region. Somebody cannot even sing. If they want to get anyone and they fail to put a goat, under the direction of Chief Akintola at the back of the house of an innocent opponent with a view to incriminating him, they will say he sang an abusive song. Sometime ago I was passing by and I heard people singing "Awolowo yio m' Akintola". If they hear that they will go there and put these people in prison under this Law. Mr Chairman Sir, this Government belongs to a party of "kill-joys".

(*Government Benches: Kill thug?*)

I say "kill-joys".

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not want to say anything further than that. This clause should be deleted. It is very very bad. It is a way of creating an avenue of getting people incriminated in the cheapest manner.

They will say the man has played a gramophone record praising Adegbenro or in praise of Awolowo or saying that Akintola is a traitor. This is very bad. For that reason if they want to demonstrate that they exist for the masses they will agree with me that this clause be deleted.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it should be emphasised that all the fears which the hon. Members on the Opposition side are expressing in respect of this clause are wholly unfounded.

They are wholly unfounded because there has been no exercise of power on our part which could strike fear yet in the minds of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, on the Ogunde "Yoruba Ronu" play about which we have heard so much here, Ogunde himself appreciated that this Government was right so much so that since he left this Region he has not had the courage to stage the play in Lagos. (*Interruptions*). And I challenge them to deny it. The trouble is that since they paid Ogunde the money they did not bother about what happened again. If they had bothered, they would have gone further to find out the position. Ogunde appreciated that we are right. His refusal to stage the play is sufficient justification that the exercise of the power on our part is right.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the other point I want to make is this. When you read the amendment, what does it provide for? It doesn't take food from the mouth of anybody. It only gives us power to prohibit the active presentation and performance of plays which endanger the preservation of public order, public safety, public morality, and those are the responsibilities which the Constitution has charged us with. (*Opposition Benches: According to your interpretation*). Not only according to my interpretation; the Constitution is there for all of us to see. It charged this Government, as it charged the late Action Group Government, with responsibility to protect morality, public safety and public order. I know that the fear of the Leader of the Opposition, as he has confessed, is that he ordered a number of gramophone records singing his praise. (*Opposition Benches: He didn't say so*). He said so. He said that he ordered a number of gramophone records in his praise. (*Laughter*). If you read the transcripts of the Hansard you will find that in almost every speech he made on this Bill, he had emphasised gramophone records. If his fear is in respect of the gramophone records which he ordered, I can assure him that the God-fearing

Government on this Side will give, those gramophone records, when they arrive, a generous treatment. (*Laughter*). But there is nothing to be afraid of in this clause.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, may I respectfully ask you to be magnanimous enough that when we go into Division on this clause, the names and the constituencies of every Member be put in the Hansard. I know that it is not normal. (*Government Benches: Because the gallery will not be hearing you*). I am not used to talking to the gallery. I am addressing the Chairman. It is what is reported in the Hansard that matters. I know it is unusual to do this, but the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government has hinted that my gramophone records, when they do arrive, will be censored. Of course, I have not ordered any gramophone records . . . (*Interruptions*). What usually happens, Mr Chairman, is that all over the Region, with all gramophone dealers, when they sell records which praise Adegbenro or Awolowo, within a week, the prices of such records go up from 10s 6d to about £1 5s. (*Government Benches: Profiteering!*) And I do say this, that whether they close all the gramophone record shops or not all over the Region the popularity of the Action Group is intact. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government has made a point and we want the names of everybody here and their constituencies to be put down in the Hansard so that when we go back we can tell the people: "look, you cannot play any gramophone record in this place in praise of Chief Awolowo." I will go to Owode and tell them

Mr Kotoye: They will be very happy at Owode that they cannot play a record in praise of Adegbenro there.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Go to Owode today (*Opposition Benches: He cannot go to Owode*.) Go to Owode, you will find everybody singing in my praise. In any event, this is not the place to argue about that. If they put in this amendment, it helps us the more. But I want it put on record, and that is our appeal to you, Mr Chairman, that Hansard Reporters should record the names and constituencies of all these people voting in support of this amendment.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman Sir, I think the honourable Leader of Opposition should pay the devil his dues. He says that the popularity of the Action Group is growing day by day. But only the day before yesterday

the honourable Leader of Opposition came back from Enugu where he went to seek help. (*Several Opposition Members: He was in this House.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition came back from Enugu only last Monday morning where he went to solicit help from the President of the NCNC for the Action Group which has now become a thing of the past in Western Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say that this amendment is innocuous. It only gives the Government power to prohibit certain obnoxious records and songs. If any song is alright it is not going to be disturbed. If the records which the Leader of Opposition has ordered in his praise cannot provoke anybody to public disorder, then he can have them. But if they offend, they will be prohibited. Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment, "That the words proposed to be left out in sub-clause (1) be left out", *put*.

The House divided.

AYES—51; NOES—23

DIVISION LIST NO. 5

AYES—51

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebessin, Mr K. S.
4. Adekunle, Mr Y.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
9. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. A.
14. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
15. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
18. Akpan, Oba C. D.
19. Awiyi, Mr I. O.
20. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
21. Ashiru, Mr B.
22. Bello, Hon. A. B.
23. Elushade, Mr T. E.
24. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
25. Fashola, Mr O.
26. Jahn, Hon. C. O.
27. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
28. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
29. Lawal, Mr J. L.
30. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
31. Ogundiran, Hon. D.

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32. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
33. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
34. Oke, Mr E. O.
35. Olaitan, Chief O.
36. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
37. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
38. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
39. Omitowoju, Dr. J. O.
40. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
41. Orowole, Mr D. O.
42. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
43. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
44. Sanni, Mr S. A.
45. Sobande, Chief O.
46. Somotan, Mr A. S.
47. Tifase, Chief J. L.
48. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
49. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

50. Lana, Mr R. A.
51. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—23

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Areola, Mr R. O.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
11. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
14. Okeya, Mr S. A.
15. Olaniyan, Mr B.
16. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
17. Olusa, Mr R. A.
18. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
19. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
20. Popoola, Mr D. A.
21. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

22. Obadara, Mr A. O.
23. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, That the words proposed to be inserted be inserted in sub-clause (1), *put*.

The House Divided:

AYES—53; NOES—22.

DIVISION LIST NO. 6

AYES—53

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.

3. Adebessin, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adekunle, Mr Y.
6. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
7. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
8. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
9. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
12. Adibi, Mr N. A.
13. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
14. Ajibola, Hon. A.
15. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
16. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
17. Akerele, Mr S. O.
18. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
19. Akran, Oba C. D.
20. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
21. Arowojolu, Hon. E. B.
22. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
23. Ashiru, Mr B.
24. Bello Hon A. B.
25. Elushade, Mr T. E.
26. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
27. Fashola, Mr O.
28. John, Hon C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lawal, Mr J. L.
32. Layonu, Hon S. A.
33. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
34. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. S.
35. Ogunleye, Mr Y.
36. Oke, Mr E. O.
37. Olaitan, Mr O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr D. S.
43. Orowole, Mr D. O.
44. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
45. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
46. Sanni, Mr S. A.
47. Sobande, Chief O.
48. Somotan, Mr S. A.
49. Tifase, Chief J. O.
50. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
51. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

52. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
53. Lana, Mr R. A.

NOES—22

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Areola, Mr R. O.
5. Atolagbe, Mr D.
6. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
7. Babatola, Chief J. E.

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8. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
9. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
10. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
11. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
12. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
13. Okeya, Mr S. A.
14. Olaniyan, Mr B.
15. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
16. Olusa, Mr R. A.
17. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
18. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
19. Popoola, Mr D. A.
20. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers Noes

21. Obadara, Mr O. A.
22. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment”, That the words proposed to be left out be left out in sub-clause (2)”, *put*.

The House divided:

Ayes—51; Noes—24

DIVISION LIST NO. 7

AYES—51

1. Abiosun Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebesein, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adekunle, Mr Y.
6. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
7. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
8. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
9. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
12. Adibi, Mr N. A.
13. Adigun, Hon J. O.
14. Ajibola, Hon. A.
15. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
16. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
17. Akerele, Mr S. O.
18. Akigboye, Mr A. O.
19. Akran, Oba C. D.
20. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
23. Ashiru, Mr B.
24. Bello, Hon. A. B.
25. Elushade, Mr T. E.
26. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
27. John, Hon. C. O.
28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
30. Lawal, Mr J. L.
31. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
32. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
33. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.

34. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
35. Olaitan, Chief O.
36. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
37. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
38. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
39. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
40. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
41. Orowole, Mr D. O.
42. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
43. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
44. Sanni, Mr S. A.
45. Sobande, Chief O.
46. Somotan, Mr A. S.
47. Tifase, Chief J. L.
48. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
49. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

50. Lana, Mr R. A.
51. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—24

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Areola, Mr R. O.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
11. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
14. Okeya, Mr S. A.
15. Olaniyan, Mr B.
16. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
17. Olusa, Mr R. A.
18. Onasanya, Mr S.
19. Ositelu, Mr D. O.
20. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
21. Popoola, Mr D. A.
22. Sogbein, Mr S. O.

Tellers for Noes

23. Obadara, Mr A. O.
24. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, “That the words proposed to be inserted be inserted in sub-clause (2),” *put and agreed to*.

Question, That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill, *put*.

The House Divided.

AYES—52; NOES—23

DIVISION LIST NO. 8

AYES—52

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.

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3. Adebessin, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adekunle, Mr Y.
6. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
7. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
8. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
9. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
12. Adibi, Mr N. A.
13. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
14. Ajibola, Hon. A.
15. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
16. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
17. Akerele, Mr S. O.
18. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
19. Akran, Oba C. D.
20. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
23. Ashiru, Mr B.
24. Bello, Hon. A. B.
25. Elusade, Mr T. E.
26. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
27. John, Hon. C. O.
28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
30. Lawal, Mr J. L.
31. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
32. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
33. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
34. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
35. Oke, Mr E. O.
36. Olaitan, Chief O.
37. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
38. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
39. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
40. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
41. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
42. Orowole, Mr D. O.
43. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
44. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
45. Sanni, Mr S. A.
46. Sobande, Chief O.
47. Somotan, Mr S. A.
48. Tifase, Chief J. O.
49. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
50. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

51. Lana, Mr R. A.
52. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—23

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Areola, Mr R. O.
5. Atolagbe, Mr D.
6. Awopeju, Mr J. O.

7. Babatola, Chief J. E.
8. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
9. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
10. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
11. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
12. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
13. Okeya, Mr S. A.
14. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
15. Olusa, Mr R. A.
16. Onasanya, Mr S.
17. Olaniyan, Mr B.
18. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
19. Oyewole, Mr S. D.
20. Popoola, Mr D. A.
21. Sogbein, Mr S. O.

Tellers for Noes

22. Obadara Mr O. A.
23. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.
Clause 12.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I wish to move the following amendment—

Renumber this clause as clause '12 (1)'

Amendment agreed to.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I wish to move the following amendment to the new clause 12 (1):

Delete paragraph (c) and substitute the following new paragraph:—

"(c) contravenes any of the provisions of any order under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 11 of this Law",.

Amendment agreed to.

New clause 12 (1).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, section 12 (c), as it is here, provides:

"that any person who contravenes any of the provisions of any order made under this law, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding £200 or to imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment, and in addition, where the offence is a continuing one, shall be liable to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for each day during which the offence continues".

Mr Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Attorney-General moved the Second Reading of this Bill, I remember I pointed out that the Bill is vindictive and oppressive. At a later stage I made the point also that appeal should lie to the High Court in order that an aggrieved person may feel satisfied that he has had judicial redress. In his reply the Attorney-General answered that the fees payable in clause 8, range from £10 to £5, to £3, to £2 and to even £1 and therefore it should

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will use the language

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

not be necessary for small matters like that to be taken to the High Court. Now here we are, when we come to the penalty section of the Bill the Attorney-General is saying that any person who contravenes any section of this law shall be fined a sum of £200. I wonder how the Attorney-General can reconcile the two statements. I do not know what he has to say under the provisions of this Bill, Sir, as a human being and as a politician who claims to represent the interest of his people.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I do not claim to represent the interest of anybody. (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: He has lost the claim to represent the people when the UPP swallowed the larger part of the NCNC.

He was telling us that we do not have to go to High Court in order to obtain redress. But here he says that the Minister alone should be the final authority to whom an appeal should lie. In one breath he said that the fees to be paid are very low and in another he said the man should be fined £200. Does he believe that he is doing justice to his own conscience?

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the penalty clause here is very oppressive and very vindictive. Why do they think that because a man has played a record, which is not very welcome to politicians like the Attorney-General and his master, that man should be fined £200? Where does he get the money to pay? The next thing is to throw him into jail. During the next election, I know it will be used by them to throw their political opponents into jail because of lack of money to pay.

I tell you, Mr Chairman, this is one of my genuine fears when we say we do not want the passage of this Bill into law. These are our fears. The people of this Region are being ruled oppressively. I say that we on this Side do not support this penalty clause and we oppose it. As I am opposing it now we are speaking for the masses of this Region. Therefore, Mr Chairman, we do not support this. If the Government is genuinely interested in raising the moral standard of the people, and not to penalise them unnecessarily, it should be magnanimous enough to yield ground and reduce the penalty. I do not say that people who contravene the law should not be penalised. When a man pays about £2 or £3 for a licence and afterwards, if he is found guilty of playing

some records which some politicians think very unwelcome, to be fined more than £25 is very onerous. They may tell me that the Judges and Magistrates can use their discretion in imposing penalty, but there is no reason why a Judge or a Magistrate should not impose maximum penalty. This heartless Government and all the sponsors of this Bill will regret in the near future when they have to taste the bitter pills of their own preparation.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I observed, Sir, that the hon. Leader of Opposition has spoken to oppose this clause of the Bill. In the first place, he has said that because there is no right of appeal to the High Court the penalty should not be more than £25. May I say, Sir, that the question of the grant of licences is purely administrative and that is what we say should not go to the High Court. But when a man contravenes some provisions of the Law and a fine is imposed, certainly the judgment of the court should be upheld and if this man is fined anything beyond £50, he has a right to proceed on appeal and I must refer the hon. Leader of Opposition to section 31 of the Constitution of Western Nigeria which shows that in any matter in which the subject matter of dispute is to the value of £50 and above, a man has a right of appeal to the High Court. Although the punitive clause shows that a man can be fined up to £200, he has a right to go to the High Court on appeal. The question of appeal has been provided for in our Constitution.

Another example of muddled thinking by the hon. Leader of Opposition is this: that when somebody could not pay £3 for a licence, how can he be asked to pay £200? He is not being penalised for not obtaining licences, but it is when a prohibition is made under sub-section 11, and he contravenes the prohibition and deliberately flouts the authority of the Government, that he can be taken to the Court under this prohibitive clause. Do not forget, Sir, that the judgment and the course of justice have been interposed. It is left to the discretion of the Court to decide whether the offender will be cautioned and discharged or whether he will be fined only 10s, as long as the court does not impose a fine above £200. That is all; the discretion of the Court is not to go beyond £200.

Unless the hon. Leader of Opposition is suggesting that the Courts will be vindictive, oppressive and will be imposing fines on people heavily without discretion there is nothing in the provisions of this section of the law which will enable any Minister or any

[ALHAJI OBISESAN]

that it has no sense of humour, because it knows that it is noted for its intolerance. I have implicit confidence in the Judiciary in this Region, and I know that the people who would decide whether any instrument or matter contravenes this clause would be impartial (*interruptions*). I have read the Bill. What are they after? They are after these record dealers because they sing in praise of Chief Awolowo. I am asking that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whom I knew to be a godly man, although I do not know what he is nowadays, should withdraw this clause.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Chairman, I am very grateful to you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Clause.

It is very unfortunate that the Opposition want to eat their cake and have it. A little while ago they were appealing that they should be allowed power to appeal to the High Court. Just now they are saying that they have no confidence in the Courts. (*Interruptions*).....I have heard my learned Friend from Ijebu-Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) say that Magistrates are supporters of politicians and because of that he has no confidence in them. But whether they have confidence in them or not we want to assure them that these Magistrates are the Magistrates who were appointed during the regime of the Action Group.

On the merits of the Amendment, the highlights of which the Attorney-General has put forward, I submit that any Attorney-General who withdraws an Amendment proposed on the Floor of this House is not worthy of his responsibility. In support of my contention, I draw the attention of this House to a number of similar provisions which exist in the Laws of this Federation.

You will like to know that two Friends of mine here are addicted to drinking illicit gin. (*Laughter*). Under the provision of the Law, anybody found in possession of illicit gin will be prosecuted. There is ample provision for the Magistrate or the Judge to confiscate the illicit gin and deal with the person possessing it accordingly under the Law. In exercise of the powers of the various Governments of the Federation to protect public morality such things ought to be confiscated. As a matter of fact if Ogunde had waited at Ilesha for the order of the Government to be served on him all his property would have been confiscated.

It is my submission that there are several laws in this Federation under which offensive

literatures, dangerous instruments, illicit gin and illicit drugs can be confiscated and destroyed by the courts in order to prevent further commission of crimes. After all, the aim of the law is not only to punish commission of crimes but also to prevent its commission or further commission as in this case.

Mr Chairman, Sir, how are we going to be sure that if we find somebody playing offensive gramophone records and we take him to court and he is fined £5, as suggested by my learned Friend the Member for Ijebu-Remo North, he will not come again to sell these offensive records, tape recorders and the like. It is to prevent crimes that this provision, which my Friends opposite are quarrelling about, has been inserted.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to recall the speech of hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) who said that there is nothing bad in this Bill and I beg my Friends opposite in the name of all that is good not to allow their shadows to go about haunting them. We want to keep everything within the four walls of the Law; there is nothing to fear in the provision of this Bill. As a matter of fact we are helping them by trying to make clear what the provisions of the law are so that they might not find themselves within its warm embrace.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the clause.

Amendment put.

The House Divided:

AYES—53; NOES—25

DIVISION LIST NO. 9

AYES—53

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebesein, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adekunle, Mr Y.
6. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
7. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
8. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
9. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
10. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
12. Adibi, Mr N. A.
13. Adigun, Hon J. O.
14. Ajibola, Hon. A.
15. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
16. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
17. Akerele, Mr S. O.
18. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
19. Akran, Oba C. D.

20. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
23. Ashiru, Mr B.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
25. Elushade, Mr T. E.
26. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
27. Fashola, Mr O.
28. John, Hon. C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lawal, Mr J. L.
32. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
33. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
34. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
35. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
36. Oke, Mr B. O.
37. Olaitan, Chief O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Orowole, Mr D. O.
44. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
45. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
46. Sanni, Mr S. A.
47. Sobande, Chief O.
48. Somotan, Mr S. A.
49. Tifase, Chief J. L.
50. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
51. Williams, Mrs C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

52. Lana, Mr R. A.
53. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—25

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Areola, Mr R. O.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
11. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
14. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
15. Okeya, Mr S. A.
16. Olaniyan, Mr B.
17. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
18. Olusa, Mr R. A.
19. Onasanya, Mr S.
20. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
21. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
22. Popoola, Mr D. A.
23. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

24. Obadara Mr O. A.
25. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Clause 12 (2) agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, put.

The House divided:

AYES—52; NOES—26.

DIVISION LIST NO. 10

AYES—52

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebesein, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
9. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. A.
14. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
15. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
21. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
22. Ashiru, Mr B.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
26. Fashola, Mr O.
27. John, Hon. C. O.
28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
30. Lawal, Mr J. L.
31. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
32. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
33. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
34. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
35. Oke, Mr B. O.
36. Olaitan, Chief O.
37. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
38. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
39. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
40. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
41. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
42. Orowole, Mr D. O.
43. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
44. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
45. Sanni, Mr S. A.
46. Sobande, Chief O.
47. Somotan, Mr S. A.
48. Tifase, Chief J. L.
49. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
50. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

51. Lana, Mr R. A.
52. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—26

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
4. Aina, Mr V. A.
5. Akerele, Mr S. A.
6. Areola, Mr R. O.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Chief J. E.
10. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
11. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
12. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
13. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
14. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
15. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
16. Okeya, Mr S. A.
17. Olaniyan, Mr B.
18. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
19. Olusa, Mr R. A.
20. Onasanya, Mr S.
21. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
22. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
23. Popoola, Mr D. A.
24. Sogbein, Mr S. O.

Tellers for Noes

25. Obadara, Mr O. A.
26. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 13 and 14 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported with amendments.

Motion made and Question proposed—
 "That the Bill be read a Third time".—(Chief Olowofoyeku).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, perhaps I should remind the House that on the Second Reading, after the Attorney-General had given an undertaking which I requested, I did give this undertaking also that the Opposition would then participate in debating all stages of the Bill. (*interruptions*).

We have done our duty in spotlighting the obnoxious clauses of the Bill, and therefore there is no further point in opposing the passage of the Bill. We did not like certain parts of the Bill and we said so in clear terms and if those who have never perhaps looked at the Bill and seen the dangers inherent in the Bill are now shouting "let us go to the division", by all means, let us go to the

division. I think we are doing business in the House as business seriously ought to be done and therefore there is no point in pressing for a Division on the Third Reading, but if they do, I am prepared to go to the Division.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure it was not this Side of the House which was asking for Divisions. It appears that the hon. Leader of Opposition was not able to control his men and if his men want a Division, well, we are also ready. Why not settle down properly and say, "Mr Speaker, we are not asking for a division"?

Mr Speaker: When I put the question, it is my duty to assess the opinion of the majority of the House and when I put the question, I listen as to whether the voice of the House is on the "AYES" side or on the "NOES" side and in order to examine properly what I feel I heard, I always say, either "I think the AYES have it" or "the NOES have it," and it is left for either Side to dispute it if that Side wants a Division. I crave the indulgence of the House to put the question.

Question put.

The House Divided.

AYES—52; NOES—25

DIVISION LIST NO. 11

AYES—52

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Mr O.
3. Adebesein, Mr K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
9. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.
13. Ajibola Hon. A.
14. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
15. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
21. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
22. Ashiru, Mr B.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
26. Fashola, Mr O.

27. John, Hon. C. O.
28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
30. Lawal, Mr J. L.
31. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
32. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
33. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
34. Ogunyele, Alhadji Y.
35. Oke, Mr E. O.
36. Olaitan, Chief O.
37. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
38. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
39. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
40. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
41. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
42. Orowole, Mr D. O.
43. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
44. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
45. Sanni, Mr S. A.
46. Sobande, Chief O.
47. Somotan, Mr A. S.
48. Tifase, Chief J. L.
49. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
50. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

51. Lana, Mr R. A.
52. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—25

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
4. Aina, Mr V. A.
5. Akerele, Mr S. A.
6. Areola, Mr R. O.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Chief J. E.
10. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
11. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
12. Fawehinmi, Alhaji, B. O.
13. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
14. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
15. Okeya, Mr S. A.
16. Olaniyan, Mr B.
17. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
18. Olusa, Mr R. A.
19. Onasanya, Mr S.
20. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
21. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
22. Popoola, Mr D. A.
23. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

24. Obadara, Mr O. A.
25. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

WESTERN NIGERIA HOUSING CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second reading read.

The Minister of Lands and Housing, (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill.

The Western Nigeria Housing Corporation was established in 1958 as a Statutory Corporation of the Government of Western Nigeria under the Western Region Housing Corporation Law, Chapter 130 of the Laws of Western Nigeria. At first the powers of the Corporation were limited to providing more dwelling houses for members of the public in Western Nigeria and developing and managing housing estates. Because of the success achieved in that sphere, the principal Law was in 1960 amended to allow the Corporation to undertake, in addition, the development and management of industrial estates in Western Nigeria. The Corporation has made some great progress that need not be told to the people of this House.

(Opposition Benches: Tell us).

I do not need to tell the Members of the Opposition.

The Corporation now consists of a Chairman, two Executive Directors and six members. The day-to-day administration of the Corporation is in the hands of the Chairman and the two Executive Directors who are assisted by four senior officials of the Corporation, namely: a Chief Accountant, a Chief Estate Officer, a Chief Engineer and a Secretary, with their staff.

The Corporation has developed a modern housing estate at Bodija in the City of Ibadan, the Capital of Western Nigeria. The Estate stands on about 400 acres of land and is wholly residential. Of the 1,200 dwelling houses intended, 420 have been built, sold and occupied. Some seventy building plots have also been leased to individuals who have built houses according to their own designs.

At Ikeja, which is within ten miles of the Federal Port of Lagos, the Corporation has also developed a housing and an industrial estate over an area of 700 acres. All the 200 dwelling houses so far built on the 300-acre-residential-zone, have been sold and occupied. There is a waiting list of 200 applicants who wish to purchase houses on the Estate. The remaining 400 acres

[MR OGUNDIRAN]

are zoned for industries and have all been allocated to industrialists. A proposal to acquire more land for extension is now being vigorously pursued.

In addition to the running of housing and industrial estates the Corporation also issues out loans to people for building their own houses. This scheme covers the whole of the Region. The maximum loan is £4,000 to an individual and is repayable by instalments over a period which varies from five to fifteen years. (*Prolonged interruptions*)

Mr Speaker: I refer Members to Standing Order 29 (5)

"Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking."

Mr Ogundiran: To enable the services of the Corporation to be extended to other parts of the Region it will be necessary to increase the borrowing powers of the Corporation. The extension will cover such places as Oshogbo/Ede, Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, Akure, Ilesha and, possibly, one or two other towns, and the development of an industrial estate at Ibadan.

Efforts are being made to obtain loans from external sources to meet the demands placed on the Corporation by the expected increase in its activities.

The borrowing power of the Corporation in respect of long term loans is at present £2 million and it is proposed to increase this to £15 million. In order to ensure that this power is exercised judiciously, no long-term loans will be raised without the prior approval of the Governor-in-Council, while authority to approve short term loans will continue to be exercised by me.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Second Reading of the Housing Corporation (Amendment) Bill.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill to amend the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation Law, which has been so ably moved by the Minister of Lands and Housing, is acceptable to the Opposition.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in the Committee. (In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—

"That the Bill be read a Second time".

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) yesterday made some allegations about the use of Government personnel and material for private agricultural purposes. These allegations are absolutely untrue. The position is this.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): What the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources is saying is not relevant to the Appropriation Bill. Order 22.

Mr Speaker: Order 22! I want the hon. Member to give us the order, and show us what he means. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Babatola: Order 32: "When a Motion is made for the adjournment of a debate or of the House during any debate or that the Chairman do report progress or do leave the chair the debate upon such a motion shall be confined to matters on such motion."

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion on the Appropriation Bill was adjourned till this afternoon and Members here were told that they were going to listen to the reply of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources on the Appropriation Bill. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has any reply to the allegation on the Private Members' Motion of yesterday, if he had not the opportunity of giving a reply yesterday at the material time, he has another opportunity of making a Ministerial Statement in reply to the allegation, but he should not take the opportunity of the Appropriation Bill to drag us to the discussion of another business.

Mr Speaker: Although we are discussing the Appropriation Bill but if any question arises from any other person that affects the Appropriation Bill the question can be answered by the Minister. (*prolonged interruptions*).

Dr Onabamiro: Some Members made references to the fact that some Ministers and other Members of this House are farming and are using the staff of my Ministry to assist them in their farming activities. I would like Members to know that there is nothing wrong in Ministers and hon. Members farming and in members of the staff of my Extension Division assisting them like they are assisting others to farm. We wish to encourage as many people as possible to go into farming and, in fact, farms of hon. Members will serve as useful demonstrations to others around and will help to encourage our educated youths to take some interest in farming. The members of the staff of the Extension Services Division of my Ministry assist all people interested in farming, politicians and non-politicians alike.

Members must, however, note that they have to pay for the improved planting materials, poultry and other livestock supplied. No one, including the Premier and the Ministers, is supplied with these articles free of charge.

When we read of the Prime Minister or the Sardauna of Sokoto or Dr Okpara going to their farms, no one complains. But when our hon. Premier or the Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran, goes to his farm we ridicule him and endeavour to weave all sorts of stories round his farm and his farming. No one sees anything wrong in my Extension Services Division assisting hon. Olusa with his farm as we have done every year for more than ten years. No one sees anything wrong in our assisting hon. Odutola, Chief Asaboro and Mr Omole of Ilesha with their farms as we have been doing. One of the biggest poultry keepers in this Region is Prince Odufunlade. My Ministry supplied him with most of the chickens and all the feeds he uses and assists him with the supervision of the project and the marketing of his eggs. Similarly, we have supplied chickens and given advisory services to thousands of poultry keepers in this Region amongst whom may be mentioned Mrs Adefule of Shagamu, Dr Sofola, Mrs Ogunlesi of Ibadan, Chief Adeyemo of Ibadan and many others. (*Opposition Benches: Free of charge?*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, last year, I, having acquired from my late mother a farm of about eight acres, requested for the services of this Division and after getting the services I paid for it, and here is the Bill. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I am appealing to the House to please allow the Minister to continue.

Dr Onabamiro: I only have one statement to make on my Extension Division. Nobody has got any chicken from my Ministry without paying for it and we supply about 170,000 every year.

I would now like to speak on the allegation of Ikeja cocoa sheds. I have investigated the circumstances in which the contract for the building of six cocoa sheds at Ikeja were awarded to the Guinea Construction Company and I am convinced that the contract was awarded to this Company on merit. (*Opposition Benches: Ooh!*)

It is absolutely untrue that any Member of this Government received £600,000 or any sum as a reward from the Guinea Construction Company.

The award of the contract for the building of these cocoa sheds by the Marketing Board was done in the fairest way possible. The contractors who competed for the contract were required to find 50 per cent of the capital for the construction while the Marketing Board pays this back over a period of four years.

The Marketing Board also requested all the contractors to state the amount they would be prepared to pay as damage for failing to complete the work within a stipulated time which was imposed in order to save the Board, at the earliest possible time, the weekly rent of about £2,500 it was paying to the Ports Authority at Apapa.

Of all the companies which tendered for this work only two, including the Guinea Construction Company, were prepared to pay damages at all for failure to complete the work within the stipulated time and so only these two merited consideration for the contract, and although the quotation of the Guinea Construction Company was the highest, it offered the most attractive terms, being willing to pay £1,000 for every week after the stipulated time of completing the work and the advisers of the Board also stated that it was the better of the two firms that qualified for the award, the other being more of a specialist in Civil Engineering work as opposed to building work.

As Members know, one is not bound to accept the lowest of any tender and the ability to provide the loan capital required as well as to complete the work most satisfactorily in a record time was regarded as very important in the award of this contract. No doubt many Members were not aware of the exorbitant rent the Board is having to pay at Apapa which we need to save as early as possible.

[DR ONABAMIRO]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to advise Members to endeavour to get their facts correct before making serious allegations against this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will now come to my last point, and that is the allegation on forest allocation. Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Hansard of 13th April, 1964, at page 329, the hon. Leader of Opposition made the following allegations. I quote—

“As a matter of fact, as I speak now, Mr Speaker, I have it also being brought to my notice that in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, before a concession is given to a prospective forest exploiter, at least £1,000 per square mile is collected from him”.

Mr Speaker Sir, I should have thought that this honourable House is too important an Assembly to be treated with a joke of this kind. (*Interruptions*). I should also have thought, Mr Speaker Sir, that the hon. Leader of Opposition would address this House more seriously on cogent points rather than get up to make wild and unconnected allegations starting such allegations with “it has been brought to my notice” “people told me”, “I have been informed”, etc. When the hon. Leader of Opposition stated “before a concession is given to a prospective forest exploiter, at least £1,000 per square mile is collected from him”, I ask, Mr Speaker Sir, who collects the money? (*Opposition Benches: You*) And for what purpose? (*interruptions*). Can anybody seriously believe such a wild allegation? (*Opposition Benches: Yes*).

Chief Babatola: I can even swear an affidavit to it.

Dr Onabamiro: There is going to be provision in our Estimates to expand the Aro Mental Hospital at Abeokuta for some of these people on the Opposition Benches.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say and I want to say very seriously that this allegation is false. (*Interruptions*). It is being suggested that I, Onabamiro, charged and received into my pocket a sum of £1,000 for every square mile of Forest allocated since I got to that Ministry? I am sure even my worst enemy among the Opposition Members would not belittle his intelligence by believing such a fantastic and ridiculous allegation because it is transparently untrue and unfounded.

Chief Babatola: I know it to be true.

Dr Onabamiro: For instance, I heard when the hon. Member for Ikeja North

said that I have deposited money in a woman's name in the Bank. I know I have no money in my own bank account myself, how much more having money in another person's account!

Alhaji Fawehinmi: On point of Order, Mr Speaker. Order 27 (5) “It shall be out of place to use offensive and insulting languages against members”. For the Minister to say sometime ago that Aro Mental Hospital will be expanded for some Members of the Opposition is offensive. Let him please withdraw that statement.

Mr Speaker: I want generally to remark that tempers are now very high as a result of the considerably long sitting.

On the point of order raised, I heard the hon. Minister mention Aro but he has not been referring to any specific Member of this House.

Dr Onabamiro: Or is it being suggested that the prospective forest exploiter pays this sum into some party fund? This is equally ridiculous because the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is not the headquarters of any political party nor have we a list of political party members in our files in the Ministry.

Mr Speaker Sir, when a man applies for a permit to exploit a Forest Reserve, the application does not come before me, the Minister. It goes to the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests where the application is processed along with others. And the Chief Conservator, being a Civil Servant, is not in the least interested in the political affiliation of the applicant. If the applicant satisfies the rules and regulations laid down under the Forest Law of the Region then the Chief Conservator recommends his application for approval. If not, the application is rejected and I do not even get to know about it at all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my duty in the Ministry is to lay before my officials what I know to be the policy of Government and leave the detailed application of this policy with regard to the granting of permits to the officials.

Mr Speaker, Sir, do you know why we now hear so much noise about forest allocations? I will tell you. When the Action Group was in power in this Region, hardly anybody knew anything about the allocation of our Forest Reserves. The reason is that in conformity with the policy of that party of distributing the good things of this Region only among a very small circle of people, large areas of our Forest Reserves were allocated to very few people

[DR ONABAMIRO]

people who were top ranking members of the Action Group and to expatriates. Let me give you *eight* examples.

(i) An area of 107 square miles comprising the bulk of the Forest in Ijebu, known as the Omo Forest Reserve, was given out for a period of twenty-five years to a company whose directors were two members of the Action Group. (*Opposition Benches: Name them*).

(ii) In Ondo, an area called the Oluwa Reserve, comprising OA1, OA3, OA4, totalling 243.4 square miles, was given to an expatriate firm for a period of twenty-five years.

(iii) A portion of the same Oluwa Forest, called OA2 comprising an area of 93.5 square miles, was given to one single man, an Action Grouper, for a period of twenty-five years. (*Opposition Benches: Name him*.)

(iv) The Idanre Reserve, known as OA5, comprising an area of 208 square miles, was given to an expatriate firm for a period of twenty-five years.

(v) A forest called Otu Reserve or OA7, comprising an area of 32.78 square miles, was given out to an Action Group member for a period of five years. (*Opposition Benches: Give his name*).

(vi) The Gambari Forest, an area of 44.8 square miles, was given out on the 1st of April, 1956 to a company formed by three Action Group men for a period of sixteen years, their concession not ending until 31st March, 1972. (*Opposition Benches: Tell us their names*).

(vii) In the year 1957, an area of 118.63 square miles was given out in the Ago Owu Reserve to a single Action Group man for a period of twenty-five years, his concession not ending until the 31st March, 1982. (*Opposition Benches: Give us his name*).

(viii) When an area of 8,000 acres out of the Ijebu Forest was to be de-reserved for the formation of the Government Farm at Apoje some seven years ago, the exploitation rights to take timber was given only to three top Action Group members.

And this formed about 75 per cent of all areas available for exploitation in the Region. That was the policy of Forest Allocation for over ten years up to the end of 1962. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I give this undertaking that this Side of the House will co-operate in allowing the Minister to reply to the serious allegations

made against him personally as Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I will appeal to my Colleagues not to interrupt but I also appeal to the Minister to reply convincingly. When we spoke yesterday we mentioned names. Let him mention names in his reply. We on this Side pledge that if the Minister does not satisfy us we may table a Motion that Government should institute an enquiry into the whole thing and we shall swear to an affidavit in the court.

Mr Speaker: I thank the Leader of Opposition for this undertaking. The Minister has prepared his speech and he is replying and the House should listen. If the House is not satisfied there is another solution in the way the Leader of Opposition has suggested. If the hon. Members on the Opposition are in doubt as to the truth of the Minister's reply they have a chance of bringing a Motion to the Floor of this House. So, they should please take the warning of the Leader of Opposition.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the assurance given by the Leader of Opposition that his followers will listen to what I have to say.

What does this picture show us, Mr Speaker? We see that a very small circle of Action Group business men, less than a dozen in number, and expatriates have been given forestry allocations comprising an area of nearly 1,000 square miles over which most of them held exclusive concessions for periods lasting up to twenty-five years. This is a veritable Forestry N.I.P.C.! That was the picture found in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources when we started our work of reconstruction.

The policy of the present Government, with regard to Forestry allocations, is to democratise the system of allocation in order to make more people, including small men and men of modest means, benefit from the natural resources of the Region.

We no longer give vast areas to single individuals as in the days of the Action Group. For instance, a body of people in Ijebu known as the Obanta Timber Trading Association, comprising about twenty-four people, was allocated only three square miles of Forest for exploitation and they are quite happy with their allocation. What is more, we no longer give concessions lasting as long as twenty-five years because we think it would be wrong to commit the next generation on the resources of our own time.

An area of six square miles at Olokemeji was shared out between twelve people in plots of half a square mile each.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I want the Minister to mention the names.

Dr Onabamiro: I will mention their names. Shonibare Brothers half a square mile, Majekodunmi, half a square mile, B. K. Sutherland, Kafaru Igbini, Mr Aileru, Mr Ladipo and others.

(*Opposition Benches: All NNDP Members*).

Mr Speaker: Order. I appeal to hon. Members to please note that the standard of debate has fallen so low and may make me invoke my power to expel any Member from this House. I appeal to Members, especially on the Opposition Side, to heed the warning of the Leader of Opposition.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I will abide by your ruling. All the same, I challenged the hon. Minister to name those Action Group Members who were awarded concessions in the days of the Action Group, he did not do that. Now when it comes to naming certain persons to whom certain small concessions were given he started to read their names and said that these are Action Group members in Abeokuta. I challenge hon. Kotoye to say publicly whether these names are not names of members of the NNDP in Abeokuta; whether Aileru, Ladipo and others are not NNDP supporters.

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has only given names. We cannot be sure who is A.G. or who is NNDP.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will soon be done.

Again, unlike the Action Group Government of the past, the present Government does not believe in political discrimination. Applications for forest allocations from Members of the Opposition are attended to with the same care as those of Government supporters. I have applications from Members of the Opposition for exploitation of some forest reserves in their Divisions and I believe they have received letters from my Ministry assuring them that they would be notified when these particular reserves are to be gazetted as ready for exploitation. That will show them that we are democratic. Some of them Opposite have applications with me.

Again the Leader of Opposition makes the allegation that the "whole forest reserves of this Region have been wasted away". How can a man who has himself been a Minister for many years and acquainted with the processes of Government administration make an allegation such as this, which, in his own

heart, he must know to be untrue? What are the Conservators of Forests there for? What are they being paid for? Certainly it is their duty to ensure that only those parts of the Forest Reserves which are ripe and mature for exploitation are given out for exploitation and the exploitation must conform with approved lines laid down.

To refute the allegation that all our forests have been given out I shall list sixteen Reserves which have not been given out for exploitation at all.

These are—

Egbado Division—Ilaro Forest Reserve
Egbado Division—Ohunbe Forest Reserve
Egbado Division—Eggua Forest Reserve
Egbado Division—Aworo Forest Reserve
Egbado Division—Meko Group Forest Reserve.

Colony Division—Ogun River
Ibadan Division—Igangan Forest Reserve
Ibadan Division—Lanlate Forest Reserve
Oshun Division—Oba Hills
Oyo Division—Upper Ogun
Oyo Division—Old Oyo
Oyo Division—Opara
Ekiti Division—Ishan-Aiyede
Okitipupa Division—Eba Island
Okitipupa Division—Ojigbobini
Akure Division—Akure-Ofosu Extension

(*Opposition Benches: What of Ijebu? He has given out all the land in Ijebu and Egba*).

Mr Awopeju: What of Forest Reserves in Remo?

Dr Onabamiro: Government has no Forest Reserve in Remo Division.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I close I would like to say a word or two on the wild and false allegations made by the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) yesterday.

I am glad that hon. Ositelu has satisfied himself that I have no money in my bank accounts. He now comes forward with the theory that I have saved up the money, which he alleged that I got through forest allocations, in a woman's name.

(*Opposition Benches Yes it is true*).

Now, who can that woman be? Certainly it is not Mrs Onabamiro, otherwise hon. Ositelu would have said so yesterday. Could it then be Mrs Ositelu? (*Laughter*). Unfortunately I have never met Mrs Ositelu and cannot say whether I would like her enough to deposit my money in a bank in her name.

The trouble with some Members of the Opposition is that they judge us here by the

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same standards as they have. A man who has no visible means of livelihood, except what he gets through politics, may descend to the levels of character depicted by hon. Ositelu to obtain money by corruption and deposit it in a bank in a woman's name. But certainly hon. Ositelu should know that except for membership of this House which brings us together, he and I live in two different worlds. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Ositelu: The vote that brought him here brought me here also.

Dr Onabamiro: During the Emergency period in 1962, I very easily obtained an appointment as Professor of Zoology in a University on a salary of £3,000 per annum. *(Cheers from the Government Benches)*. It would be interesting to know how hon. Ositelu maintained himself during those months if not by accepting the crumbs that fell from the tables of the Leaders of the Action Group.

Hon. Ositelu, Mr Speaker, reminds me of what the fire-flies, who live only for one day, said to the stars, which exist for millions of years. Said the Fireflies to the Stars: 'Oh ye stars! We hear that your light would some day be extinguished!' The stars, of course, did not bother themselves to reply. If it had not been for the purpose of getting something down on record in the Hansard, I shall, of course, not have bothered to reply to the foolish and malicious allegations made by the Member for Ikeja North.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to use this opportunity to reply to some of the wild allegations made by Opposition Members yesterday. *(Interruptions)*.

Ministers and senior officials are having to attend meetings, interviews and conferences so frequently in Lagos and incur considerable hotel expenses that consideration has to be given to what steps to take in order to reduce these expenses to the barest minimum. *(Opposition Benches: Why must it be Coker's house?)* To give assurance, if they have a house acceptable to me or to Government, we still need houses in Lagos, they should apply to me or to Government and we will give it consideration. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: I am calling the attention of honourable Members to the provisions of our Standing Orders and if we are prevented from hearing clearly the honour-

able Minister of Lands and Housing, I shall invoke my powers. Therefore, I am again inviting attention to our Standing Order 29 (5)—Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while a Member is speaking.

Mr Ogundiran: The Eastern Nigeria Government solved this problem in so far as it affects its people by erecting and maintaining official quarters in Ikoyi, Lagos. I was informed by the Minister of Lagos Affairs, that when the development now going on on Victoria Island is completed, allocation of a suitable plot would be duly offered to the Government.

The next alternative explored was to find a suitable house to hire either in the Island or Mainland of Lagos.....*(interruptions)*. Negotiation was entered into for houses in Ebute-Metta and Ikoyi. Having considered the amount of offer by the owners of the various houses, Government settled for Mr Coker's house on Ikorodu Road. *(Opposition Benches: Ah!)* We got an expatriate solicitor to negotiate these things.....

(Opposition Benches: Tell us his name?)

Agreement has been concluded to lease this house for two years and I emphasise, two years, and not for ten years, at a cost of £2,500. *(Ironic cheers from Opposition Benches)*. He was paid an advance, not for two years, but for only one year. Before the expiration of this period, we may get plots at Ikoyi or Victoria Island. *(Interruptions)*.....

Chief Babatola: Mr Speaker, Order 27 (2)—A member must confine his observation to matters under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant there to.

In this case, Sir, if the Minister introduces matters not relevant to the Appropriation Bill, we shall be obliged to reply, Sir, Incidentally Sir, I like to proffer the name of Charles Lee as the name of the Expatriate Solicitor who negotiated for the house.

Mr Ogundiran: I am making a speech concerning the financial aspect of my Ministry.

The house is being used as a V.I.P. Rest House and charges are demanded from guests who occupy the house at the rate of 50 shillings per night. This amount is paid to the revenue of this Region. *(interruptions)*.

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Point of Order, Sir,—Order 36. Decision of Chair final—Mr Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively and

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their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive Motion after notice.

May I point out, Sir, that it appears to me that the standard of debate in this House has degenerated very badly; it appears to me that my Friends on the Other Side do not seem to comport themselves with the dignity befitting them. May I request, Mr Speaker, that you invoke the power vested in you in this regard. I have never known any Opposition which has been so unruly and so incorrigible.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I would not like, after you have given a ruling, to speak, as it would mean that I am challenging your ruling, I will never do that.

I think, Mr Speaker, that in fairness to this Side of the House, a substantive Motion was tabled and moved in this House yesterday. These cowardly Ministers now replying had ample opportunity to reply yesterday but, because they had no defence, they did not. Seeing the *Hansard* and the charges made against them, they went back and they were tutored by their 'Baba lami lami'....(Interruptions.) If I speak in a language that the common people like myself on this Side will understand, why not reply? But these people could not reply, they were unable to give effective replies yesterday and they now hide under the cover of Ministerial reply on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

They cannot cheat us, Mr Speaker, and that is why we are a bit excited. If they confine themselves to the speeches made on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I will appeal to my Colleagues here to keep silent and listen to the Ministers. The thing is this: we are not treated fairly, Mr Speaker. These people must confine themselves to the speeches made on the Appropriation Bill; if they do not, you may be asked to invoke your powers and clear us out, we do not mind. We would not give these people who shirked their responsibility last night any opportunity to come back today—late in the afternoon, the time is about 5.30. They have been thinking of what replies to give to our charges.....(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: This is a point of Order raised on the decision of the Chair and as Members know, I am a headmaster and I am used to discipline. I know that Members would please respect the Orders of this House

when I am in the Chair. If I call "Order!" it means I want order.

On the question raised by the hon. Leader of Opposition about replies from Ministers to matters raised by Members of the House which affect the Appropriation Bill, I have not seen that the hon. Minister of Lands and Housing has deviated. The hon. Minister of Lands and Housing has been discussing matters connected with the finances of the Government of Western Nigeria.

Mr Ogundiran: In conclusion, if the house continues to draw and attract guests as much as it is doing now, substantial revenue will accrue to the Government. I can assure the Members of the Opposition that if they have houses suitable for our purpose, we do not look at the colour of people before we hire them. If we need houses at Apapa I can assure my Friend who said he has not been consulted of our intentions.....(prolonged interruptions).

Sitting suspended at 5.30 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.10 p.m.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): Mr Speaker, Sir, in the course of the Debate on a Private Members' Motion yesterday, the hon. Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) made a number of serious allegations which happen to be another classic example in the series of false and malicious statements coming from the Opposition. It is my duty as a Minister privileged to be in the service of the good Government of the Western Region, not only to expose the wicked propaganda of the Opposition aimed at obscuring the excellent achievements of the Government, but essentially to assist them in their reasoning whereby they will develop a better frame of mind to be able to recognise and assimilate the truth.

The truth and the reference made to the appointment of Mr A. S. Coker, who is at present the Commercial Manager of the Co-operative Supplies Association Limited, is indeed unfortunate....(interruptions)... and Mr Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, Mr Coker is in no way related to Mr Justice G. B. A. Coker. In this connection, it will be relevant to mention that Mr Coker was appointed as the Commercial Manager by the Managerial Committee of the Co-operative Supplies Association with effect from the 7th of January, 1963 on a salary of £1,620 per annum. This appointment was necessitated by the vacancy which occurred as a result of the termination of the appointment of Mr E. O. Osinbowale who was Mr Coker's predecessor in office.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, the appointment was made following a public advertisement of the post in the local dailies. The *Daily Times* of the 23rd of January, 1962 carried this advertisement. The Committee of the Association which interviewed applicants for the post considered Mr A. S. Coker, who until 1959 was a member of the managerial staff of the United Africa Company of Nigeria, the most suitably qualified person of all the applicants. The appointment was accordingly made without the least prejudice to the chances of the other contestants. It is necessary to emphasize that in commercial organisations of the magnitude of the Co-operative Supplies Association, the post of a Commercial Manager is of paramount importance as the economic fortunes of commercial undertakings normally depend on this appointment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the allegations regarding the appointment of ninety-six Directors and Executive Directors of Boards and Corporations may easily be disposed of since these allegations clearly portray the author as an ignoramus. I am sure other Members of the Opposition will find these allegations most embarrassing since any Member worthy of his position in this honourable House will normally be expected to have familiarised himself with the laws establishing Statutory Corporations. The hon. Member is, in all humanity, now invited to take time to read the respective laws by which statutory corporations were established, most of which came into effect as far back as 1959. The Laws stipulate the number of Directors to which each of the Corporations is entitled. The Western Nigeria Development Corporation, for example, is entitled to a Chairman, four Executive Directors and not less than six nor more than eight other Directors. Apart from the Chairman of the Development Corporation, whose emolument is £2,430 per annum, each of the Executive Directors is on a salary of £1,620 per annum and each of the other Directors is on a salary of £540 per annum. The appointment of the Chairman and the Executive Directors is on a full time basis as was the case during the Action Group regime.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the ill-motivated allegation regarding the dismissal of 500 employees of Ijebu origin from the employment of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation is totally false. It must be admitted that the Corporation, in consequence of its present re-organisation programme, which has my

unqualified approval, was regretfully compelled to terminate the services of some members of the staff whose various appointments have now become redundant. It is a common knowledge that the Corporation has grown very much beyond its formative stages when it had to contend with having to undertake a number of odd jobs like construction of buildings, roads and bridges, to meet the social needs of a number of its projects situated in remote parts of the Region. These services, Mr Speaker, Sir, in addition to those arising from the need to employ labour for the clearing of forests and weed for plantation purposes, are no longer of much necessity. In the circumstances, the only alternative open to the Corporation, having regard to its limited resources as at present, is to readjust the strength of its staff to be in keeping with the limitation of its activities. The reduction of staff does not therefore involve consideration of ethnic or tribal grouping. The ratio of the Ijebus affected, however, happens to be higher than that of others, not because the Ijebus have in any way been singled out as such, but because of their overwhelming numerical strength in practically every sector of the Corporation's activities. As against 500 employees falsely reported to have been sacked only 143 employees have so far had their appointment terminated as follows:

- 24 from Abeokuta Province
- 6 from the Colony Province
- 6 from Ibadan Province
- 63 from Ijebu Province
- 36 from Ondo Province
- 8 from Oyo Province.

Mr Speaker, Sir, finally, with regard to the alleged diversion of money meant for the Jute Bag Project, this occurs to me as a fiction of the imagination of the author, otherwise he has every liberty to provide the House with the precise details of the alleged fraudulent transactions.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and to answer the questions raised by hon. Members who have contributed to this Debate.

I am pleased to inform the House that the records of my Ministry in the last Financial Year have been one of successes in all aspects of its activities. I feel proud therefore to say that we have amply justified the expectations of the House which was generous enough to vote roughly forty-two per cent of the total revenue of the Region for disbursement by my Ministry.

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Indeed, there have been some controversial issues like the merging of primary schools and the impending closure of Grade III Colleges into which many Opposition Members have read sinister motives. This seems inevitable in a democratic society but a dispassionate study of the background to these issues would convince anyone, however prejudiced, that they were necessitated by the overall interests of the Region. Already the merging operation is producing beneficial financial and professional results while the closure of Grade III Colleges would considerably raise the standard of teaching and reduce the danger of unemployment among the teaching class. At this juncture, I like to appeal to everyone that matters concerning education should not be dragged into party politics. I concede that the temptation to do this is very strong, but with goodwill on all sides it should not be difficult to achieve the seemingly impossible.

I shall now briefly touch upon the various activities of my Ministry during the past year, pointing out what has been achieved and outlining broad policies for future action:

(a) *Primary School*.—The merging of primary schools was completed. As already indicated, the resultant effect has indeed been most beneficial in that not only has much money been saved for Government but many more schools have had, for the first time, an all-trained staff. This is bound to influence significantly the raising of the standard of schools. Except in very exceptional circumstances no approval would be given for opening new primary schools in the ensuing year. I think we have a sufficient number. Efforts would therefore be concentrated on consolidating what has so far been achieved and improving both the tone and quality of our schools. The problem of falling standards, both in morals and academic work, would be combated through more intensive inspections and encouragement of a higher sense of responsibility in the teachers by every conceivable means.

(b) *Teacher Training Colleges*.—Government decision to abolish all but five of the Grade III Colleges is being implemented. Arrangements are on hand to put the buildings being rendered vacant by the closure to several alternative uses. Some would be converted into Trades Schools, some into In-Service Training Centres while a few in difficult areas might be approved as Central Primary Schools.

It has now been statistically verified that Grade II teachers are being over-produced in

the Region. For this reason, the in-take into the various colleges next year would be severely curtailed as a preventive measure against mass unemployment of Grade II teachers in the future.

(c) *Advanced Teacher Training Colleges*.—The two existing Colleges—Ransome Kuti and Olunloyo—are making satisfactory progress. A new college of identical category sited in Ondo, and to be known as "Adeyemi College of Education", will open next term. The aim of the Colleges is to produce non-graduate teachers who will man our secondary schools and training colleges.

(d) *Post-Primary Education*.—Considerable attention is now being devoted to reshaping the curriculum in our post-primary schools by the introduction of technical subjects and other pre-vocational subjects and agriculture into these schools.

As a result, it is now being proposed that the schools of the future should be comprehensive and to this end my Ministry is actively studying the methods by which existing grammar schools could be enlarged to become comprehensive.

I am happy to say that the other Governments of the Federation are also proceeding along these lines by way of emulating this practical and realistic measure initiated by my Government.

(e) *Technical Education*.—Technical Education is being given the highest priority and to this end all comprehensive schools and older grammar schools which have agreed to broaden their curriculum and become comprehensive are to be assisted in developing metal-work, wood-work, agriculture, etc.

(f) *Scholarship*.—Government continues to award scholarships to deserving candidates to fill the need for high-level man-power and hopes to continue to support the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Ibadan as long as it continues to carry out projects beneficial to the Region.

(g) *Finance*.—I have to report that considerable amount of money has not been well-spent by many of the educational institutions and an amendment to the Law is being processed to enable my Ministry to exercise stricter control on these institutions.

To meet the desire for secondary education among our people, the existing schools will be expanded to Comprehensive Schools and multilateral schools rather than encouraging the establishment of new schools, because there do not exist at the moment experienced and qualified Principals and staffs. Another

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reason is that it is more economical to expand existing institutions than to establish new ones.

I would, therefore, solicit for hon. Members educating and advising the people in their constituencies to help Government in providing sound, practical secondary school education by refraining from applying to open new schools. Rather, they should co-operate to expand existing schools so that the curriculum can be diversified and the products readily employable. There is already a sufficient number of Secondary Grammar Schools in nearly all Divisions which can accommodate all deserving pupils.

My Ministry is co-operating with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development in arranging to provide vocational education for the settlers on integrated farm projects so that those who wish may have specialised training.

I now wish to thank those sincere and honest hon. Members who have done their job very well, by criticising Government's financial policy constructively without allowing any extraneous considerations and political bias to becloud their sense of proportion and or judgment.

Thanks are also due to those hon. Members who have chosen to be destructive, at least for not only revealing the fact that they are victims of crooked thinking, but demonstrating in a visible manner that they are under a very uneasy and unbearable yoke of melancholy which is generally believed to be the culmination of the handwork of those who have already lost their thinking caps in quest of power without the use of the ballot box.

I wish to inform critics of the education system of Western Nigeria that it is the policy of my Government to revolutionise educational facilities by giving all children the education best suited to their particular needs, abilities and aptitudes, in order that we may be able to create an educational climate conducive to employment facilities by producing employable school leavers and developing, by a process of gradualness, a contented, satisfied and democratic society, bestowing equal opportunities to all classes of the people. In this manner, we shall be on the road to evolving a Nigerian system of education as distinct from the British and or the American type.

You know, Sir, that education is a long-term investment in human resources; you also know, Sir, that our educational problems are multifarious and are fundamentally

different from those of other Regions for many reasons, chief among which is the "free primary education" policy which has increased our national recurrent expenditure to some forty-two per cent, and we are faced with the problem of how to retain this figure at the present level, if we cannot reduce it. As you know, Sir, overall increases in population have corresponding effect on the number of school-age children—six-year olds in Western Nigeria—and the mounting demand for scholarships in various fields has always received the sympathetic consideration of my Government.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Order 27 (1). (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, in raising this point of order, may I say that if the Back Benches of the Government cannot behave as hon. Members we are ready to give them back. (*Laughter and interruptions*). When I stand, I do not stand up for fun. If I want to cast jokes I know how to do so in undertones with my Colleagues on the Other Side, but these chaps up there, (*interruptions*) if they do not behave, we will give back to their Ministers tomorrow morning and not only that it will be difficult for their Ministers to say a word without being heckled. I raise a point of order and these chaps say "sit down, sit down". For me to sit down in this honourable House! (*Government Benches: Yes, sit down*). It is alright. I just warn this House that if a point of order is about to be raised it is only reasonable for the people on the Other Side, who claim to be hon. Members, to listen to your ruling, Mr Speaker (*interruptions*). If you rule me out of order, Mr Speaker Sir, I will accept. (*Interruptions*). I warn you, Mr Speaker, that we are capable of giving back; this House belongs to all of us.

Mr Speaker, the Minister, under our Standing Orders approved by this House, I concede, is under the privilege of the House to read his speech; I do not grudge him for that. (*Interruptions*). I allow the Minister to read *in extenso* but what I do say, Mr Speaker, is that if we on this Side do not hear him properly it is our right to appeal to you to let him repeat or say what we have not heard because we are prepared to answer. May be we are not privileged to reply at this moment but when we come to the Heads of Estimates we are going to hit back. (*Laughter*). Therefore it is our right and privilege in this House, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we should hear every word uttered by the Minister. I wanted Mr Speaker to appeal to the Minister to let us hear him (*interruptions*).....but these rascals.....(*Government Benches: Who are rascals?*) (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, I hope the hon. Leader of Opposition will be able to control himself. I do not know why I should shout and say that he will give back. It is not open to him to do that here. He is a respectable man; we respect him, we expect co-operation from him and for him to stand up and begin to talk like that and to say that our Ministers will not open their mouths is really too much.

Mr Deputy Speaker: The hon. Leader of Opposition has brought up this Standing Order 27 (1) that the hon. Minister of Education was reading his speech, but the Order does not apply. According to our Standing Orders, the Minister can read his speech. The hon. Leader of Opposition could, in an undertone, try to make the hon. Minister aware that he did not hear him well.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I said so. They shouted "sit down!"

Mr Deputy Speaker: In any case, I do not think we can afford to waste a lot of time on this Order and in the circumstances the hon. Minister of Education can continue with his speech.

Mr Olumofin: I thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The hon. Leader of Opposition knows very well that I am not afraid of being hit and if it comes to making unparliamentary remarks, the hon. Leader of Opposition will agree with me when I say I can take care of myself.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government is determined, in spite of the obstructionist tendencies of a group of persons, to continue to face the problems of expansion of educational institutions, liberal awards of scholarships, raising the standards of academic performances and emphasising the importance of character-moulding, even in a society that is fast becoming moral degenerate. We must all present a concerted front in order to be able to tackle effectively the arduous task of nation-building by means of proper education. We should hearken to the expostulation of our respected Oba C. D. Akran, the Minister of Finance, when in his Speech on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, at page 12, he said, *inter alia*—

".....even though no one in his right mind would doubt the continuing importance of expanding our education services, yet the time had come when we, the entire people of this Region, should come forward to relieve Government of part of the burden of social services. Admittedly,

it would put some burden on all of us but I think it is a sacrifice which our people would not hesitate to make in the interest of our progress and development. Knowing the good people of this Region as well as I do, I have never had any doubts in my mind that they will rise to the occasion, appreciating the onerous burden that Government has borne on their behalf these years, and willingly agree to share part of the burden with Government. I only take education as an illustration. There are other fields in which it is desirable that our people should bear some part in the social services for which they clamour but which Government has hitherto solely shouldered....."

My Ministry is doing its best to cater for the all-round educational needs of the people; the Missions and other Voluntary Agencies have co-operated admirably, many of the head masters and principals of schools and colleges have always reacted most favourably to the tenor of the above-quoted admonition of the Minister of Finance; but, I regret to say, that pedagogic black sheep abound in many of our schools and colleges. They pretend to love one party and hate the other. But it is all a clever pretence. The reverse is the case! What they love most dearly, deep down in their heart of hearts, is dishonesty or misappropriation. They are money grabbers; they are national frauds, they are professional extortioners; and, above all, they are shameless wreckers of character-building. Instances are innumerable to prove these charges against some of these so-called "moulders of the characters of the future generation".

In the past, Sir, when the Action Group was alive, for one reason or the other, principals of secondary schools were left free to manipulate school finances as they liked with the result that immediately grants-in-aids were received for, say, building additional blocks of classrooms or so, some principals started this job simultaneously with the building of their own personal houses which were always invariably completed at the expense of the classrooms for which funds were provided by Government!

Hon. Members would agree with me that this state of affairs is certainly not one that any responsible Minister would allow to continue for ever unchecked. And so, during the tenure of office of Dr the hon. S. D. Onabamiro as Minister of Education, Government felt compelled to start verifying the purposes for which public funds were used. This brought upon the Government

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the ire of certain heads of educational institutions—some rampaging, some grumbling, some belching, some frowning. Not minding this understandable show of theatricalities, my immediate predecessor, hon. Chief B. Olowofoyeku, continued to carry out this policy effectively by preventing custodians of school funds to continue persistently, and with impunity, to line their pockets with the tax-payers' money. And, as the succeeding Minister of Education, I am irrevocably committed to pursuing most vigorously this laudable exercise until all pecuniary cankerworms are extirpated from our schools. The effect of this will shortly manifest itself at various stages of all monetary transactions in all public schools in the Region.

Hon. Members will know, after hearing the factual story, why heads of certain educational institutions have become irretrievably disgruntled and prejudiced and have regarded every act of Government as victimisation and/or political vendetta. I am yet to know what is wrong in Government scrutinising the accounts of the grants it has made to schools, if only for verification purposes. As a professional accountant myself and as a dazzlingly successful ex-Manager of a reputable firm (Shell Company of West Africa) I am quite familiar with the processes of checking accounts and verifying stocks. I have never heard that an employee of a firm ever looked askance on the company's auditor or verifier of accounts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, ugly occurrences in certain schools made constant checks absolutely imperative; and blood-cuddling revelations and startling, breath-taking complaints of improper acts continue to pour into my Ministry with regular avalanche that defies description. These ignoble acts have quite naturally earned public resentment and indignation, and it is my sacred duty, Sir, to step in and halt the pillaging.

Mr Speaker Sir, may I at this juncture take the liberty, Sir, to dispel wild and irresponsible allegations made by certain ignorant hon. Members of the Other Side of the House.

The hon. Member for Oyo South-West (*Mr Popoola*) referred to payment of salaries and "Other Expenses" Grants. It is not the policy of Government to withhold payment of salaries, grants-in-aid, "Other Expenses Grants" and the like.

As a matter of fact, Government does not owe a penny to any educational institution in the Region—all payments are made expeditiously as and when they fall due. If any teacher fails to receive his salary or if

"other expenses grants" are not duly paid, the fault must lie with the proprietors and others who act as custodians of the moneys of the schools. Those who plunder the finances of this territory abound on the Opposite side of the House. Let me recount some of their financial irresponsibilities.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to report that I am much disturbed at the lack of responsibility and sense of vocation exhibited by some teachers, particularly the younger ones. I am, therefore, appealing to Members, many of whom are teachers, to show by example that absenteeism and irresponsibility on the part of teachers lead to indiscipline among students. Several hon. Members in the course of the Debate have pleaded for improvement in the lot of teachers. I agree that teachers of all grades are doing a vital work in the community but, if they must press for better conditions of service with any hope of success, they should demonstrate a much higher sense of responsibility than hitherto.

The magnitude of moral lapses among some teachers is indicated by the following list which is typical of general and specific complaints, accusations and allegations, now being investigated by my Ministry:

- (1) Irregularities in the control and management of school funds.
- (2) General maladministration of school funds.
- (3) Excess enrolment of over 100 students without authority and failure to record the names of these extra students in the school register.
- (4) Refusal to issue Form S.75 (Class IV Certificate) to deserving students, and retention of students in the pre-school certificate classes when they should be promoted.
- (5) (i) Making use of "Other Expenses Grant" to buy a car.
- (ii) Collection of 6d in the £ from teachers through the blackmail of "pay and remain" or "refuse to pay and go".
- (iii) Illegal levy of 1s per pupil.
- (iv) Immoral relationship with female students.
- (6) (i) Illegal collection of fees.
- (ii) Irregular deployment of pupils for personal domestic services.
- (7) Admission of a married woman into college under a pseudonym, even without the consent of her husband.
- (8) Books and materials not supplied to students to the value of £25 deposited therefor.

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(9) Employing correct number of masters at the beginning of school year, and later terminating their appointments and retaining just a few, but fraudulently collecting salaries for all of them every month.

(10) Replacing qualified teachers with unqualified teachers, and collecting salaries payable to qualified teachers already terminated.

(11) Awarding school contracts to themselves under assumed names.

Mr Speaker, Sir, arrangements are being completed to combat these nefarious practices, but those found guilty after due investigations of the existing cases shall be severely dealt with. (*Prolonged interruptions*). I trust hon. Members will co-operate with my Ministry in its endeavour to stamp out these evils with the ruthlessness they deserve, by refusing to intercede on behalf of any culprit.

I am happy to note that the Opposition, NCNC-AG Grand Alliance, have been careful not to play the role of alarmists who always smell the discontinuance of free primary education, by not making even mere passing remark on a point which the Leader of Opposition has himself very consistently belaboured outside this honourable House.

Mr J. O. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of information, Sir, there is nothing like the NCNC-AG Grand Alliance.

Mr Olumofin: Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope they will not go out from here to say anything different from what they have now accepted, by manufacturing false stories. But, for the sake of reassuring the public, I wish to stress the point that it is the policy of my Government to continue free primary education. Furthermore, Government will continue to raise the standard of education, at all levels, with the best possible economy.

The comparative results of common public examinations conducted throughout the Federal Republic have proved to the world that those who talk of lower standards in reference to Western Nigeria have not only been unfair, but have displayed their ignorance of the educational trends in the country. Government's measure of merging operations in schools has helped to heighten efficiency, effect economy and make available the services of trained teachers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must place on record, the fact that there are several principals and teachers who are honest, conscientious, straightforward and matter-of-fact persons.

They merit the praise of the public and the gratitude of Government.

Mr R. O. Areola: Mr Speaker Sir, this is not a Conference of Teachers and I think the Minister should stop talking about teachers now. Some of the allegations made about teachers are founded and some are not founded.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education in my opinion should talk about teachers since teachers generally can be regarded as staff of his Department and any reference made to them is not out of the way, the Minister has every right to do so.

Mr Olumofin: Mr Speaker Sir, I now wish to deal very briefly with the matter of leakages of examination questions raised by some hon. Members. The main cause of this is, I regret to say, traceable to some indolent and dishonest heads of schools of all types who are desirous of reaping the best examination results for their schools when they have not sowed any seeds of hard work by way of tuition, supervision and guidance, due to their characteristic absenteeism. Measures have been taken by my Ministry, however, to prevent a recurrence of examination leakages which, for security reasons, hon. Members would not like me to disclose. All those found guilty of directly or indirectly contributing to this disgraceful show of turpitude in the recent past would be most severely dealt with. Absenteeism in schools shall be prohibited from now on; it would, in fact, be a hazardous game for any school or College Authority to treat this and related matters with levity as was done in the past. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker Sir, I have heard mentioned by the Action Group, times without number, elsewhere and here on the floor of this honourable House, the demand for an election in Western Nigeria and the noise of the dying notes seems to din one's ears till today. The idea behind this repeated cry is well-known. It is merely to bolster up the waning morale of the Action Group's "hallelujah boys". In 1952-56 (I was then a Front-Bencher NCNC spokesman) the Opposition NCNC in order to stem up the receding enthusiasm of its members, used to invent stories of impending elections at regular intervals of between two and three months. We even at times went to the extent of fixing imaginary election dates. But the funny thing about it all was that the NCNC lost all local, regional and federal elections with such staggering regularities that in 1961, the NCNC could no longer face any election in the Region, and so they

[MR OLUMOFIN]

vamoose at the polls. A similar fate shall surely befall the present unhappy couple that form the tottering Opposition. (*Interruptions*) . . . How can election be held in the West, in the foreseeable future, when, according to the evidence adduced at the famous treason trials, one of the principal "*dramatis personae*" was reported to have said that only one per cent of the imported ammunition was recovered by the Police? It can therefore be reasonably presumed that the Police are still hard put to it to locate the whereabouts of the remaining ninety-nine per cent (*Interruptions*). And until this is done, is it safe to hold a Western Nigeria parliamentary election? Certainly not. Quite recently, of course, one heard of "seven strategic places" in the West, from hon. Dr K. O. Mbadiwe. Is this not in reference to the yet-unearthed ammunitions? This is a serious poser for the Police. There are other potent reasons why an election should not be held in the West now or in the foreseeable future. These can be found in the Constitution of Western Nigeria.

Now, a word about those lecturers of the University of Ife who became hopelessly misguided and deluded into believing, not only that they were indispensable, but that they were capable, under cover of unbridled "intellectual freedom", to wreck the University by subversion, channelled through treacherously organised mass exodus of the professors and lecturers! But they now know better. I can reveal to the House that they are now sending their contact men around to beg since their hopes to get employed elsewhere have been dashed to the ground. Besides, they have already known that they are not indispensable and that nobody is, but God!

I should also like to condemn acts of indiscipline, lawlessness, moral turpitude, hooliganism and the like as despicable among any group of citizens of this country; but, among students who are potential teachers—the moulders of the characters of future generations—these acts are not only to be discouraged but are to be condemned outright, and no measures taken against students who revel in these deplorable acts can be too severe. I therefore note with utter disgust and disappointment that hon. Popoola, himself a teacher of some sort, has so shamelessly advocated that vices such as rudeness, incorrigibility, insolence, anarchy and *laissez-faire* should reign supreme in our educational institutions! This would not happen in this Region, not when the NNDP continues to rule for the next twenty-five years as has been ordained by the Almighty God.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun):

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I say anything on the Appropriation Bill, I should like to seize this opportunity of inviting all Members of the House to the launching ceremony of the Erio Plantation in Ekiti on Saturday 18th April, 1964. It is in the Western District Council area in Ekiti where this ceremony of Integrated Rural Development Scheme is being launched and I can assure Members that *Iyan* will be provided for them all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in giving replies to some of the points raised by the hon. Members on the Opposite side, I should like to crave your indulgence to concentrate on the points made by the hon. Members from Ekiti Division. I should like to start with hon. Areola.

He said the concern of any true Westerner now is not that of unemployment, but that of moral degeneration of the Region. This is indeed surprising that a man of hon. Areola's calibre could make such a statement in spite of mounting evidence of unemployment amongst our youths and also in spite of concrete evidence to show the moral degeneration into which this Region has been thrown by hon. Areola and his masters by trying to climb to power through unorthodox and unconstitutional means in 1962.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before the general election of 1960 into this House, Chief S. L. Akintola was the Premier of this Region, and when the election of 1960 was won in a most grand scale, under the leadership of Chief Akintola, he was called upon by the Governor to form the Government of the Region. I am making this point, Mr Speaker, because the Opposition have always alleged that we are unelected. But when forces of unnecessary persecution began to rear their heads in 1962, Chief Akintola became the centre, the omega and the alpha of treacherous attacks. In short he became a bug-bear to Chief Awolowo. Nobody would have bothered, and I am sure there would have been no Emergency, if Chief Akintola was removed in accordance with the Constitution. Mr Speaker, Sir, all types of signatures were obtained from Gbagi, Lebanon Street, Ikole, Aiyede and these were presented to the Governor in order to convince the Governor that Chief Akintola no longer enjoyed the confidence of the House, they did not say the electorate then.

(*Opposition Benches: But you signed it and Mr Speaker also signed it?*) (*Laughter*).

I now ask, Mr Speaker Sir, who is guilty of moral laxity and violation of principles of justice? Is it this Side of the House or hon.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

Areola's ignoble side? Mr Speaker, Sir, when these signatures were being collected they were collected under all types of promises and duress, some were given large sums of money and hon. Areola was promised a portfolio—Ministry of Health. The same portfolio was promised hon. S. A. Akerele because their leader interviewed them one by one. In fact hon. S. A. Akerele quarrelled with hon. Areola for putting himself forward as somebody capable to hold a portfolio. An eminent Oba, whom I do not want to mention, had to intervene. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member from Ekiti South-East I (*Mr Areola*) alleged that the Government is arming a number of thugs to compel Ekitis to join the Nigeria National Democratic Party. Then he spoke at length about the qualities, etc., of Ekiti people. In the first place, Sir, I have been in politics since 1950 and have been representing Ekitis in the House of Assembly since 1951 with unbroken chains of achievements for my people. (*hear hear*). Hon. Areola only became a Member of the House in 1960 through my instrumentality, for he received instructions from me often and often. (*Interruptions*). I am therefore in a better position to know what Ekitis want and what are likely to be their reactions to certain actions. Hon. Areola spoke at length in this House. Out of eight paragraphs he devoted only a very small paragraph to the needs of the Ekitis. I will go home with the *Hansard* and show the people how much hon. Areola has their interests at heart. All these years I have been winning my election by persuasion, by reference to what good I have done in the past. Never by coercion. As a matter of fact, no thugs have ever come to my constituency excepting once in a blue-moon when Chief Awolowo came there to campaign.

Chief Babatola: The Minister was helped by Egbe Omo Oduduwa.

Chief Osuntokun: I have heard hon. Babatola saying that Egbe Omo Oduduwa intervened before I won the election. In any case in the 1960 elections, I campaigned for only one week in my constituency (*interruption*) I campaigned there for one week and campaigned for two weeks in another constituency.

We successfully launched the Nigeria National Democratic Party at Ikerer-Ekiti, the constituency of hon. Okeya, last Saturday in the presence of an unprecedented crowd. The crowd came from all over the Division and a strong contingent came from Ikole, the constituency of hon. Akerele. May I say, Sir, that the whole thing was very peaceful. The

Premier and his entourage travelled without any thugs.

If I may now take another point which he made. He said we are doing things which we should be ashamed of. What has this Government done for which we should be ashamed?

Is it because the Government of this Region has provided £3 million for the rapid industrialisation of this Region within the Six-year Development Programme?

Is it because Government has provided £2 million for integrated rural development scheme for the eradication of unemployment in this Region?

As a matter of fact during the eleven years that the Ekitis served the Action Group god, Ekiti was not thought fit for a single plantation or industry and I have living witnesses here with me. In 1957 Government approved £3,000 cocoa plantation for Ekiti. My hon. Friends, Odebiyi, Adegbenro and others criticised it. In 1959 Chief Awolowo ordered that this money be diverted to a barren land in Remo Division.

But the Nigerian National Democratic Party Government, within the short period of its existence, is giving the Ekitis the Erio Scheme and would later proceed to launch Odo-Oro, and Are schemes—all in Ekiti.

Is it by paying the teachers of this Region in time whilst hundreds are being dismissed and thousands unpaid in the Eastern Region?

Is it by providing houses for civil servants and others in our housing estate?

Is it by working out the Ikole Water Scheme which is going to cost about £600,000 during the Six-year Development Plan?

Is it by voting money to help the Ile-Abiye building scheme for its staff at Ado-Ekiti, the constituency of hon. Babatola?

Is it by voting money for Oye Water Scheme in hon. Akerele's constituency?

Is it by attempting to raise the Ikole Methodist Maternity Hospital to a full-fledged hospital?

Is it by making it possible for Ikerre, in hon. Okeya's constituency, to have light this year; the contract for wiring of the town was duly signed last week?

Is it by giving a grant of £500 to Emure Community, hon. Okeya's home, in order to encourage more communal effort on the part of the people?

Is it by giving £700 to Otun District Council by way of Development grant in order to encourage communal effort?

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

Is it by giving £700 to Ikole for development grant?

Is it by giving £11,000 to Ekiti North District Council, hon. Akerele's constituency, for development grant?

Is it by saving hon. Akerele from the hands of hon. Adegbenro in 1959 when he was being driven from Abeokuta helter skelter?

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I know nothing about this. (*Interruptions*)

Chief Oshuntokun: He knew about it (*Interruptions*).

All hon. Members answers to these questions will be "No". Rather it is hon. Areola who should be ashamed for selling his conscience to the god of injustice, malice, perfidy and debasement. God knows that we have done a stupendous amount of work to salvage this Region from the economic and financial ruins into which it was plunged when forces of treachery started to work, and by the Grace of God, we will continue to work for the interest of our people.

They call for election as if we are afraid of it. Certainly it is coming; when it will come it is not given to them to know. Our people can no longer be deceived for people know now that the name "Action Group", in the body politics of the Republic today, represents disunity, hatred, tactlessness and the inability to co-operate with others and the people would therefore not waste their votes on an intolerant and dying party. (*Interruptions*).

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would show the *Hansard* to hon. Areola's constituents. I will hold this up and show it to them to demonstrate the amount of love he has for them. Out of eight paragraphs he only devoted one small insignificant paragraph to the needs of his constituency. (*Shame, shame*).

It has been said, Sir, that those who live by the sword shall die by the sword, and so may it be. (*Interruptions*).

It was Alhaji Adegbenro who rose by the sword and he and his followers shall fall by the sword. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

I do not want to be tempted by hon. Babatola, because when this trouble was brewing in February 1962 in Jos, I knew the part I played. When the Premier called us I went to Oba Akran and told him that since we had not resigned we were bound to answer the Premier's call. I went further than that, I went to Chief Awolowo and told him that the Premier called us and we were going to answer the call. Mr Speaker, Sir, several people who were Ministers then including these people could not show their

faces in Jos. As soon as I turned my back, hon. Babatola sat tight. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

There was a call in this House to reduce the salaries of Ministers to £2,000 all told and of Members of the House to £600. This is hypocritical and was merely made to score a political point. In 1961 the intellectuals of Ife who were earning £3,000 plus per annum, buying petrol at Ibadan at Lagos price, sending four children and wife overseas every year at the expense of the University, and who themselves go overseas regularly, started the hue and cry about austerity measures on the part of politicians who do not earn two-thirds of the total earnings of these professors. As a result of this Minister's salary was cut by 10 per cent. We were no longer to enjoy car basic and all the rest of it. But the first and only Cabinet meeting Adegbenro held was to restore all the cuts. I have exposed this action to show that the call to cut down salaries when workers are asking for more was not genuine. And also when in 1962 car basic and mileage allowances were abolished we were to use Government cars on purely and strictly Government business. For instance if we were going to our constituencies for a private visit, we would not go in Government cars. This meant one must have a car of his own no matter how small in order to be able to live above board. I added a few pounds to what Government paid for my car and I bought my Buick Special in March 1962. Most of us with conscience and sense of honesty did this. But the Member for Ekiti North-East I (*Chief Babatola*) saw no justification for doing what others did and when the crisis of 1962 came in May he was left without a car of his own. Of course, when eventually, he was conveyed home in a mammy waggon he let loose the propaganda that it was Chief Akintola who bought me the car and gave me £5,000 on top (*Shame, shame*). What happened was that the hon. Gentleman had not been honest with the Government and had been using the Government car allocated to him for all purposes. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I better stop here for one can go on indefinitely with these stories of appalling dishonesty.

(*Opposition Benches: Go on, don't stop, we shall listen.*)

In ending this brief reply I appeal to both Sides of the House to bury the hatchet and let us face together our economic difficulties, our financial problems, our detractors from outside and enemies within the gates and then be thankful unto God that we are given the opportunity of serving. Our people need bread, not bullets.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support (*cheers*).

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill ably moved by our respected hon. Minister of Finance. In the course of the Debate on this Bill, some hon. Members made reference to certain aspects of the work of my Ministry.

The hon. Member for Egba Central II (*Alhaji Adenekan*) wanted to know the steps being taken to remove the wooden buildings of Abeokuta General Hospital and also the steps being taken to provide more doctors for the hospital. The steps which are being taken to remove the wooden, semi-permanent buildings are, to include in this year's Advance Proposals, the replacement of all the wooden buildings by permanent ones, and make a strong case for its provision in next Financial Year's Draft Estimates. It is my hope that the Legislature will give the approval for the work to be carried out against next financial year. May I add, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in this year's Estimate, it is proposed to have an addition of a thirty-bed ward to the hospital and it is our hope that work should start this year when the fund is made available. By 1967, Abeokuta should be proud of a modern General Hospital.

On the request for the provision of more doctors, I will say that there are six doctors attached to the Abeokuta General Hospital made up of four Specialists and two routine duty Medical Officers. According to the staff complement three more routine Medical Officers are still required and all efforts are being made to improve the shortage in this respect. It is in accordance with the Ministry's policy to raise all our provincial hospitals to the standard of specialist hospitals. This is the explanation for the large proportion of Specialists to routine duty Medical Officers at the moment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare wants a Cottage Hospital built for the people of Ikonifin, Obamoro and Ile Ogo. These places mentioned are not very far from Iwo; and a Divisional Hospital of forty-eight beds opened at Iwo in 1959 is adequately serving the area. There is at present no justifiable ground to provide a Cottage hospital for the area mentioned.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs complained that the Local Council was expected to provide drugs for the Rural Health Centre at Ibarapa and because the Council could not do so

there had been shortage of drugs and he was therefore calling on the Government to provide the necessary drugs. In reply to this I will like to state that the Rural Health Centre at Ibarapa is a Government Institution and that it is supplied with drugs and equipment adequately by the Government. The Local Government Councils do not supply drugs to the Rural Health Centre, but supply their own institutions with drugs and equipments. These institutions are—the Maternity Centre, Igboora, Local Government Dispensary, Igboora, and the Health Office at Igboora. These institutions receive code grants from the Government in respect of their services at these institutions.

The hon. Member for Akoko North (*Mr Olusa*) wants to know what the Government is doing to improve the Akoko General Hospital at Ikare. It is the intention of the Government to take over this Hospital from the Divisional Council. To bring it up to a standard type hospital, additional buildings have to be provided. These will include an administrative block, a main operating theatre, a laundry block, kitchen block, ambulance garage, electric plant with power house, staff garages, additional staff quarters and a gate house fence. The total cost will be about £40,000. It is our hope to seek the authority of the Treasury to incur this expenditure during the current financial year. The Government has not suppressed any money provided for the hospital in the 1962-63 Estimates. The money was not available to carry out the work and the hon. Member was quite aware of the reason for this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to be long in replying to the points which had been made by Members of the Opposition in regard to the affairs of the Ministry of Local Government. As a matter of fact, there is nothing new that has been said by Opposition Members in respect of dissolution of Councils that was not said during the Budget meeting last year. All I need to do is draw the attention of hon. Members to the statement of policy by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government in regard to the attitude of Government concerning Councils which have failed in the discharge of their duties. I believe, however, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I will be failing in my duty as a son of Egbaland if I do not raise at least a voice in defence of my people who have been so slanderously attacked on the Floor of this House by the hon. Leader of Opposition.

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[MR KOTOYE]

I recall that a few days ago, he alleged that the new Management Committee of Abeokuta Urban District Council is composed of people of disreputable and shady characters. (*Opposition Members: Yes, yes*). He also went further to say that these people are persons who are incapable of winning elections and who have never won elections before. Let me assure the hon. Leader of Opposition and his Colleagues on the Opposition Side that we do not set up Management Committees for the purpose of winning elections. We set up Management Committees to enable them discharge the duties of ensuring progress and maintaining the necessary social services which Local Government institutions regard as their responsibility in the community. Even if we were to be motivated to set up this Management Committee for the purpose of winning elections, I can assure the hon. Leader of Opposition that the Chairman of the new Management Committee is enough terror for all the forces that the Action Group can muster in Abeokuta. I will refresh the memory of the hon. Leader of Opposition, which appears to be very short, in regard to this matter. For a number of years, Chief Akande, the new Chairman of the Management Committee, was an elected Member representing Abeokuta in the Federal Parliament.....(*cheers*). By that time, Alhaji Adegbenro was just learning politics. I will also remind the Leader of Opposition that in 1961 Chief Akande constituted such a threat to the prestige and importance of Alhaji Adegbenro in Abeokuta that when he, Chief Akande, stood for election in Imala District Council area, Alhaji Adegbenro had to organise thugs and hooligans whilst the votes were being counted. The result of that election has not been declared up till today! (*Shame! shame*). If Chief Akande were all that unpopular, there was every opportunity between 1961 and the collapse of the Action Group in 1962 for Alhaji Adegbenro to allow a bye-election in that area to enable Chief Akande prove the popularity which he enjoyed. He asked us why hadn't we declared election since 1963? He had opportunity between 1961 and 1962 to give Chief Akande an opportunity to test his popularity in a ward of only about 5,000 voters and did not do it but he questions us now.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we know how the legal brain of the Action Group designed the laws to cover up the iniquities that Alhaji Adegbenro committed when he was a Minister.

The last point I think I should make is that on this Caretaker Committee we have

three eminent Egba sons who are lawyers in their own right. I would not like to mention their names—the name of one of them is enough to send the hon. Leader of Opposition out of this House.....(*laughter*). Apart from those referred to there is another person who, for a number of years, was the standard bearer of the Action Group in Egbaland. It was he who in the last election scored well over 4,000 votes. I have recounted all these to show the hon. Leader of Opposition that we are not just putting people on these Caretaker Committees, we are putting people whom the communities themselves are very proud of.

Mr Speaker, I know, judging by the amount of support that has been coming in from Egbaland, that the decision of this Government to set up a Management Committee in Abeokuta is wise and one that is going to restore to this community its lost glory.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members, both on this Side and on the Other Side, who have contributed to the Debate on the Appropriation Bill. I am grateful to those hon. Members who have expressed not only satisfaction but praise for the efforts being made by this Government for the progress and welfare of the entire people of this Region.

I would like to confine myself, in this brief reply, to concrete points raised by Members during the Debate. I consider it entirely unnecessary and a waste of time for me to reply to Members who, under the guise of speaking on the Appropriation Bill, have vented their personal vendetta against the Government by making sweeping and unsubstantiated allegations out of malice and ignorance. Such wild accusations are not only unbecoming of Members of this honourable House but they are also entirely irrelevant to the Debate on the Bill before this House.

Speaking on the Miscellaneous Head of Estimates appearing under Head 323, an hon. Member for Ekiti feared that this might be a subtle attempt by this Government to hide a multitude of sins. I only wish he had taken the trouble to run his eyes through the twenty-eight items listed under the Miscellaneous Head at page 39 of the Estimates and he would not have certainly expressed the view as he did last week. The purpose of this Head of Estimate is to make provision for services not dischargeable

[OBA AKRAN]

The hon. Leader of Opposition has queried what happened to the grant of £700,000 which the Federal Government gave to this Government for agricultural development. I should like to explain very carefully the position about this grant because the impression was being given by the Leader of Opposition that this Government has failed to account for the grant. The total sum distributed by the Federal Government to the various Regional Governments was £4 million. Out of this, this Region got an allocation of £700,000. The grant is meant to serve as reimbursement in respect of expenditure incurred by each Government on agriculture during the previous financial year. Each Government was requested to produce a detailed statement of account showing how much it had actually spent on agriculture during the previous year and it was on the basis of the statement of expenditure so provided that the reimbursement was made.

Mr Speaker Sir, in the case of this Region, the Statement of Account was compiled by the Accountant-General who keeps Government's accounts. He was required by the Federal Government to certify that the accounts were a true statement of actual expenditure already incurred by this Government during the previous year on agriculture. As hon. Members are no doubt aware, no other Government in the Federation devotes so much money to the development of agriculture as we do in this Region. I think we justifiably deserve to give ourselves a credit for this, realising the place of agriculture in our economy. The result of this was that the Accountant-General showed from his accounts that this Region spent more than £2.4 million on agricultural development during the 1962-63 financial year. Hon. Members will therefore observe that the reimbursement grant of £700,000 from the Federal Government represented only a small fraction of the amount which this Government had spent on agriculture. I should therefore wish to emphasise that the

grant of £700,000 was not for executing proposed agricultural schemes at the time it was given. It was meant to serve as a refund of part of the £2.4 million which this Government had already spent on agriculture during the preceding year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, criticism has been levelled against this Government for not promoting the mechanisation of agriculture. Considering the various projects and measures which this Government is pursuing on the development of agriculture, I find it difficult to understand what meaning the critics have in their minds for the term "mechanisation". Our Farm Settlements, Farm Institutes and the newly launched Integrated Rural Development Scheme offer the best application of mechanisation of agriculture. It may perhaps be that the critics have never taken the trouble to visit any of these schemes and are therefore speaking from sheer ignorance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill before us represents a realistic and progressive approach to our economy. It attempts to offer bold answers and realistic solutions to some of the challenges of the present day and I am firmly convinced that with determination on our part and the co-operation of all our people we shall succeed in transforming this nation into a modern Welfare State.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of Supply.

Committee of Supply to meet tomorrow, Thursday, 16th April, 1964.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—“That the House do now adjourn”.—(Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.35 p.m. until tomorrow, Thursday, 16th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 16TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.55 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Overseas Investments

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr A. B. Bello): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will recall the statement repeatedly made from the Opposition Side alleging that overseas investors have all failed to respond to industrial appeals under the present Government. I shall, in the course of my speech, produce incontrovertible proofs to show the falsity of this statement.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the present Government has exercised the greatest caution in its advocacy for Investment Finance coming from foreign sources notwithstanding the fact that its industrialisation programme has been generally acknowledged as indicative of a most realistic and objective policy. As the hon. Minister of Finance rightly observed in the course of his Speech last week, investment proposals, either for a joint or partnership venture coming from overseas sources, have always been acknowledged by us with vigilance and caution. Foreign investors no doubt have made several and overwhelming approaches but Government is dutifully obliged to examine all investments proposals with an analytical mind having regard to the economic implications which in some cases have proved to be disadvantageous to the Region's economy as a whole. This cautious attitude has not in the least disturbed in any way the prospects of the investment finance from abroad but rather has nurtured the realism and effectiveness of our investment climate in the Region to the extent that the Regional Government within a comparatively short period of one year has achieved by way of investments much more than what the Action Group Government had been able to achieve for the entire period it had been in power.

At the close of the year 1962, which finally marked the end of the former Action Group regime, total investments from foreign sources stood at £4,840,198. As compared with this, the present Government has been able to achieve as much as £6,330,450 from foreign sources during an era beginning from 1st of January, 1963 to date. These achievements are conclusive and firm and do not

take into account investments presently under negotiation involving as much as £6,643,833. Again, total foreign loans obtained under the Action Group Government stood at £1,370,000 as at 31st December, 1961. Under the present Government, total industrial loans secured to date from foreign sources amounted to £3,100,000 with additional £750,000 presently under negotiation. Total industrial investments made from the resources of the Regional Government during the Action Group regime amounted to £6,266,182. Similar investments made from the resources of the Regional Government under the present regime amounted to £2,342,800 as from the 1st of January, 1963 to date, with £3,062,166 under negotiation. Details in respect of these various investments as achieved between the two Governments are available for verification. The comparative pictures of the investment climate during the Action Group regime on the one hand and the present regime on the other can thus be seen from a much clearer perspective.

The industrial climate under the Action Group Government portrays in the first place a majority of investments coming from Government sources with the overseas partners always taking very minority shareholdings—an indication of poor faith and lack of confidence in the industrialisation programme as hitherto pursued.

In the second place, a large proportion of the investment of £6 million obtained from the resources of the Government during the Action Group regime is absorbed in the establishment of unprofitable ventures all of which are solely owned by Government—The Pepsi Cola Plant, the Lafia Canning Factory, G. L. Gaiser Enterprise, Remo Rubber Plantation project, etc., to mention a few.

The pattern during the Action Group regime, which spread over a period of ten years, was a lucid example of bad planning, faulty and selfish objectives, incapacity to recognise and to make an effective approach to the realities of the moment. The economic fortunes of the Region were most unscrupulously diverted to nurture personal and inordinate interests and selfish ambition.

Today, the investment climate presents a totally different picture. The whole pattern whereby the majority of investments came from Government resources has given way to a more dynamic achievement in which a much greater proportion of our industrial finance is steadily making its debut from

PAST GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Existing Projects Ending 31st December, 1962

<i>Project</i>	<i>Foreign Investment</i>	<i>Foreign Loan</i>	<i>Western Nigeria Government Contribution</i>
	£	£	£
1. Asbestos Cement Products (Nigeria) Limited	685,000	—	315,000
2. Crittal Hope (Nigeria) Limited	155,000	—	45,000
3. Dunlop Industries (Nigeria) Limited	765,000	500,000	300,000
4. Electronics (Nigeria) Limited	19,200	—	15,000
5. Ilushin Rubber Estates Limited	530,000	—	265,000
6. Lafia Canning Factory	—	—	334,400
7. Nigerian Textile Mills Limited	604,998	350,000	570,000
8. Nigersol Construction Company Limited	60,000	—	90,000
9. Niger Water Resources Development Company Limited	40,000	—	60,000
10. Nigerite Sales Company Limited	6,500	—	3,500
11. Nigerian Plastics Company Limited	32,500	20,000	32,500
12. Nigerian Sugar Company Limited	—	—	50,000
13. Nigerian Industrial Domestic Gas Supply Company Limited	105,000	—	45,000
14. Nigerian Prestressed Concrete Company Limited	20,000	—	5,000
15. Nigerian Mosaic and Glass Manufacturing Company Limited	20,000	—	20,000
16. Pepsi Cola Project	—	—	700 000
17. Remo Rubber Plantations	—	—	300,000
18. West African Portland Cement Company Limited	1,525,000	500,000	1,160,000
19. Epe Boat Yard	—	—	77,782
20. G. L. Gaiser Nigeria Limited	50,000	—	500,000
21. Great Insurance Company Limited	10,000	—	40,000
22. Lagos Airport Hotel	22,000	—	128,000
23. National Motors (Nigeria) Limited (Arab Brothers)	—	—	1,100,000
24. Apex Paper Products Limited	50,000	—	50,000
25. Caxton Press (West Africa Limited)	140,000	—	60,000
Total	£ 4,840,198	1,370,000	6,266,182

meetings, or to launch his party, the life of the car itself will not be as long as it should be. That in itself is a waste of money.

to speak on the Head, when is the Premier's Office", by all means I think he should speak, and when he has spoken, I will have the right to move that the question be put but if he

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF BILLS

1. The Hire Purchase and Credit Control Bill.
2. The Provincial Administration Bill.
3. The University of Ife (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill.
4. The Western Nigeria Water Corporation Bill.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee of Supply (First Allotted Day)

(In the Committee of Supply.)

HEAD 320.—GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Question proposed that the sum of £24,030 for Head 320.—Governor's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Chairman, Sir, we have not filed any amendment to Head 320—Governor's Office—because we regard the Governor as the Head of the Regional Government. (*Cheers*). His office should not be subject to any criticism on our part even though the appointment of the Governor has been challenged in the law court. Since that has been settled or decided, we of the Opposition will not criticise the Estimates regarding the provision made for the maintenance of the Office of the Governor.

£24,030 for Head 320.—Governor's Office—agreed to.

HEAD 321: PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question proposed that the sum of £540,710 for Head 321—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it will be shirking responsibility on the part of the Premier not to be in the House to listen to criticisms of the various

items under this Head, in spite of the fact that, for the past eleven days, the Premier of this Region has not shown his face in the Chambers of the House, either when Members were debating the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne or during the Budget Debate. After all this is his Head and I think it is an insult to Members of this honourable House that the Premier of the Region whose Head is being discussed and debated would not have the courage to come and listen and give answers to various points raised.

I will like, Mr Chairman, that the Premier should be sent for to come and give answers to all the criticisms that we are going to levy against his Head. This Head is no good at all. (*Prolonged laughter*). He ought to be summoned immediately, Mr Chairman, to come and listen to our questions and, if need be, let him direct the affairs of the whole Budget. That is his main duty; that is why he is earning his pay, though quite illegally and wrongly, but if he still remains the Premier of this Region today, he must come, he must accept responsibility, otherwise we would not be here.

Mr Chairman, if he does not accept that, we should not be here for this sitting but once we are here, it is his duty to come and direct operation in this House. I know the Minister of Finance is the Leader of the House but that is not enough, he has his own portfolio.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, although we have been treated to a lot of unconstitutional usage by describing somebody as the Deputy Premier, here is the Head of the Premier which has no provision at all for the Deputy Premier. If you go to the other Head, Head 336—Ministry of Local Government—you do not find this appellation of "Deputy Premier" there. The Deputy is not here and the Premier is not here. Is it right and proper, Sir, for the Minister of Finance to play the role of the Premier, the Head of the Government of this Region? Those two offices, Ministry of Finance and Premiership are incompatible.

Oba Akran: I wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition but he has not done what he got up to do. I believe he was going to propose an amendment that under the Premier's Head, a provision should be made for the Deputy Premier. That is what he was saying before.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I was not saying that. I said that there was nobody to present his case for him. (*Interruptions*).

[MR OYEWOLE]

Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Government does not yield, this will lead to her downfall. If these Ministers can have a change of heart it will be appreciated by the people of this Region.

Under transport and travelling expenses, with respect, I direct attention of this House to the Approved Estimates, 1963-64, for the total sum of £14,000. When we no longer have the Midwest with us this amount is supposed to go down but I am surprised it has been increased from £14,000 to £24,500. This increase is too much. I therefore say that the increase is unwarranted. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Premier gets an allowance of £9,930, the Ministers in the Premiers Office, £2,920 and the Parliamentary Secretaries £740. In addition they still use Government cars. These cars are allocated to the Ministers and they use them for their own private businesses. How long will our people continue to suffer for want? If we can devise a better method of handling the affairs of this Region, all average men will get something to do.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to say that the Head be reduced.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the amendment, may I call the attention of the hon. Premier to head 1 sub-head 27 and also sub-head 28. One wonders why these provisions are inserted this year? Is it because the office of the hon. Premier is expanded? Because these are domestic servants and I consider these sub-heads as a waste of public funds. I am advising that these sub-heads be deleted.

Sub-head 2 makes provision for £24,500—Transport and Travelling—whereas last financial year the provision was £14,000, an increase of £10,500. Also Sub-head 4, here again there is an increase of £25,000 instead of £2,000 over last financial year and according to the Minister of Finance, the Midwest Region has been excised and therefore one would expect that less would have to be expended this financial year but instead the provision has a substantial increase. Also I draw the attention of this honourable House to sub-head 28—Office Equipment. This has also risen. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is necessary to decrease these provisions rather than increase them, bearing in mind the need to practise austerity and make more provision for employment opportunities.

On Sub-head 30, I do not quarrel with the provision, rather I want an increase. (*Interruptions*).

Sub-heads 61-66. In supporting the hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) I ask that these sub-heads be transferred to the Printing Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs where they properly belong otherwise one will not be able to justify the creation of a Printing Division in the Premier's Office.

Sub-head 71. I will criticise the role of the Agent-General in the United Kingdom and I am asking that this provision for his office be deleted. (*Interruptions*).

Here we have also the Economic Department. This is a new department. We do not know the need for this department; especially why it is based in the Premier's Office. We have the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development. This is a sort of duplication. I think the holder or head of the department should revert to his former post of the Head of the Civil Service and his staff transferred elsewhere in order to save some money.

In general one must quarrel with the provisions for the Office of the Premier because what we are actually paying for now is high handedness in the administration of the affairs of this Region. Only yesterday, Sir, the name of the Premier was constantly mentioned in this House. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, it appears that the name of the Premier always evokes laughter and spontaneous jokes this year when mentioned at the theatres, in gramophones records and other places of amusement in this Region.

Therefore I am supporting the Amendment that we reduce the Head for the Premier's Office.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman Sir, my Colleagues on this side of the House have spoken at length about the colossal waste in the Premier's Office and you will notice, Mr Chairman, that the list which was presented to this House this morning, to Members on this Side of the House, certainly confirms the remark which we made earlier on to the effect that this Head is not good at all. (*Laughter from both sides.*)

Mr Chairman, I only want to add two or more points to the gloomy list of wastes which are perpetrated in the Premier's Office. Already private houses are being hired in the city of Ibadan, not as VIP Rest Houses, but to house certain departments of Government whereas there are at least four vacant floors in the Finance Corporation building which could be used by Government. This Finance Corporation building was built from the funds of the Region and I see no

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

reason why the Premier should allow private houses to be hired particularly houses belonging to the good boys of the Premier. (*Shame*) (*Government Benches: Name them.*)

I can name them. Lakanmi is one, he is a Director of the Housing Corporation. His house has been hired by the Premier.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I hired the house, for his information, for the Administrator-General.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I know the Attorney-General will say that he hired the house. Why cannot the Administrator-General's Office be housed in the Finance Corporation building

Chief Olowofoyeku: Because I want it to be near me.

Alhaji Adegbenro: There are four vacant floors there which can be used by the Government without incurring expenditure from public funds to hire private houses.

Mr Chairman Sir, not only that, if I may reduce the length of the period, I would not refer to the decadent days of the UPP, which is now a dead baby, but even now, at the resurrection of the NNNDP, what do we find? The Premier goes about launching his new political party, not only in state cars, but also inviting Obas and Chiefs in the guise that he was coming on tour as head of Government, but when they assemble, it is to launch the new NNNDP. That, in itself, is immoral. It is immoral for the Premier to summon Obas and chiefs in the guise of an official tour and ask them to pass resolutions for launching the NNNDP. Apart from that, he always goes further to ask the Treasury to foot the bill for transport and other allowances payable to these Obas and chiefs. This, to my mind, Mr Chairman, is again very immoral.

Mr Chairman, look at the stage which we reach now in this Region. Public meetings and public processions have been consistently banned. People can no longer hold public meetings, people can no longer dance round the streets because of only one man, the Premier, who does not enjoy the approbation, admiration and goodwill of the people of this Region. He cannot go about, and certainly Mr Chairman, people do not move near a person, be he a Premier or not, who is being guarded day and night by the Police. People will not move near such a person, so that he cannot attract the crowd which we usually attract and that is the main reason why he has consistently banned public meetings and processions.

Mr Chairman, Sir, when the Premier was not here during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I sent a word to him that if he would lift the ban on processions and public meetings, not only in Ibadan but all over the Region, I would suggest that he and I should start a sort of strolling from Molete and let us see what will happen by the time we get to Oke-Bola. (*Government Benches: Why to Oke-Bola?*) Let the Governor send observers to see what happens. I am asking the Premier to accept this challenge. Well, if he does not like Molete to Oke-Bola road, let us go via Molete to . . . (*Government Benches: Why Molete?*)

Let us go from Agodi to Bere to Mapo or let us go to Lebanon Street, known as Gbagi, or New Court Road.

Mr Chairman Sir, I have heard my Friends on the Government Benches saying that last Monday when I held a big rally in Ibadan I addressed rams, goats, and people who came to buy rams for Ileya. Mr Chairman, I do not know that it will continue this morning. When the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government was replying to my speech on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, he referred to this meeting and he said that he had got a photograph of the crowd that I was addressing and that they were people who came to buy rams for Ileya. Now, Mr Chairman Sir, with your permission I wish to tender this photograph in a newspaper as Exhibit "A". (*Laughter from both Sides of the House.*)

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): This is 1960 photograph.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Chief S. A. Layonu): This picture was taken at Isalegangan on the day Emergency was declared. I was there.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I can give my Friends on the Other Side that copy for examination and if you like, for purpose of record, I will give you this other copy.

Mr Chairman: Thank you.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, again, apart from the colossal waste, there is this additional wastage of Government funds, although not necessarily those of this Region. The cost of maintaining the army officers and the police, the rank and file, to guard and protect, not only the Premier's Lodge, but also the Premier during all his tours and wanderings all over the Region, is colossal. I think it is apt that we in this House should cry aloud that the Federal Government should think of what to do in the circumstance so that public funds may not be wasted in

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

scheme fully prepared to be joined with other projects and we have had to train specialised people in that particular field and it was since that time that a decision was taken to establish a special department for economic development to carry out this type of function in a manner that will attract financial assistance from abroad. During that tour we were accompanied by the then Head of the Civil Service, Chief I. O. Dina. He went to every place with us and we planned together to establish this particular department and by reason of his own background we believe that he is a man who can efficiently head this particular department.

I am sure by reason of his own experience, the Member for Egbado North-East will bear me out. All those who come from abroad, either in response to our invitation or those who come on their own, if they want assistance, will always come to the Premier's Office. The discussion as to how funds should be attracted used to fall heavily on both the Treasury and the Premier's Office. That was why arrangement was made to get this particular Department attached to the Premier's Office. There is no ulterior motive whatsoever.

It is in fact an evidence of the continuation of the work which I and my good Friends started together that this particular Department had to be part of the Premier's Office. That is the function for which it is intended. The main purpose is to attract financial assistance from abroad and to get specially trained people to man this particular Department.

I have heard a lot being said about the use of cars in the Premier's Office. There has been a lot of improvement since the last few months. At one time, I was accused by some people of having fifteen cars, all official cars, being used by Akintola and Akintola alone. I understand that the number has dropped to two. It is only two that I use now, so there has been a lot of improvement ever since(interruptions). Hon. Ositelu said all he always saw in the official cars are women; he has eyes for nobody else but women. (Laughter). Everywhere he goes, there will be women. In our cars, when we are going home from here, my hon. Friend will see nobody but women. I know very well that he loves them, but he cannot, because of the love he has for women, accuse people unjustly. We use these cars for official purposes only...(Mr Ositelu: *But the thugs are not women*). I do not use thugs, I have no thugs, I do not pay them, I do not maintain thugs. Those

Members here who were with meebefore, in good conscience, will bear me out that I do not believe in thuggery. Hon. Ositelu was in my office and he was one of my right hand men. In good conscience, in the name of all that is dear to him, does he suggest that I maintain thugs?.....(Mr Ositelu: *That was in the past, we are talking of the present?*) Then I have to be congratulated. Judging from my past performances, I understand that I have done very well. (cheers). May I assure him that the present is no more than an index of the past.

Mr Awopeju: It is contamination with Fani that has corrupted him; as evil communication corrupts good manners.

Chief Akintola: Hon Awopeju is a very liberal man, he said I was a very good man. That is the certificate he has given me. Will the hon. Leader of the Opposition, when next he broadcasts, say that Awopeju said Akintola is a good man.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I do not know who spoiled who; I do not know whether it is he who spoiled Fani or it is Fani who spoiled him.

Chief Akintola: According to hon. Ositelu, I am a good man, according to Awopeju, I am a good man..... So I only become corrupt because I am no longer with the Action Group? If by some chance I cross over there, I will be a good man.

I think it was hon. Chief Odebiyi who said during the Coker Commission of Enquiry that certain lies were told against me, not because they believed them, but because I had left the Action Group. I have heard it confirmed now that I am only regarded as bad not because I am bad but because I have formed a new party. Because of my interest in the Opposition, I do not want to come over. If I set a problem for them, they will not be able to solve it. If I go over to that Side, where will the Leader of Opposition be?

I must confess that an item pointed to by my good Friends—one item where you had eighteen washermen—was not for the Premier's Office as such. They are provided in connection with V.I.P. Rest Houses, most of which have not been taken great care of to the degree that I think that would commend itself to important people. So these people are employed and provided for in order that these V.I.P. Rest Houses may be properly maintained.

I appeal to my Friends on the Opposite Side to try to be consistent. We made provision for eighteen people so that they may be able to earn their livelihood and

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

whilst they are bemoaning unemployment, they are still asking us to sack these eighteen! What do they want them to eat?.....(*interruptions*).

They have asked us to stop the publication of the newspaper about which they have spoken. Who are producing this paper? Editors, Sub-Editors, Reporters, Machinists—these are the people doing the work. By establishing this paper, we have increased employment opportunities.....

Chief Babatola: Yes, so do robbers when they organise a gang, they create employment opportunities.....(*Laughter*).

Chief Akintola: Even though numerically, the Opposition is ineffective, why do they not reduce their number by half, why can't they resign? We have established this Newspaper in order to create more employment opportunity.

Mr Chairman, you will see now that there is dead silence on the Opposition Side immediately Fani-Kayode came in. They dare not open their mouths.....(*interruptions*). We have not produced an almighty leader here. We believe in sharing power and whenever you speak of the Premier, you are not referring to one individual, you are referring to a personification of all the Members of this House including the Opposition. I am not only a Premier of Members on this Side, I am the Premier of the Leader of the Opposition. I am the Premier of everyone and everyone here is also a Premier because we have collective responsibility, because without their participating in the Government, no Government could make a success of what it does. (*Hear, hear*).

May I conclude by drawing your attention to one important question which has been glossed over. Since independence has been firmly established here, the responsibilities of the various Governments of this Federation have increased considerably. Unlike what was the practice in the past, both the Federal and Regional Governments now entertain important visitors from abroad almost every week and by reason of our proximity to Lagos, we bear a great responsibility in this respect. People come to this Region and they meet us all in person and we ought to conduct the affairs of the Region in a manner that will enhance our prestige. If therefore there is a semblance of the expenditure provision of the Premier's Office being a little higher, we must consider the dignity of this Region as being partly responsible for it. We want to maintain the dignity of this Region, we want

to show that this Region is one of the leading Regions in Nigeria. We do not want to play the second fiddle and this is why we have some of these provisions against which they are complaining.

Knowing my Friends that they have not changed, because I know the Leader of the Opposition intimately well, I think they would be satisfied with the explanations I have given. I know that some of them opposite are vegetarians or, if not, they will always be satisfied with either chicken or pork.....(*interruptions*). I have never known them to be man-eaters and I hope they will spare my "Head".....(*cheers*).

£542,390 for Head 321.—Premier's Office agreed to.

HEAD 341.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed that the sum of £26,050— for Head 341.—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): Mr Chairman, I am happy the Premier is here. What I would like to know through the Premier of this Region is when elections to the four vacancies in this House will be held. We have four seats which have been vacant in this House for over two years now. We hear of a lot of people declaring support for the NNNDP everyday. We hear a lot about Obas, elders and the entire people of the Western Region declaring support for the Premier. I would appeal to the Premier of this Region to please order elections into these vacant seats and let the Nigerian public see whether it is true this nefarious party, the NNNDP, is actually popular with the masses.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): It is being mooted about that one high official in the Ministry of Information was sent overseas some time ago to go and arrange the printing of ballot papers. Mr Chairman, Sir, what is the intention of this Government? The intention of the Government is to get these papers into certain quarters so that they will declare a sudden election with a view to taking us on this side unaware. They have been planning, through the ingenious device and machination of the Deputy Premier, who a few months ago used to be "Fani the Power" but who now has been completely pulverised under the sledge-hammer of the hon. the Premier and has become "Fani the Powder".....(*prolonged laughter*).....

Chief Akintola: Mr Chairman, may I protest? I think it is most unfair for me to be accused of committing murder. I would ask him, Sir, to withdraw his remarks. I do not beat people with a sledge-hammer.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

The other point which I want to raise, Sir, is that there is a diminishing item that comes under Statutory; under Head 322.—The Treasury—which is the 3½ per cent, £10,000,000 loan given by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board from 1956 to 1976 to be payable at the rate of 5 per cent which no longer is here in our Estimates which in effect means that the £10,000,000 has been converted from loan to grant.

The Minister has not told us, either in his Speech or in any Ministerial Statement on the floor of this House, that the Marketing Board has been graciously pleased to convert this loan of £10,000,000 to free grant. I think, Sir, that as representatives of the people, we are entitled to know.

(Government Benches: You took the loan when you were the Minister of Finance.)

Sir, all I can say is that if the Treasury will, with the co-operation of the Ministry of Local Government, do something about tax assessment in the rating authority areas, there is no reason why Local Government Councils cannot undertake more work than they are undertaking at the moment. What is really wrong is that the method of collection is very poor and haphazard.

When people are over-assessed to tax, they run away, they would not pay. Whereas if the tax is general, if it is ascertainable according to the principles of taxation, people will readily pay and if they do not pay and they are brought before the law then they will stand condemned at the bar of public opinion. Because we must pay for progress, nobody wants to get anything free. All around us here in Western Nigeria, in the past few years, are signs of progress. They must be paid for. Therefore, I think that the Ministry of Local Government as well as the Treasury must devise a means whereby tax assessment committees must be representative of all political parties; then there will be no discrimination. We have said that times without number. The experience which we had last year of the UPP having two members, NCNC having two and Action Group having two—two plus two combined against two is a very bad combination. *(laughter)*.

I think, Sir, that the question of tax ought to be above party politics. The money does not go to anybody's pocket but to the Government's pocket. People we know can really work hard and see to it that this tax comes in are the people we ought to put there; not people who are party supporters, but people who are respectable members of

the community, who have proved themselves in various walks of life and who themselves know that the community look up to them for leadership. If they are put on these assessment committees, they will do what is considered reasonable and sensible in the circumstances.

With these few remarks, I beg to move my Amendment.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): I support the Amendment that the vote under this Head be reduced by £10.

The Treasury is the arsenal of the Region's finances and therefore the store house of its economic wealth. The Minister of Finance is the custodian of the nation's financial armoury. Therefore, any false step on the part of the Minister spells financial doom and economic disaster for the nation.

The Minister of Finance, Oba C. D. Akran, is a hard-working individual and a man of unqualified assiduity, *(cheers)*. But a Yoruba proverb says: "the beauty of the bat is spoilt by its arms which are longer than its legs". *(Prolonged Laughter)*. The work of the Minister of Finance is spoilt by the paramountcy of the interest of his party and the interest of being in office over the interest of the people of this Region. He works all the time on how to keep his party in power and how to keep his Premier and his minions in office and not on how to keep the economy of the nation buoyant. It is the duty of the Treasury and the Minister in charge to see that everything possible is done to advance the economy of the nation and to keep the country prosperous. But what do we find today? It is abject poverty and penury everywhere! The Ministers are growing fat and pot-bellied and the people are growing lean and emaciated *(laughter)*. The Ministers swim in affluence; the people wallow in poverty.

(Government Benches: A hungry man is an angry man).

The Treasury has money for the up-keep of scores of Ministers, where twelve would have been sufficient, but has no money to carry on capital works as the Minister of Finance himself admitted in the Speech introducing the Motion on this Bill. The Government could not even discharge its duties to the local authorities in the Region. It has to keep the funds of these authorities and make their work to be very difficult; even in some cases the existence of some of these local authorities has become precarious. They have to exist on overdrafts. They cannot pay their contributions to schools, so

[MR OLUSA]

that for months some authorities cannot pay teachers' salaries and equipment grants, all because the interest of the UPP, now the NNNDP, must be paramount over that of the people of the Western Region. There is nothing that these people in the Government would not do to be in Government.

I recall the back-door way by which the arrears of the Action Group Members were paid in June and July last year, when "Power" was about to strangle the Premier and the Premier ordered the Minister of Finance to adopt an unorthodox method to pay the arrears of the Action Group Members which had wickedly been withheld for many months.

Mr Chairman Sir, this Government never works on how to recover the economy of this Region which had been ruined by the Emergency followed by this self-imposed Government. This shows the extent of the depravity this Government can sink to keep the members imposed on the people. This is how the scanty money in the Treasury finds its way to channels which do not make for economic development of this Region. Mr Chairman, Sir, this is how this assiduous Minister fails in the performance of his duties to the nation. I shall proceed to give specific instances of the failure of the Minister in the discharge of his duties.

Take the case of the Premier's Office. The sum of £540,710 is required to keep that office as against £452,560 in the previous year. An increase of £88,150. In this office are kept two Regional Ministers, six Ministers without Portfolio and three Parliamentary Secretaries. A total of twelve Ministers and Junior Ministers, the Premier himself inclusive. Why?

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, he is wandering.

Mr Olusa: I was saying that the Minister has failed in the discharge of his duties to advise the Government on excessive spending by appointing all these Ministers.

Mr Chairman: The question of appointment of Ministers cannot be discussed under this Head.

Mr Olusa: I am talking of the failure of the Minister of Finance to peg expenditure in that office. With the Midwest Region cut away from the West, one would expect that the expenditure would be considerably reduced. Take the Treasury as another instance. With the Midwest with us the expenditure was £386,930. Without

the Midwest it is £350,440. The Minister expects us to understand that our commitments to the Midwest were only £36,490! This Ministry has also to increase the establishment of Executive Officers to forty-four from thirty-nine and that of Confidential Secretaries from forty to sixty, despite the fact that the Midwest had gone; why?

As I said before, he is very hard-working, but he has failed in his task to control the expenses of the Government and he has led the Region into economic ruin. Mr Chairman, Sir, I therefore ask the Minister to be alive to his responsibility so that the Region can recover soonest from the economic depression.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am indeed very grateful to my hon. Friends who have spoken on this Head of the Estimates. The hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) made a good point when he urged the Government to hold the bull by the horns and increase the number of Executive Officers so that the work of tax collection can be accelerated. My answer is that we shall not hesitate, when there is need, to employ more hands.

About the question of the vanishing item of £10 million in these Estimates, we are all grateful to the Marketing Board. They have decided that the money should be regarded as a grant rather than as a loan and should no longer be a millstone in the neck of the Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not exactly know how to answer the questions posed by the hon. Member for Akoko North (*Mr Olusa*) because I do not know whether he has praised or criticised my Department. However, I suppose I ought to be grateful to him and say that in future I shall do my best to excel my present performance.

I do not think I should waste the time of the House because there are no more points for me to answer.

£351,170 for Head 322—Treasury—agreed to.

HEAD 323.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question proposed that the sum of £419,820 for Head 323—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief S. O. Sogbein (Egba North-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the provisions under this Head be reduced by £10.

Government provided under Other Charges to every Member of this House has now been exhausted but what happens is that only Ministers and Members of the Government Benches make use of the money.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, this complaint will be looked into.

£182,860 for Head 343.—*Legislature—agreed to.*

HEAD 705.—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the sum of £1,530,000 for Head 705.—Other Capital Expenditure—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £10. Here, Sir, under Sub-head 1—Grants to University of Ife—during the current financial year £708,000 is earmarked.

One is not satisfied with the Government's attitude to the University of Ife. Mr Chairman, Sir, the way Government indirectly influence the affairs of this University does not augur well for the development of higher education in this Region. One would have thought that the Government would take great care to see that everything possible was done to make the atmosphere in that college conducive to the pursuit of University education rather than using its influence to see that many of the lecturers were displaced or were sent away and their places filled with people who were ill-prepared to the extent that the University suffers from an inadequate number of academic staff. We do not quarrel so much with the fact that this position is made so but even if Government's attitude is improved towards the University, I think we cannot spend this money because we cannot find lecturers.

About the loans to Corporations and the Industrial Promotion Commission we do not know, Sir, much about these as we do not have very good report concerning the Industrial Promotion Commission so that we on this Side cannot rightly assess the work which the Corporation is doing. We do believe that it is the unpopularity of this Government that makes it impossible for the Corporation's work to be rightly assessed by people and I take this opportunity, once again, of calling for a general election so that after an election a favourable atmosphere for the development of trade and commerce in the Region will usher in.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Olusa: Mr Chairman, Sir, last year there was a sum of £100,000 provided in the 1963-64 Estimates and not a penny of

this sum was spent whereas, to my knowledge, many Local Authorities were in direct need of money to the extent that some of them were unable to carry out certain projects. I must let the Minister of Local Government know this because he only stays at Ibadan here. This year, Sir, we have here only £3,000. We hope that this money too will not be frozen as that £100,000 was frozen last year.

Chief Sogbein: Mr Chairman, I just want to speak on Sub-heads 1 and 2 only. On Sub-head 1—Ife University—it has been said by a Member that a lot of staff had left the University. I would suggest that the Government should send Dr Onabamiro and Dr Omitowoju to the University to help the under-graduates there and I think these Gentlemen will like to go there, particularly Dr Onabamiro, in view of the recent allegations made against him by some Members on the Opposition Benches. Mr Chairman, Sir, most of these Ministers who call themselves Ministers without Portfolio may like to go there.

The second one is Loans to Corporations and Industrial Promotions Commission. I want to speak on Industrial Projects. I hope the Government will depend only on the recommendation of experts and not allow itself to be influenced by political consideration in siting industries, otherwise much money will be wasted if we do not adhere to the principle laid down. For instance, we hear it being mooted around that there might be an industry for the manufacture of chocolate and all the rest of it. Such industry like this should be sited in places where there is consumption and no political influence should be brought into the siting of this industry by siting it at Ogbomosho or Badagry. I think we have a lot of cocoa in Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ekiti, etc.

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

Mr Awopeju: I rise to support that this Head be reduced by £10.

Under sub-head 1—I wonder why Government chooses to spend as much as £750,000 by way of grant to Ife University when our own leaders will not demonstrate their faith in the efficiency of the college or encourage others to make use of that college for the purpose of giving their children university education? Mr Chairman, Sir, it is said that charity begins at home. It is a very right and accurate saying and the head of this Government, in the person of our hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, a couple of days ago, sent his own children to the United Kingdom for further studies when

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the Ife University is there! He is the head of the Government, and yet instead of asking Dr Onabamiro, who says he is a professor, to hold a Chair in the University of Ife, he retains him in the cabinet.....(*shame, shame*).

My good and learned Friend, Chief Fani-Kayode, when he was on this Side, said that the money now being voted for the establishment of Ife University was a waste and that that money could have been otherwise used. (*Government Benches: Ah!...*) He said it—when the hon. Gentleman was in Opposition, that the money should be used to establish industries and industrial centres in many places in the Region. He asked why this Government should use the money to establish another University when there is already Ibadan University here. At that time I supported that the University should be sited at Remo (*interruptions*).

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): If Mr Awopeju wants to bring a Motion that the University of Ife should be scrapped, it is open to him to do so.

Mr Awopeju: That was what caused the Ilesha riot.....(*interruptions*). If the money had been provided there, the Premier would have passed through Ilesha in peace.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: May I assure you, Sir, that I have always passed in peace and even I passed through Oke-Ado on the 19th of May, 1962, in peace and that is why I am here today. (*cheers*). As far as the £50,000 is concerned, I am quite sure that whenever people speak here, they speak with every sense of responsibility and whatever they say or do against their fellow man, whether they speak in jest or they speak seriously, they are accountable to Him above. (*Interruption*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: It may be true, but I cannot swear to the fact that the Premier passed through Oke-Ado in 1962 in peace. This is 1964 but he has been passing through many streets in Ibadan in pieces. (*laughter*).

While we were discussing Estimates for 1963-64, he introduced a Bill because he cannot pass through alone without the Army or the Police.....(*laughter*). How can you reconcile that, Mr Chairman? Will you like to be a slave to your own conscience? I am sure you would not like to be. Therefore anybody who cannot move freely about without the aid of policemen and the army and guards, most certainly, we may say he is

not passing peacefully.

My Friend, the Attorney-General, has been accused of not delivering the £50,000 to the people of Ilesha. I am not sure whether the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development also delivered his own share to the people of Ado-Ekiti so that when the Premier and his entourage got to these places they had to divert the route of their procession.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say that I spoke this morning that we should try to put jests away in what we say on the floor of this honourable House. My surname, which otherwise is the name of my father, is Akintola, and if they know what that means, it is about a thousand miles away from the realms of cowardice. If we are talking about a hero of a man, I will humbly claim myself to be one. I have passed through all trials and tribulations; if I have Police and Army guarding me today, if I have them in front of me today, it is because these people are not courageous enough to disclose where the rest of the arms and ammunitions they imported are to be found. (*Laughter*). There may be many more of them, I am not the only one being protected; these people are being protected too but they produce men like Ikoku as their agents and they should produce the rest of these ammunitions. We will not allow them to have their way. They are planning to commit murder in the open whenever Akintola is passing.

Where is Ikoku? Where is Adebajo? (*Opposition Benches: We don't know*)..... They disown their friends. (*Laughter*). When the Police follow me, it is not because I am afraid but because I do not know where the rest of the ammunitions are hidden—there are many more of them. Those who are planning to make use of the rest of these ammunitions should be very careful because for every cartridge that they have, the police who follow me have ten.

I want them to be very careful. Not only is it morally justified for the Premier to be protected, every peaceful member of the community here deserves protection including their good selves.

A few days ago, they held a mass meeting and I saw the Leader of Opposition being flanked by Policemen. (*Alhaji Adegbenro: Not at all*).

If he has no policemen at all it may be due to the special relations existing between him and these men with the ammunitions. I do not want to say who they are. Some of us

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who have no special relationship with these men must be very careful for it was not long ago when somebody said that one of their targets was my own house. That was what he said, whether I would be inside it or not, I do not know and if, in the circumstances, I am protected by the Police, am I wrong? Do they want me to go unprotected? I know they have the ammunition but I do not want to die. If I pass peacefully with the protection of the Police, it is not because I am afraid of the public in general but because I am afraid of those people I have referred to already. We have them all over the place and some of them are still at large. So I will appeal to them, if they want me to do away with these policemen, they have never been following me in the past, we used to be in the same party, in the name of all that is dear to them, they should kindly tell all those armed people, all those who import arms against their political opponents, to tell us where these arms are. (*Interruptions*).

I go about, even in their own interest, with policemen, in the interest of all of them here and in the interest of all law-abiding members of the community as I am sure that they still have a large quantity of these arms. (*Interruptions*). I do not know where they are buried, but I understand that there are some near the bank of the Ogun River. I cannot be sure whether the whole lot is not there. I was in the constituency of the hon. Leader of Opposition before, we never went with any policeman, did we? Those were days without arms and ammunition but in these days of trials and tribulations, one needs to ensure that he has all the protection offered to him by the law, so they should not make any propaganda about the question of policemen.

I notice very often they talk about election. As they said, people are printing ballot papers, I do not want to refer to this question of printing of ballot papers. I know those who levelled the accusation do not even believe it, but may I say this: there will be no election in this Region until I am sure that every bit of these arms and ammunition is recovered.....(*prolonged cheers*).

Whereupon the Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin) rose in his place and claimed to move—

“That the Question be now put”.

Question put.

The House divided

AYES—40; NOES—16

DIVISION LIST NO. 12

AYES—40

1. Adebayo, Mr O.
2. Adebesin, Hon. K. S.
3. Adekunle, Mr Y.
4. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
5. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
6. Adeniyi, Hon. S. S. A.
7. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
8. Adibi, Mr N. A.
9. Adigun, Chief J. O.
10. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
11. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
12. Akintola, Chief S. L.
13. Akran, Oba C. D.
14. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
15. Elushade, Mr T. E.
16. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.
17. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
18. Fashola, Mr O.
19. John, Hon. C. O.
20. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
21. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
22. Lawal, Mr J. L.
23. Layonu, Chief S. A.
24. Ogundiran, Hon. Duro
25. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
26. Oke, Mr E. O.
27. Olaitan, Chief O.
28. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
29. Olowofoyeku Chief B.
30. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
31. Omitwoju, Dr J. O.
32. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
33. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
34. Sanni, Mr S. A.
35. Somotan, Mr A. S.
36. Tifase, Chief J. L.
37. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
38. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

39. Lana, Mr R. A.
40. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

NOES—16

1. Adegbenro, Ahaji D. S.
2. Atolagbe, Mr D.
3. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
4. Babatola, Chief J. E.
5. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
6. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
7. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
8. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
9. Okeya, Mr S. A.
10. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
11. Olusa, Mr R. A.
12. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
13. Popoola, Mr D. A.
14. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

15. Obadara, Mr A. O.
16. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.

Question agreed to.

£1,530,000 for Head 705.—Other Capital Expenditure—agreed to.

HEAD 722.—THE TREASURY

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £61,900 for Head 722—The Treasury (Other Non-Recurrent Expenditure)—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £10.

I know, Sir, that almost all the Europeans who are entitled to Lump Sum Compensation have taken it and gone. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance is—how many are left and how soon will they sing their *nunc dimittis*?

Oba Akran: I am afraid, I shall require some time to find the answer.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall be grateful if the Minister of Finance will make available to the House, as early as possible, the answer to our question as to how many expatriates are still to earn the Lump Sum Compensation, before the House adjourns *sine die*.

£61,900 for Head 722.—The Treasury (Other Non-Recurrent Expenditure)—agreed to.

HEAD 327—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question proposed that the sum of £2,041,460 for Head 327—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that the provision under this Head be increased by £8,770 to £2,050,230.

Amendment agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Head of Estimates be reduced by £10.

I remember, Sir, that the constant complaint of many people in the past had been that the cost of the present set up of the Farm Settlements was rather exorbitant and, in the Governor's Speech from the Throne, as well as the Minister's reply to the Debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, no mention was made by Govern-

ment as to what steps have been taken to reduce the cost in respect of the Farm Settlement Scheme even through we were told that the Rural Integrated Development Scheme was going to be run by the Ministry of Economic Development.

I think, Sir, that if we are to continue to establish Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes at the costs which were originally put down by Government experts, it will be extremely difficult for this Government to be able to maintain them and further still to be able to pay their way. I suppose that this must have weighed heavily in the minds of the architects of the new Rural Integrated Development Scheme who brought about the idea that the co-operation and the partnership of local people ought to be incorporated in the Bill.

Be that as it may, unless and until one has been given assurance that the cost of maintaining the existing number of Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes is not going to be skyrocketing, I think, Sir, that one ought to express some alarm at the fact that if we were to continue at the rate at which Government was continuing, there was bound to be trouble at some stage.

I think, Sir, the arrangement for marketing of eggs for those who are keeping poultry farms seems to be a bit haphazard and I think Government can still do a lot more to try and help the farmers who have bought these eggs and who want to sell them so that the eggs can get to the people who can afford to buy them as soon as possible.

I am not particularly happy about the method of awarding contracts. For instance, on the Igbogila-Sawonjo Farm Settlement in Egbado Division, only party supporters are principally allowed to go there and clear the ground before farming operation begins. As a matter of fact, Sir, at a stage they had to bring contractors all along the way from Abeokuta and Ijebu to come and clear the ground in Egbado Division. (*interruptions*). I may say, however, that when I got in touch with the Minister himself, he corrected the error immediately (*cheers from the Government Benches*). There is no need for this. Everybody in this House knows that the Egbado-man is a damn good farmer....(*interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: Mr Chairman, Sir, is it parliamentary to describe the progressive Egbado people as "damn"? I would like the hon. Member to withdraw the word "damn". After all, without the support of Egbado people, the hon. Member could not have been in this House.

Chief Odebiyi: We are very good farmers at that.

On another aspect, Sir, I think at one time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources was thinking of doing some research on poultry feeds. I do not know whether any result has been achieved yet. What I do know is that at the moment there is a company here, Livestock Feed, which produces this poultry feed for chickens. What I want to find out is what can be done to make the cost of production cheaper so that the average man in the street can really afford to buy this thing for his chickens. It is only people who are really wealthy who can afford to buy one pound worth of chicken feed. What we ought to do is to try and find another means, any type of food, for poultry which can reach the ordinary farmer and not the wealthy type of farmer that some of us are.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a lot of comments on the Head of Estimates of this Ministry as the majority of my people are farmers. . . . (*Interruptions.*

Chief Layonu: On point of Order. Mr Chairman, Sir, I refer to Standing Order 29 (1). Chief Babatola is not properly dressed. . . . (*Laughter.*)

Chairman: I have observed Chief Babatola's dress and I think he is properly dressed.

Chief Babatola: Thank you, Mr Chairman, I deliberately dressed in this fashion because I want to represent the farmers properly.

Reference has been made by the Mover of the Amendment to the Farm Institutes and I would suggest that Sub-heads (50) and (51) which make provision for 32 Agricultural Assistants and 16 Field Overseers should be left to remain as in the 1963-64 Estimates because in the report we discover that the Farm Institutes must take in as many trainees as were provided for and I do not see why we have to increase the establishment when, as a matter of fact, we cannot cope with the proposal.

Sub-heads 94-110 where provision is made for Agricultural Extension Services. May I ask the Minister of Agriculture to encourage diversified agricultural practice by way of agricultural shows at local levels by awarding prizes and the publication of the farmers monthly magazines. Farmers in this Region ought now to be treated as people who are more intelligent than before and if we can appeal to them to improve

their technique, I think we will be doing a lot to educate them in the right way. Such magazines of course must be published, not only in English, but also in Yoruba.

Coming to Veterinary Department; sub-heads 111 to 115, we do not obtain regular reports of the field experiments with regard to the control of animal diseases and of cross-breeding of different varieties. When the reports are obtained we want the honourable Minister to get them translated into Yoruba and make them available to farmers. Otherwise these reports are only available to Legislators, and they are of very limited use. Also courses of instruction for farmers should be organised. For instance in the Ministry of Justice some years ago we had to arrange courses of instruction for Customary Court Judges. I do not see why we cannot do so in the case of farmers.

Turning to the Forestry Division, I do say that not sufficient precaution has been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to prevent the destruction of our forests, rather to prevent the eradication of very valuable timbers. I do not think that we have well-trained instructors and planters who can be engaged to do this work for generations to come. When I travel via the constituency of the honourable Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development, I am always distressed when I see how the forests have been destroyed without any attempt on the part of this Ministry to save the forest from this very grave situation. Before I leave the question of forest, Sir, we have to quarrel with the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources with regard to the manner in which concession has been granted to timber contractors. Members on this Side of the House take serious objection to the amount, or rather, the size of forest already given out during the period of the life of the present Government. The Minister read to us here yesterday the amount of acreage of forest, or rather the area of forest already allocated by the Action Group Government during the period of ten years, and he forgot to work out what the concession already given here will amount to during the period the Government lasted. If the Government gave out twenty square miles of forest for twenty-five years of exploitation and the life of the Government lasted for ten years, how much of it has been exploited? We were not given the terms of the concession. Probably the Government must have stated in the Agreement that the agreement would be terminated at any time; that would be there. So that it was not wise on the part

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of the Minister to have indicted the previous Government as he did not take sufficient care to protect the interests of all the people of this Region. But what I am trying to drive at is that if the concession already given out by this Government during the past fifteen months compared with the concession given out by the old Government is far too much; then I would not believe that more care or rather good care was taken in allocating this concession.

Active steps should be taken to replace the quick growing economic trees now being rapidly exploited. Instructors and planters should be dispatched to the hilly forested areas to employ scientific afforestation techniques to arrest soil erosion and soil deterioration which would result from forest destruction.

I also want the Government to recall permits for forest concessions and reduce the size of such concessions. More and more young school leavers should be recruited and trained as forest guards and planters. Some of our waste savannah areas should be planted with imported or local trees which might provide not only new forests but fuel and perhaps timber of some value.

If such an effort can succeed in Bauchi Emirate it should succeed in Ogbomoso where at present the inhabitants depend largely on the use of dry stalks of corn for fuel and thus suffer great limitation in cooking as many foodstuffs as they would wish. They resort to sun drying, a compulsory method of cooking groundnuts and melting fat among the poor wives of peasants who cannot afford to purchase the costly firewood brought to town from distant places.

Following the above suggestions, my advice to the Minister would be to delete "80" in sub-head 143, and substitute "120" for forest guards and labourers.

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

Mr I. A. Olukoju (Owo South I): I rise to support that Head 327 be reduced by £10.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is one of those expending the most fabulous amounts of Government money. This being so it is my belief, Sir, that such fabulous sums of money should be spent in a way that will be beneficial to the whole Region. It is not possible to extend Farm Settlements to every part of the Region and nobody doubts that it is not even possible to establish one in every division throughout the

Region. But it is just possible that the Ministry can undertake experiments that can go through the length and breadth of the Region.

When one goes along the Trunk A Road from Ibadan to Asaba one comes across several cocoa plantations which have been taken over by this Ministry as experimental farms. But it is just bad enough that this Ministry does not even think it fit to come and demonstrate the results of these experiments. Worst of all there is no experimental farm undertaken by this Ministry in this part of the Region. As we all know Ondo Province is known to have agricultural facilities in cultivation of cocoa and this Ministry has not thought it fit to come and undertake a Farm Settlement to serve as an example to our people.

In Ekamarun District Council comprising of Ifon, Ikaro, Sobe, Ijagba, etc., we have sufficient land for the cultivation of cocoa plantation where Government can experiment, if we want the Farmers and people of that area to benefit and have experience in scientific agriculture. Mr Chairman, in Irekari District Council, comprising of Idoani, Idogun, and Afo there is a forest reserve area there which was ripe for exploitation. Last year I made an appeal on the floor of this very House that the forest should be allocated to the people for their benefit, but what did we see, Sir? The Minister of Agriculture allocated it to his friends and contractors who are not from that area at all. Of course, this had to be stopped by the serious objections of the people themselves.

I think, Sir, that it is necessary that the Minister should look into this and relieve the people of their yearning to do scientific farming, or at least help them by the use of chemicals in their cocoa plantations.

In Oka there is no forest reserve and the forest is not good enough for cocoa plantation, but the people come to far away places like Ondo and Ekiti for the cultivation of cocoa farms.

The Minister can help these people if the officers of the Ministry can go to these farms to give them practical experience. (*Interruptions*). I would like them to go to some parts of this Region to help some of these people. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would specifically appeal to the Minister concerned to help the people of this area.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I would like to reduce the Head by £10.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have very little to add to what my colleagues on this Side have said on Head 327 A art

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from the Head of the Premier which had been disposed of earlier today this Head is one of the worst of all the Heads. (*laughter*). The Head of the Minister of Education comes next after the Premier's. (*Prolonged laughter*).

May I say, Mr Chairman, that in view of the serious allegations made against the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources on a substantive Motion and in view of all that has been said by the Opposition during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to which the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources deliberately declined to give answers, we of the Opposition oppose the passage of Head 327 as it stands now, and may I say, Sir, that the Head should be reduced. (*Government Benches: How can you reduce a head? Do you want to cut it off?*) I do not want the Head to be cut off, I want it to be reduced by £10. I want you to take away £10 from it, Mr Chairman.

But may I say, Sir, that our intention in reducing this Head is to bring it vividly home to the Minister that he is unfit to be Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources because he has failed to give adequate replies to serious allegations made against him at the appropriate time. Last night, before the close of the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, he made a fruitless effort to convince the House by saying "this is untrue, that is untrue" but he deliberately declined to reply to one particular allegation which was levelled against him, that is in respect of Government equipment like caterpillar in Ogbomosho, Badagry and Ago Iwoye farms. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: If the Leader of Opposition stops all the trouble from that side I promise a caterpillar will be sent to him (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been informed that the Minister confessed to some of my colleagues that it is true that some caterpillars are working on the Ogbomosho-Badagry-Ago Iwoye triangular farms, but that they are being paid for, they are on hire. (*Laughter*). I say this, that if it is possible for Ministers to hire caterpillars to work on their farms, why is it not possible for the ordinary farmer to have access to hiring a caterpillar? That is our point and that is what the Minister has refused to reply to and that is why we feel that his Head is one of the worst Heads. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, I will like it understood that when we oppose, it does not mean that we want to obstruct Government business. Our appeal

is that everybody, it does not matter whether he is a Minister or not, particularly farmers who are toiling day and night to harvest and to plant their crops, should have access to Government equipment. Whether they are friends or relatives to Ministers should not be the criterion for having access to caterpillars or bull-dozers. The poor taxpayers of this Region ought to have the opportunity to use equipment provided by Government. If they cannot pay, that is their fault. How can we know that this can be hired out? The Minister deals it out and that is his secret, that is the mystery in that Ministry. And I will say, Sir, that we are definitely opposing this man's Head (*laughter*) which according to this Estimate is £2,041,460 for this inefficient man, a man who is too stiff to see reasons, a man who feels that nobody sees him, who goes round the Region to fool people all around to make concessions in Forestry Reservations and without having the guts to say "I am sorry for my past deeds" in this honourable House, and you are calling on us, Mr Chairman, to approve the sum of over £2 million for him to further impoverish the poor taxpayers of this Region.

Allegation was made that a sum of £17,000 was realised on the sale of forestry reserve and that the sum was deposited in the bank in the name of a woman. The Minister asked here last night: "Is it Mrs Ositelu?" But Mr Ositelu was the Mover of the substantive Motion and he did not say that the money was deposited in his own wife's name, but that the money was deposited in another woman's name.

May I ask the Premier if.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: To give him a caterpillar? (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: No; I do not want any caterpillar now.

What I want the Premier to do now is that after the House has been adjourned he should please readjust the portfolio of this man. Bring the Minister of Education to a Ministry as a Minister in the Ministry, take away Dr Onabamiro from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and make him the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ife. (*Prolonged laughter*) because he will be more useful in the University of Ife. He is a square peg in a round hole. In administration he does not make the mark (*laughter*). I am very sorry to say this, but I have great respect for him as a very learned man. We do not want this sort of man in this place but in another place. (*Prolonged laughter*).

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr D. S. Onabamiro): Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say that I am quite capable of taking all these hard knocks in good part.

May I start by expressing my appreciation for a lot of constructive suggestions that have been made in connection with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I have listed some points made by the hon. Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*). The first criticism was levelled against the cost of our farm settlements which he regarded as very prohibitive. I am glad that in a Debate like this it affords us the opportunity of telling all Sides of the House the measures which Government continues to take in order to do exactly what Members of the Opposition are desiring.

When the Farm Settlements were planned at the time of Chief Akin Deko, former Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the cost of each farm settlement was in the order of £4,000 per settler. Since then the Government has devised a means of reducing the cost. It was felt that it should not cost more to settle a farmer in Nigeria than to train a doctor in England. To reduce the cost, the following measures have been taken.

At that time, before 1960, the contract for the houses of the settlers was given out to Nigersol at a cost of £600 each and the Nigersol built fifty-eight houses in each of the twenty-two settlements at that fantastic figure. When the matter was reviewed it was decided to cancel the contract held by Nigersol and to give out the contract for a better house at a cost of £360. (*Cheers*). And the houses that are now built at Egbado Farm Settlement, very close to the home of the hon. Member, are of this cheaper type and they are better in the sense that the partition between the bedroom and the sitting room is made of block wall and not of cardboard as was done by the Nigersol.

Again it was said that instead of paying a settler about £3 a month indefinitely until his cocoa crop or oil palm is mature, he should be encouraged to keep poultry unit right from the beginning of his Settlement with the result that within a year he will be realising about £8 10s (*cheers*).

The third measure of economy that was adopted was to reduce the holding of each settler. Instead of giving each settler twenty acres of land; in order that more can be made available for more settlers, each settler is given ten acres for economic crops. All these measures of economy have resulted in reducing the cost of settling the farmer in arable land to £2,500 and in other settlements to £1,500. I am grateful for the

opportunity given for us to relate all these measures that have been adopted.

Concerning the disposal of eggs, we were fortunate about six weeks ago to be presented by the USAID with some special trucks equipped with ice making machines in order that eggs can be collected from rural areas and can be saved for two weeks to three weeks until they can reach the place of sale. The result is that we are able to collect eggs from farm settlers and individual poultry keepers from rural areas. Applications must, of course, come to us to say "we are producing eggs we want you to come and collect them" and we shall send our vans to go and collect the eggs once a week.

On the method of awarding contracts for clearing and so on, I am grateful for the appreciation expressed by the hon. Member for the quick action which I took immediately the complaint was brought to my notice. I am sure the hon. Leader of Opposition will note that I am not a total failure as Minister of Agriculture. (*Opposition Benches: He admits he is a failure; only it is not a total failure*)—(*laughter*).

I am now taking the point raised by hon. Babatola, but may I say that he has been misreading his Estimates. We have actually reduced our personnel by twenty per cent, because of the breaking away of the Midwest, which is now a Midwest Region.

On the question of regeneration, I must say that the officers of the Forest Division are very alert on the urgency of regeneration and the work is proceeding. In connection with that I may say something that is interesting. We have recently found out that the teak which we planted for over twenty years as fuel is now fetching more money in European markets than even the Iroko and other trees. We are now planting teak in order to increase the revenue of the Region.

I now come to the question of the area given out for exploitation in the last fifteen months. I must say that the applications of individuals are undergoing serious consideration. Two factors are responsible for having the feeling that more area is given out for exploitation. One is technical. A Committee was set up about 1959 by Chief Akin Deko, the former Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, on land utilisation. Incidentally he went to the University College, Ibadan, to choose the Committee Chairman and he made me Chairman of that Committee not knowing that in future this would be my Ministry. (*Laughter*). We had some technical advisers and it was concluded

[DR ONABAMIRO]

then that the hundred-year cycle which we were following should be converted to fifty-year cycle. This is what it means. When a tree is taken from one area, nobody is allowed to go back there until another one hundred years. We found that in the interval a number of trees would have become over-mature. It was then decided that two things should be done. People should be allowed to go back after fifty years instead of hundred years. Secondly the girth should be increased. Instead of 8ft, the girth should be increased to 15ft so that smaller trees could be preserved. Because of that conversion of policy it was decided by experts from the Forest Division of the University of Oxford and other experts from overseas, that in order to make maximum use of our forest reserves we should convert into fifty-year cycle. That makes more areas technically available.

The second factor is that, as I pointed out yesterday, we now give more areas to many people. Instead of giving hundred square miles to a big man we now give six square miles to twelve people, making half a square mile each. Instead of having one man's lorry going to a forest all the time, we now have twelve men's lorries going to that forest. That is democracy in conformity with the ideology of the NNDP. (*cheers*).

Mr Chairman, there was one very useful proposal made by the hon. Member for Ekiti North-East II (*Chief Babatola*). He suggested that there should be a means of afforesting the savannah areas. We have this in mind but what we would like him to do is to preach this gospel to schools and village communities so that we can do what is done in Israel. If 100,000 school children can go out and plant one tree each, then we will have 100,000 trees in the savannah. If he can organise this, my Ministry will supply the seedlings.

Concerning the criticism made by the hon. Member for Owo South I (*Mr Olukaju*), I am very sorry Sir, Mr Chairman, we have no sufficient forest reserve for this Region. At the present time, Western Nigeria has seventeen per cent of the land under forest reserve. The International ratio is twenty-one per cent, so we are still even below the international ratio.

Mr Chairman, I come to the allegations made by the Leader of Opposition. I repeat, these allegations which we have disproved yesterday, are unfounded, wicked, malicious and untrue. I do not see how anybody can have some £17,000 and deposit it in the name of a woman who is not his wife (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, right now, caterpillars from my Ministry are working in Ogbere, the farm owned by Chief Odutola who certainly is not a member of our party. It has been working there every year for the past seven years. Caterpillars from my Ministry were loaned to Mr Ajasin of Owo who is a Member of the Action Group. I have mentioned two names which they can go and check. Yesterday, I mentioned in this House that, for the past ten years, the Extension Services Division of my Ministry has been put at the disposal of hon. Olusa and has been used by him every year for the past ten years. Yesterday, I also told the House that I inherited an eight-acre farm from my mother who died in 1957. I made a request so that some members of the Extension Services Division of my Ministry may go and see and advise me as to what I should do with the farm. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, I am beginning to believe that in truth, the Yoruba is the enemy of the fellow Yoruba. When we see the photograph of Balewa on the tractor on his farm, we are happy because he is a farmer. When we see the photograph of Sardauna, we are happy because he is a farmer. Why are we not happy when we hear that Chief Akintola has a farm? (*Interruptions*). I told the House yesterday that there was no caterpillar on the farm of the Premier at Ogbomosho. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: Mr Chairman, may I please say this and perhaps it will clear the air. All my hon. Friends opposite are so fond of me that I do not remember a time when it took them more than six months to visit my home. If they are in doubt as to whether caterpillars are in Ogbomosho or not, I extend to them an open invitation to come. But they should not mix my farm up with the Government Farm Settlement. There are farm settlements on Ogbomosho to Oyo road. There you have a lot of caterpillars but those farms do not belong to me. There is a farm settlement owned by several young school leavers and they have facility to modernise agriculture there, and the Governor, in his Speech from the Throne, was kind enough to make specific reference to the experiment being carried on on this particular farm settlement. These caterpillars have become such a bug-bear and I think it is so dear to the hearts of some of them. Every time they wake up they see nothing but caterpillars. (*Prolonged laughter*).

About caterpillars, bulldozers, and all these things, I personally agree with them that the opportunities must be made equal, and we all agree to popularise all these things in the interest of the generality of our people;

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

and that is why I would make one appeal to them and that appeal would be specifically directed to my Friend, the hon. Leader of Opposition. The new Rural Development Integrated Scheme was launched not long ago. They were all invited to come and see what was being done there, to see this new experiment. They got the invitation, but if they did not get the invitation, the thing is absolutely open. There will be a new farm settlement which will be declared open next Saturday...*(interruptions)*.... I am saying this, that the money being spent on caterpillars is our own money, it is public money, and we want the largest number of people to benefit from it. That is why after we started at Eruwa, we have gone to Ekiti and we are spreading it through the whole of the Region.

If they are interested, they could approach the hon. Minister of Agriculture and he will come over to their areas. We want the largest number of people possible to see these new equipment and to see them demonstrated so that everybody will have the advantage of the modern method of agriculture. It is not intended for a privileged group or a privileged class. We want all of us to develop the spirit of farming and impart this new spirit to all people. So there is nothing exclusive about all these equipment and I think it will be a good thing for every Member of the House to take personal interest in Agriculture. I love to see the hon. Leader of Opposition on a caterpillar on his own farm. He can always hire a caterpillar. He is at liberty to do so. It was not too long ago that we all started this scheme; we discussed these things together. He can own his own farm and it is by owning his farm that he will experiment here and there. We all come from different parts of the Region. If it is possible for each of us to have at least two acres for demonstration purposes, we shall have covered the whole of Western Nigeria and our own constituency can be brought into the picture. I assure the House once again that there is nothing esoteric at all about the arrangement in the Ministry. A Member can go in any time, he can approach the Minister, not only on his behalf, but on behalf of the people from his own constituency.

I will blame some of them. It appears that some of us think too much of ourselves. It is a question of "I have not got the caterpillar". They should not speak only for themselves, only for Akintola, only for Kabiyesi, Oba Akran, they should speak for the generality of the people. We want farmers to be orga-

nised in co-operatives so that they can derive maximum benefit from the use of these modern equipment. They should not go away from this place with the propaganda that these caterpillars and these bulldozers are intended for a few. They are intended for all. Even my hon. Friend, the Bale of Araromi and the hon. the holy Alhaji, can benefit a lot from this by demonstrating on his farm the use of this caterpillar, he should not keep on blaming the Ministry if he does not take advantage of the opportunity which is open to him. He is perfectly at liberty to make suggestions not only on the Floor of the House but he can go to the Ministry to offer his advice and to offer his own suggestion and I assure him we will always be in a receptive mood.

£2,050,230 for Head 327—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—agreed to.

HEAD 706—SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £1,162,700 for Head 706—Special Agricultural Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Olusa: I rise to move that this Head be reduced by £10.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not saying that there is no experiment made but the efforts hitherto are not sufficient. We cannot tell our young men to go back to the farm without the tools and instruments with which they will farm. We do not want them to go back to the farm to suffer. If there are good equipment and tools with which to farm, our young men will be happy to go back to the farm. The equipments we have at present are not good enough to farm with.

Mr Chairman, if Government is desirous, what Government should do is to see that research is made into instruments and tools suitable for work in the Tropics. Bulldozers and tractors that are used at present are not quite good enough. They are not sufficiently suitable for our lands. Research should be made for suitable farming implements. If we can have implements and tools for tilling the ground, for sowing and even for reaping, our young men will be happy to go to the land. Until we do this, it will be difficult to get our young men to go back to the land.

Mr Chairman, those of us sitting in this House say that we are responsible people. We should speak the truth and nothing but the truth. The Minister of Agriculture has twice repeated that I have been having tractors of Government for the past ten years. When Oba C. D. Akran was Minister of Economic Planning, it was at that time we

[MR OLUSA]

were establishing the Ajowa Resettlement Scheme and it was said that the practical side of it should be at Ajowa which was a very good venture on the part of the Government. What happened was that a bulldozer was brought with some trainees to help with the demonstration. I did not use it on my farm. It was used for demonstrations on the Settlement. It was not used for services on my farm.

Chief Babatola: Sub-head (1). We have allocations for Farm Institute and the sum of £336,120 was put for the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We are told that a sum of £140,000 is for the completion of building programmes of the Institutes and it was planned that by the end of March, 1963, a total of 1,000 students will be in residence at the Farm Institute, and that there will be an output of 500 students. I want to ask if this was realised, and if we really have 1,000 students and if so, how does the Minister want to spend this sum?

Sub-head 3: What are the details? He said that the crops will be distributed. Are they going to be distributed to Oyo or Owo, etc.?

Dr Onabamiro: I have noted what the hon. Members opposite have said. I would like to say this that there is no place which is not suitable for mechanisation. There are places which are difficult places and the roots of plants will have to be uprooted but in the long run we have to go out for bigger mechanisation in order to reduce the physical labour which discourages people going back to farming now.

Hon. Olusa continues to say that he has been wrongly accused by the Minister of Agriculture. I never said that we gave him or lent him tractors. I said that we put the services of the Ministry at his disposal and I say definitely that hon. Olusa has loaned tractors for his private farms and we gave him improved cocoa, citrus and we also gave him nursery seeds and assisted him in the planting.

Another point made concerns the Farm Institute. We have 1,000 students in our Farm Institutes. Our aim originally is to have 200 students in each Institute. We now want to increase the number to 250 students in each Institute which means that we have to erect more buildings and get more staff.

About the Farm crops, the few crops involved are Cocoa, Rubber, Oil Palm, Citrus, Mangoes and Coffee. The policy of Govern-

ment is to encourage the farmers to cut down the aged cocoa and use these to plant new ones. So we have to pay the farmers to compensate them and to encourage them to cut their aged tree crops and plant new ones.

£1,162,700 for Head 706—Special Agricultural Development—agreed to.

HEAD 723—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question proposed that the sum of £232,580 for Head 723—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 328—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £188,160 for Head 328—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I move that the provision under this Head be reduced by the sum of £14,830 to £173,330.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Olusa: The expenditure in this Ministry remains almost the same as when the Midwest was included in the West.

There is increase in Community Development Assistants from twenty-five to forty-two. One would not quarrel with the increase if one sees them work. Where are these people working? What do they do? When there were only twelve of them, we saw more of them and their work. We heard of roads here and there made by Community efforts, etc. How much of such are heard of now-a-days? Few!

The alarming increase of transport and travelling expenditure is disturbing. With the Midwest it was £15,700. Without the Midwest it has become £16,700, whereas in the previous year the increase was only £911, from £14,789 to £15,700. This is most wasteful and should be condemned. When has this Ministry become a transport company?

Instead of encouraging Community Development, this Ministry is discouraging it. The grants for Community Development have progressively decreased from £37,113 in 1962 to £28,000 in 1963 to £26,000 in 1964.

The zeal with which adult education was encouraged in the past has disappeared. Hardly is there any place one hears of adult

[MR OLUSA]

education today. Has illiteracy been completely wiped out? This Ministry has failed woefully in this aspect of its work.

I would like the House to refer to the question of Census which comes under this Ministry. One would expect that on something pertaining to the development and planning, there should be the fear of God. What is happening? It was true that the previous census was condemned because we heard that some people actually inflated the results. One would have thought that the one to follow it should have been done with the fear of God and that it should have been done accurately.

I am not referring to this Ministry alone; I am referring to the Ministries all over the Federation. They will never do their work with the fear of God. Some of these Ministers went out begging people to count anything. We saw people here counting twice, thrice and I collected cards to bring here. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: On point of correction. This point ought to be made clear to the hon. Member. Census is the responsibility of the Federal Government. All those people he met in his area were not sent by us. They were sent by the Federal Government from Lagos, so he could not have sent them to me or to any of us. They could only have been sent to those who were responsible for them in Lagos and not here.

Mr Chairman: I think in order that we might go on more quickly, we have been told and we all understand, that Census is a Federal responsibility. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Olusa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that this Head be reduced by £10.

Alhaji Adegbenro: On this Head, a small Head anyway, I have only two points to make. Perhaps the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development may have an assurance to give to this House, particularly to this Side of the House. We have heard about the descending order of magnitude in respect of Community Grants to local efforts throughout the Region. I will go over to the good old days when the West Minister of Finance, Oba Akran, used to be the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development in the Action Group Government. Those were the days when community efforts were adequately rewarded. People binding themselves together were able to receive Government's assistance in order to build roads, bridges,

community halls, dispensaries, etc. Under the new Government—perhaps the Premier was not here when I christened his Government, perhaps the new name was not passed on to him—what we find in this 'tipatipa' Government is that community grants and community efforts are no longer available. I am told that if you look back two or three years, you will find that the new Fourth Region in the new Republic of Nigeria, that is Midwestern Region, was part and parcel of this Region and the amount voted under Community Development Grant was such that now, when the Midwest has been excised, it would have been reflected in the provision for the financial year which we are now entering, now that we have seen an evidence of sincerity on the part of the Minister to give assistance in their efforts to improve the standards of living.

Secondly, Sir, under this Head 724 that is the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development (Non-Recurrent Expenditure), you will find that under the 1963-64 Estimates, Government provided only £28,000. In the current Estimates we are discussing provision which has been made for not less than £600,000. That is £600,000 for Integrated Rural Development. But look at the picture here, Mr Chairman. The first experiment in Integrated Rural Development started at Eruwa, one extreme, and the next one is going to be in Erio in Ekiti, the other extreme. I am not quarrelling with the experimental ground being covered so far, what I am urging the Government to do is this: that between Eruwa and Erio is a long way and there should be provision for all other parts other than these two distant homes. I am saying this because if I do not put it on record and I come back again at another meeting they will say, "when did you tell us so"? The provision is here already, adequate enough to give more of this experiment to cover the Region. I speak not only for my Constituency but for all other parts of the Region and I will like the Government to see to it that other centres are opened up as early as possible. It is only by that that people who have no means of travelling to Erio, one extreme or to Eruwa, another extreme; will be able to see this and see the usefulness of this Rural Development and then it will be open to them to compete and press on Government further and further for more experimental grants of this kind.

As I said earlier on, Mr Chairman, I do not want to belabour the point because this is a very small Head. It is unfortunate that the hon. Minister of Finance who was for many years the occupier of this Ministry abdicated

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

his position for a higher plane in favour of the very small Head. I hope my Friend, the Minister, will try his best to emulate his predecessor. It is unfortunate because somebody described him as a "Fulani" the other time so that it is impossible for a small man(Interruptions), but if he can try to emulate the Minister of Finance, when he was Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development, he will earn our praise for the short time he is going to be there in that Ministry.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Oshuntokun): I thank the hon. Leader of Opposition for the contribution which he has made to the Estimates.

About Development Grants, as a matter of fact, if the Leader of Opposition will look at them very well, last year we voted £28,000 for Development Grant when the Midwest was part of this Region but when the Midwest left us last year, the vote was split into two and £8,000 was sent to the Midwest, leaving £20,000 for us here. This year's Estimate actually shows an increase of £6,000 over what it was last year.

May I also assure the Leader of Opposition that the Integrated Rural Development Scheme which had been successfully started at Eruwa and which will be launched again at Erio next Saturday, will be spread over the whole Region within a number of years. As a matter of fact, but for this Budget Meeting the aim of the Government is to open one in every district fortnightly. But for this Budget Meeting we would have

launched two or three schemes more and I can assure the Leader of Opposition that we will cover the whole Region within the next two or three years. (Interruptions).

May I say finally, Sir, that the Leader of Opposition is in a fool's paradise and he will remain there for ever and ever. Amen.

£173,330 for Head 328.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £600,000 for Head 724.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

The Minister of Finance (Oba Akran) rose in his place and claimed to move—"That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again."

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Committee report progress—To sit again tomorrow, Friday, 17th April, 1964.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn. (Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 8.25 p.m. until tomorrow, Friday, 17th April, 1964 at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.25 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment until Monday, 20th April 1964

Oba Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that at its rising this day, the House shall adjourn until Monday, 20th April, 1964.

Dr Omitowoju: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

Oba Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that items (i) to (iv) under Presentation and First Reading of Bills on the Order Paper be postponed until further notice as the Opposition and ourselves reached agreement last night that as soon as we come here this morning we should continue with the Committee of Supply on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

The Leader of the Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to confirm the statement.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1964-65 APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee of Supply

(Second Alloted Day)

(In the Committee of Supply)

HEAD 329.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that the sum of £6,109,150 for Head 329.—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the provision under this Head be increased by the sum of £445,490 to £6,554,640.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr A. A. Babayemi (Egba North-West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 329, Ministry of Education, be reduced by £10.

In doing so, Mr Chairman, I would like to start on the salary of £2,700 which is for the Minister of Education himself. This Minister, Mr Chairman, is a friend of mine and he is a very good man. I like him because he is not the type of person who is fond of mincing words. I like him because he believes very strongly in calling a spade a spade. He is a good christian. I think that is all. But unfortunately, Mr Chairman, Sir, this Minister is a misfit in that Ministry—a square peg in a round hole. Unfortunately, the Premier and the Deputy Premier are not here, but fortunately the Leader of the House is here. What I want to say is that it would be nice if his salary of £2,700 is transferred to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development so that it could be used in establishing some farm projects in his constituency, Akoko South. I would suggest to the Premier and the Deputy Premier that he be transferred to the Ministry of Information because I think he has a flare for information. This Minister, Sir is noted for his garulity with the result that he continues to make a mess of the Ministry of Education.

This Minister, Sir, is also very stubborn, everybody knows that. He takes delight in dragging the Ministry of Education into confusion always. An example of this is the Ilesha affair. This Minister does not know that there is an Education Law and in the Education Law there is no provision for a Minister to sack with impunity the principal of a reputable Grammar School. He does not know, and instead of asking his Permanent Secretary to advise him, he simply rushes to the press and radio to announce the termination of the appointment of the principal of a well-recognised Grammar School. Mr Chairman, Sir, this Minister is so stubborn, so irresponsible, so unintelligent and too cocky to learn from the members of the staff of the Ministry of Education.

[CHIEF BABATOLA].

in the Region. We understand from the horse's mouth that five of these Teacher Training Colleges are allowed to exist whereas the remainder have been closed down. I think that this vacillation should stop. He has not even decided what to do on the long run.

Coming down to items 34 to 45—Registration and Examination Section, every body in this Region who listens to news on the air will be aware of the current leakage of examination questions and of examination results. It is distressing that the Minister has not so far evolved a method to remove the occurrence of leakage. It is right, sometimes proper, for the Minister to go out preaching about honesty but I think he should realise that charity begins at home. He should see to it that proper arrangement is made so that we will not hear of future examination leakages.

Another thing which is wrong with this Branch of the Ministry of Education is undue delay of results of examinations. Mr Chairman, already the result of the West African School Certificate Examination has been published but I am not aware if the result of the Modern III Examination held towards the end of last year has been released. I do not know whether it is a deliberate attempt on the part of Government to make it impossible for Modern III school leavers to obtain jobs this year. As a matter of fact there has been rumour that the Government is in difficulty with employment. Therefore they want to delay publication of the result so that this year, for instance, when boys and girls are out of the Colleges they will be told that they would have to take the Civil Service Examination for which they have to wait till next year.

Members who spoke before me have alleged incompetence on the part of the Minister. Coming down to sub-head 66—Regional Library. May I appeal to the Government that the services given by the Regional Library may be extended to the Provinces. It is very good for the Regional Library to have branches throughout the Region and if Government cannot cope with this financially it can at least make a grant of books, and arrange for several pamphlets to be published in a Section of this Ministry and be distributed to boys and girls in all Provinces of the Region. These branches of the Regional Library may be put under the supervision of Local Education Offices in the Provinces.

Another point about the Ministry of Education is in respect of the Inspectorate Division.—Sub-heads 130 to 156. The Ins-

pectorate Division is a very important one and if this Division carries out its work properly, the standard of education will be high in this Region. I am happy that the standard is getting better but there is a lot yet to be done. (*cheers*). I know why the standard is getting better. It is because about five years ago I headed a Committee set up to see to this matter. (*interruptions*)..... We offered suggestions and they have started to bear fruits. One thing which ought to be emphasised is the fact that Inspectors should not only go to schools to criticise; they must be told that their work is not only to find faults. Although they can criticise, at the same time wherever they find teachers using good methods, wherever they find teachers with methods which are different from the ones they have committed to memory, they should bring them to the notice of the authorities so that such methods could be shared throughout the schools in this Region. Great attention should be paid to the resourcefulness of such teachers.

Coming to the Grants-in-Aid—Secondary Education—amounting to £435,000 and also Sub-head 32—Special Purposes—one is not quite sure what the Grants-in-Aid and Special Purposes stand for. One would have liked to see the explanation to this in the Schedule. According to the Ashby Report, followed by the Banjo Report, this Government is asked to see to it that Secondary Education and Post Secondary Education should be emphasised after the year 1960. It appears this Government is not working hard enough to see that secondary education and post secondary education are given enough attention. If this is not done, Sir, our Universities will not have enough suitable materials as undergraduates. We may say that Universities will have entrance examinations and admit so many but if a University cannot admit up to 2,000 students I do not think it is pursuing a policy which can be termed to be sound economically. When you have an array of lecturers and you are not able to find suitable materials you are wasting public revenue. In other countries you find universities having an enrolment of 9,000 to 10,000 students. What do we have here? We have less faculties, suitable materials are not forthcoming and suitable materials will not be forthcoming unless we invest in the Secondary Schools. (*Interruptions*).

One thing has come to my notice, Mr Chairman. The Federal Government is trying to help to encourage Upper Form work in the Region and has sent a large sum of money to the Regions for distribution.

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

The distribution of the grant sent to our Region has not been equitably made by the Minister. It appears, Sir, that politics has interfered with the distribution of the grant given by the Federal Government to this Region in respect of the development of Upper Form work. For instance, Sir, the Ibadan Grammar School, which was one of the first two secondary schools to establish Upper Form work in this Region, received only £600 whereas Government College, Ibadan, which can be financed by this Government, was given over £1,000 from the grant of the Federal Government and there is another school, Saint Teresa's, which received only £690. (*Interruptions*). Mr Chairman, Sir, apart from the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and another Member in this House, Ilesha has not danced to the tune of the NNDP Government of this Region. (*interruptions*). I do not want to charge my hon. Friend with partiality, otherwise I should have said that Victory College, Ikare, received £1,100 because it is in his Constituency. May I appeal to the hon. Minister to take all these partialities and inequity into consideration and send his report and advice to the Government for consideration.

Now, Sir, there are secondary schools that have been established between 1958 and now which had received very favourable reports and instead of trying to get such schools grant-aided, the Minister has not turned his attention to them. If these schools are grant-aided they will provide for very good standards among candidates to be taken into these Universities. Incidentally, may I refer to Ado-Ekiti Grammar School which ought to have received the kind attention of the Minister but has not; it is overdue for grants-in-aid. (*interruptions*) I have mentioned Ilesha and Ibadan Grammar Schools, so I am not being partial.

Mr Chairman to provide a meagre sum of money for secondary and post secondary education and thus refuse to grant-aid many of the very good secondary schools is the policy that we condemn and therefore I emphasise that I support the Motion to reduce the vote by £10.

Ahaji A. L. Adenekan (Egba Central II): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Amendment that the sum of £10 be cut from the vote for the Ministry of Education.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a pity that two of the Members who have spoken called the Minister of Education their friend, and it is also a pity that the Minister of Education continues to laugh when there are serious allegations

being made against his character and work. The hon. Premier made a gross mistake by appointing hon. Olumofin to such an important Ministry as the Ministry of Education. Why not send the hon. Minister of Agriculture to succeed the Minister of Education in this Ministry, particularly as the Minister of Agriculture had been found to be corrupt and incapable in that Ministry, owing to a recent allegation made against him in this House? Why not send Dr Omitowoju to the Ministry of Education? I understand that the purpose of the Provincial Commissioners' Bill to be passed soon is to remove the hon. Minister of Education and send him to Okitipupa to be a Commissioner there. Compare him with the Ministers of Education in the North or in the East or anywhere in the Federation, you will find him to be a misfit. It is very bad to send this man outside Western Region to represent us. I know that it was the Deputy Premier who influenced the appointment of this man as a Minister. Why not appoint Elushade from Ife a Minister of Education; why not hon. Adibi from Ogbomoshò?

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education made an empty speech in this House yesterday and wanted to present himself for promotion before his masters by trying to let the Deputy Premier know that he was doing his job well. This man is popularly regarded as reckless, hopeless and inefficient. It is a disgrace to this Government to allow such a man like this in office as a Minister of State. The hon. Premier is not present but I think the Leader of the House, Oba Akran, will pass on this information to him that this hopeless Minister should be removed.

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will not like to repeat the same things that have been said by the Members who have spoken but would only like to make two observations.

There is one Comprehensive School at Aiyetoro. The policy of the Government of this Region in regard to admission of students to this school leaves much to be desired. I cannot understand why a school built with the money of the taxpayers of this Region will refuse admission to some pupils simply because they are not from Egbado Division. There are many schools outside Egbado Division and Abeokuta whose pupils can gain admission to this school and I will therefore appeal to this Government that this Comprehensive School at Aiyetoro

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should be thrown open to pupils from anywhere in the Region. Why do they build a school with the taxpayers money and yet refuse children from a particular area to attend that school? It is the only school of its kind in this Region and pupils in Ikeja, however brilliant they may be, cannot gain admission to this School; also pupils from Ijebu or Abeokuta cannot gain admission. Can they convince us in this House that a school built by the Government of this Region in Aiyetoro does not discriminate against pupils from other Divisions? I think the Government should do something about admission of pupils to this school as this is a very important matter and I want this Government to do something about it.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, Sir, various Members have spoken about the activities of the present Minister of Education. I will not attack the Minister of Education but I will only appeal to the Deputy Premier because the Premier is not here now, and I know the Deputy Premier has a tremendous influence in this Government, to please influence the removal of the present Minister of Education from the Ministry. He is definitely a square peg in a round hole. (interruptions) I want the Minister to be removed. Mr Chairman, Sir, imagine a Minister of Education, without consultation with the Premier or the Deputy Premier or his Colleagues in the Cabinet, making an announcement on the radio that Ilesha Grammar School was going to be closed down. (interruptions). When the Cabinet met the following day, another statement came out that it was not the intention of this Government to sack the Principal of the Ilesha Grammar School and close down the school. I think the Minister should have consulted the Deputy Premier or the Premier before making such a reckless statement. I am sure if he had consulted the Deputy Premier, in spite of the Deputy Premier's reckless attitude in the dissolution of Local Government Councils, he would not have subscribed to the idea that the Principal of the Grammar School should be dismissed and the college closed down particularly as the Principal of the School was in Lagos when the NNDP—a party not wanted in Ilesha—went there to cause trouble.

Mr Chairman: Order. Ilesha Grammar school incident has nothing to do with politics. We have settled that already.

Mr Ositelu: Thank you, Mr Chairman, but the point I am making is—I am not particularly interested in Ilesha—the actions,

utterances, and performances of this Minister of Education are nothing but a disgrace to this Government. See how this Minister has bungled the affairs of the University of Ife. If he was tactful with the way he handled the affairs of the University of Ife, I am sure those lecturers who left that University would have been there today. Because of the tactlessness of this Minister, that University, the only pride of the people of this Region, is now on the brink of collapse.

Imagine this Minister, Mr Chairman, going to a Teacher Training College at Ilesha and when the students told him that they did not like his presence in the premises of the college, what did he do? (*Alhaji Opaleye: Is that your constituency?*) This man made an order that the college should be closed down. This reckless Minister.....(*prolonged interruptions*). I am not worried to be here today, I may come back to that Side in a day or two but the point I am making is that since the Deputy Premier is here, I am appealing to him through the Chairman.....(*interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: I think I have got to say something about the word "reckless". The word "reckless" is not included in the list of words which are unparliamentary. But I think the hon. Member for Ikeja must know that the Minister himself is friendly and that certain things he did were in the interest of the Government.

Mr Ositelu: Mr Chairman, I think that the Deputy Premier and other responsible Ministers here present should know the feelings of those of us on this Side. This Minister of Education should be the first man to be removed forthwith. As for the Minister of Education, he is a misfit, a total misfit, in that Ministry and a square peg in a round hole.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Motion for a cut in the vote of this Ministry.

Alhaji B. O. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East I): Mr Chairman, while I rise to support the demand for the reduction in the votes for this Ministry, we all agree that this Ministry is a very important Ministry touching the life of the nation. It is a Ministry which should be handled with care, wisdom, tact and understanding. Without meaning any disrespect for my hon. Friend, the Minister of Education, I say he has not exhibited any of these qualities.

The ills in Education in this Region are so many and they cannot be cured by threats Teachers who mould the life of the nation, deserve some respect and humane treatment

[ALHAJI OBISESAN]

in the hands of the officials of this Ministry. This is not done by bullying. I am convinced that the hon. Minister of Education is only good for issuing several press releases. I am convinced that he, as the Minister of Information, is capable of making these releases. I am also convinced that hon. Ajibola, the Regional Minister in that Ministry, is a fit and proper person to hold that Ministry.....(interruptions). I am asking that it should have been the other way round. (Laughter). I am asking the Government to take note of this and make necessary adjustment.

May I say this: I want to appeal to the Inspectorate Section of that Ministry. We see thousands of Grammar Schools and Evening Schools springing up all over the Region. They should exercise more vigilance in the control of these schools. Many of these schools have no qualified staff; the parents are duped without the children receiving adequate and useful training in return. I am also asking for the withdrawal of the so-called "Class Four Certificate". It has lent itself to several abuses. As long as a student completes a school year, whether he fails or passes, he is entitled to a certificate.

I would not like to repeat what other Members have said but I would like to lay emphasis on hon. Babatola's speech in regard to Ibadan Grammar School. That school is one of the first schools to have Sixth-Form classes since 1958 and it is one that has the largest enrolment—620 students. Why should that Grammar School be given only £600 while Ikare Grammar School, which was opened recently, has £1,100 and Government College, opened at the same time, is given £1,100? Is it because hon. Babatola teaches in that Grammar School? If they are discriminating, it is not only against Babatola; there is a son of Kabiyesi, Oba C. D. Akran, there, there is also a son of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources there. They must be taught in this school. The presence of hon. Babatola in that Grammar School is to infuse greater efficiency into that school. I am asking that the Government should take this into consideration and order that the Ibadan Grammar School be given its due entitlement. As I said before, the hon. Minister is a very good friend, we want to see him put in a job for which he is best suited and he should be taken to another Ministry.

With these few remarks I support the demand for a cut in that Head of the Estimates.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr. S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Chairman, Sir, first of all, may I say that I oppose the Motion to reduce the Head of the Estimates for this Ministry.

Mr Chairman, I have not got much to say because the Minister of Education is quite capable of defending himself. He will reply item by item. I just want to reply to certain important matters which do not come within the details.

First, Mr Chairman, the conception of cabinet government has gone through a fundamental revolution in the last one hundred years. A hundred years ago, a British Foreign Secretary, Lord Robertson, ordered a gun-boat to be sent to the Mediterranean without consultation with his Cabinet Colleagues because, at that time, Ministers had great powers to take decisions without consultation. This has gone through a revolution with the result that now, in any Cabinet in the British Commonwealth in the twentieth century, no Minister can take any important action without consultation with his Prime Minister or Premier. As a matter of fact, the present day conception is that the Premier of Western Nigeria is himself the Minister of Local Government, is himself the Minister of Education, is himself Minister of Agriculture, is himself Minister of Transport, but he delegates some of his lieutenants to take over these portfolios and supervise them on his behalf. That is the special conception of Government now.

Mr Chairman, the next point I want to raise is, why do we in Western Nigeria belittle and ridicule ourselves merely for the sake of spite? The ability and personal quality of hon. D. K. Olumofin will make him a capable Minister in Northern Nigeria, a capable Minister in Eastern Nigeria and an acceptable Minister in the Federal Government. Why do we always belittle ourselves in our Region?

I must say, Sir, Mr Chairman, if you will allow me, as a former Minister of Education, that that Ministry has very peculiar problems which we have inherited from the old Action Group regime, particularly the problem of Free Primary Education. Mr Chairman, Sir, in this Region we spend about forty-three per cent of the Budget on Education as a whole; of the forty-three per cent we spend twenty-five per cent on Primary Education alone. We want now to cut down unnecessary spending and at the same time increase efficiency in order to solve the problem we inherited from the Action Group Government. Naturally a Minister in that Ministry must be sympathised with and I must say that we on this

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Side have full confidence in the present Minister of Education.

Another thing, Mr Chairman, one Member of the Opposition mentioned something about the University of Ife. Why cannot we always give praise where credit is due? We have all read our newspapers, especially the "Morning Post" of two days ago, and discovered that the Federal Government published a White Paper granting £34 million for the development of all the five Universities in Nigeria, including our own University of Ife. About a sum of £1 million will be coming to us from the Federal Government every year to develop in order to increase the accommodation of students. But how had that originated? Why do they not give credit where it is due? Compare Chief S. L. Akintola and his regime with the former one. (cheers).

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in respect of the honour of this Region. I do not believe that this Region is second to any of the other Regions in any respect and I will, from what I know of the Ministers of Education in other Regions, prove this conclusively. Starting from the Federal territory to the Northern Region, without being extremely personal, I can say, Sir, that Mr D. K. Olumofin, to the knowledge of all of us here, is second to none of the Ministers. Mr Utomi is now the Minister of Education in the Midwest, Mr Aja Nwachukwu is the Minister of Education in the Federal Territory, Malam Isa Kaita is the Minister of Education in the North, and Dr Imoke in the East; and I say our own Minister here, Sir, is second to none of these gentlemen.

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say that I have really enjoyed having such beautiful encomiums showered on me by the Members of the Opposition. That is how I take it; and, in fact, that is how it should be. I know their circumstances and plight. They could not have acted otherwise; I had done such things when I was on that Side. I have put on my "Agbada" today because someone said to me yesterday that I put on the suit I used to wear when I was there on the Other Side! To show that I will never come there again, I have changed my dress.

May I deny the allegations made against my Ministry by one of my good Friends on

the opposite Side of the House. The hon. Member for Egba North-West (Mr Babayemi) harped on the affairs of Ilesha and referred to the University of Ife. Ilesha Grammar School was actually closed down; but the closure order was rescinded on the intervention of people who matter in Ilesha, including the honourable Deputy Speaker, the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, the hon. Chief Olaitan, and all important chiefs of Ilesha who came to Ibadan and appealed to the Premier. This is a clear demonstration of the democratic and benevolent nature of the NNNDP Government and no sane person could say that the Premier should not consider the appeal of this high-powered delegation; hence the order to close down Ilesha Grammar School was revoked.

Chief Babatola appears uncharitable for wanting one of the Parliamentary Secretaries in my Ministry to be removed; he forgets that the Ministry, as Dr Onabamiro has said, has peculiar difficulties and that it is one of the largest Ministries in this Region; and it is also a Ministry that consumes about forty-two per cent of the Region's revenue.

Chief Babatola also raised the question of Grade III Teacher Training Colleges. He said that five were retained while others were closed down. I would like to say that Government closed down these colleges but made sure that other institutions were substituted. We thus practise the policy of "elimination by substitution". But some colleges have been up-graded in order to be fair to areas which have not had the necessary educational facilities for teacher training.

Talking about examination leakage. I like to refer hon. Members to my Speech on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I assured the honourable House that my Ministry had taken every step to prevent a recurrence. I want hon. Members on the Opposite Side to speak the truth. The officers of my Ministry are second to none in the discharge of their duties and I like to say, Sir, that they display the highest professional morality and maintain the highest regard for public probity.

With regards to the Higher School Certificate Course, a sum of £10,000 was made available by the Federal Government for the development of the Higher School Certificate Course. This amount was distributed accordingly on the basis of merit and need. Chief Babatola, whilst making the allegation, cleverly omitted to mention that of this sum of £10,000 the sum of £1,000 went to Christ School, Ado-Ekiti (his hometown). I am surprised that Chief Babatola who is a

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teacher of repute—and I think he is well read—forgets that the Ashby's Report is obsolete and has been superseded by the Report of the Man Power Commission. As a matter of fact, the person who had briefed him now heads a school that has a lion's share of Government's generosity through the years!

May I refer, Sir, to the delay in publishing examination results. It is true the results were rather late but I would like to call the attention of hon. Members to the fact that about 13,000 candidates took this examination. As a result of insufficiency of qualified examiners, the results had to be delayed.

Concerning the question of the Regional Library, hon. Members will be glad to hear that the Government has provided a sum of £35,000 to build a Library, and this is being subsidised by funds provided by the British Council, to the tune of £25,000. A site for the building of this Library has been selected. By the use of mobile libraries, all parts of the Region are being covered by the activities of the Regional Library.

I now come to another point raised by the Opposition with regard to the Government Teacher Training College Ilesha. I do not think, Sir, that honourable Members on the Opposite Side would like to condone unruliness or any show of irresponsibility in our schools. Children in a primary school should not be allowed to chase their masters all about. I know that Chief Babatola would certainly not like children to be harassing their masters at Christ School, Ado-Ekiti! If this act of indiscipline is allowed to continue, what type of citizens do we expect to produce from among the students who should be the architects of our future generations? The suggestion that the children were annoyed by the presence of the hon. Minister of Education is as untrue as it is puerile. The hon. Minister of Education happened to be in that school during his routine inspection tour of schools in Western Nigeria and the incident such as happened in Ilesha Government Teacher Training College was a mere coincidence.

If University was mentioned by certain Members. I would like to appeal to Members of the Opposition to check up their facts properly before bringing them up in this House. I would like to point out that the hard fact is that certain political party members incited lecturers of the Ife University to plot a total destruction of this young but success-laden University. This shameless and dishonest act of disservice by an

intellectual clique is the culmination of unprecedented disloyalty to this Region, because in the East, we have the University of Nigeria; the Ahmadu Bello University in the North; the Federal Government sponsors the University of Lagos and the Ibadan University; the Midwest is proposing to establish its own University! The Members of the Opposition incited some evil elements to disrupt the organisation of the University which led to the dismissal of one of the lecturers who claimed that he and others were indispensable. Time has, however, proved whether or not they are indispensable. The University is carrying on its work unaffected whilst the "indispensable" lecturers are still unable to get employed elsewhere. Believe it or not, they are now begging, through their contact men, to come back.

On the most important point that I think the Opposition Members have made today, that is in regard to the Aiyetoro Comprehensive School, I have heard mention made of this even outside this House, but I would like to say that the Aiyetoro Comprehensive School is an experimental school and it is therefore necessary that during the experimental stages, steps must be taken to restrict admission. The school is meant to try new methods of teaching and a new curriculum; and since it is a comprehensive school it must have a restricted admission as all comprehensive schools should have restricted enrolment. Quite recently, a Comprehensive School was opened at Ijebu-Ode. Plans are being made to have at least two more comprehensive schools located in suitable areas in the Western Region. In view, Sir, of the hullaballoo being raised about this comprehensive school, I intend, in future, to send out a circular to everyone to give more information about the aims and aspirations of the Aiyetoro Comprehensive School.

£6,109,150 for Head 329.—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

HEAD 725.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £210,570 for Head 725.—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed that the sum of £1,806,230 for Head 330.—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Chairman, Sir, this Head is a very clear Head and I know the

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Minister well, but for certain circumstances which are beyond his control, he should have been on this Side. I know him very well, we worked together; I know his honesty of purpose and also his capacity for work. These are attributes that really make for his efficiency.

But this I would like to say, not to waste the time of the House, I would urge that few Members from this Side should be given the opportunity to say one or two things particularly about hospitals. It is with regard to hospitals that I would like to speak generally. I would not like to restrict my points to a particular hospital.

While we have an army of Ministers, about fifty Ministers, and other functionaries of the Government, our hospitals in the Region are now short of drugs and dressings; patients cannot have medicines prescribed for them and, as a matter of fact, some hospitals are really empty. The patients all over the Region are not cared for and they are in great difficulties. This is a matter for which this Government should feel serious concern.

That is the reason why I am appealing to the Minister of Health that in order to show that he, a doctor by profession, has the interests of the suffering masses at heart, should make adequate provision in order to be able to equip our hospitals with drugs and dressings. If this is done the people will value what the Government is doing for them by way of improving health, as it was in the days of the Action Group Government, when it provided free medical services to children under eighteen years. Otherwise there is no use sending our children to hospitals where they do not get any medicine.

I think it is the wish of this Government to have the interests of the masses of this Region at heart. I therefore call upon the Minister himself to put at heart the interests of the people of this Region. Even though the Minister is under difficulty we shall be pleased if he can use his good offices to see that enough provision is made in order to equip our hospitals with adequate drugs and dressings.

Alhaji Adenekan: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that Head 330 be reduced by £10.

We are interested to see that the hon. Minister of Health is doing all he can to improve the condition of health in our hospitals. He is a respectable man, he is qualified for the Ministry, but the only dirty thing happening in this Ministry is the question of having a Regional Minister. The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Health used to

come here and sit without doing anything useful, whereas he is paid £2,700 and with this he used to go to Gbagi to buy cloth and come in big clothes to this honourable House. The hon. Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House suspended the presentation of a Bill this morning which showed there are going to be posts of Provincial Commissioner. I think the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Health should be removed in order to take this post and eventually be in charge of Oyo/Ibadan Division. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that as the hon. Minister of Health is God-fearing, respectable and intelligent, he will fulfil all his promises especially about Abeokuta hospitals. I will not like to bother him much and I feel he will satisfy my requests within a short time.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I move that £10 be removed from this Head.

Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi (Ondo West I): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Motion that the provision of the Ministry of Health be reduced by £10.

Members have said that the Ministry of Health is the best but to me this Ministry is the most deceitful Ministry in this Region. During the tenure of office of Chief Adigun, he came to Ondo and told the Ondo people that Ondo Hospital, which was under the management of the Local Government Council of that Division then, would be taken up by Government. In fact we were very happy to hear this, but I make bold to tell this honourable House that that hospital remains an apology up till today. The present Minister of Health went there and saw the hospital and discovered that it is still lagging behind all the other hospitals in this Region, in that not a bottle of drug or a packet of drug is available there. Members of the Government Benches who are Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries should go there and they will actually confirm my statement that the hospital is an apology.

Furthermore, I have to say that we have an X-ray plant but there is no trained technician to handle that X-ray plant as efficiently as it ought to be. It is only one doctor who manages that hospital, and any man who goes there and sees the number of patients who attend that hospital will believe that the Government of this Region is not prepared to help the people of that town as a whole. Go there and see the teeming number of patients attending that hospital and you will surely agree with me that it is time Ondo hospital is provided with a resident doctor or medical officer. When the election gets nearer it is then you will see the

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Minister promising the people heaven and earth, so that they may vote for him. Immediately after the election the people will be forgotten and the Minister's promises will be fruitless.

Finally I am appealing to the Minister of Health that Ondo hospital should be provided with at least two doctors and well equipped with modern medical instruments. This hospital does not belong to Ondo people alone but to all of us who go there from different areas of Western Nigeria.

With these few remarks I support that £10 should be deducted from Ministry of Health's vote.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support that Head 330 be reduced by £10.

This is a Head which should interest many people because it deals with our health. The sum of money, £2.3 million, is an amount suitable for the Head, but we want to analyse how this amount is spent.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the health policy of this Region is appalling, yet there is a very big sum of money under this Head. About £1½ million. My area, Ibarapa, is about fifty miles to the nearest hospital. Instead of spending the amount under this Head wisely the Government is partial in distributing hospitals. It will be a wise expenditure if a general hospital is built at Ibarapa. Thousands of my people die daily from various diseases, the only cure is to have a general hospital.

Mr Chairman, Sir, instead of building hospitals where we need them the Government will be considering places where there are already mission hospitals. A place like that is Ogbomosho. The Baptist Hospital there is a very good one, yet the Premier of this Region built another Government hospital at Ogbomosho because it is his home town. This is nothing short of cruelty to others on the one hand, and wastefulness on the other hand. Of course nobody should be surprised at that because a Parliamentary Secretary once stood up to make a bold confession on the floor of this honourable House that the present Government is for only the Oyo and Oshun people. (*Interruptions*).....

Instead of prudent spending on this Head, the Premier is more interested in other useless pastimes like the Dick Tiger/Gene Fullmer fight.

I emphasise again that the only preventive means against diseases is a general hospital in Ibarapa.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Motion to reduce this Head by £10.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful indeed to the Leader of Opposition for all the good things he has been able to say about me. (*Cheers*) It is true that in the past, when we were together, we were very good friends and, up till now, we are still good friends, but when, in politics, we had to decide whether I love my country more than loving only one man we had to part. I hope that one day, and not long now, not only himself, but all the Members of the Opposition in this House, will come to this Side of the House and join us to work together for the reconstruction of our Region.

The Leader of Opposition mentioned something about the shortage of drugs in various hospitals in the Region. To the ordinary man who has not gone round to see developments this might appear alarming and if you have seen the number of patients making use of the hospitals, one will say the situation is alarming, but I do not consider it so, and the officers in my Ministry do not consider it so too. Mr Chairman, Sir, we can say the shortage of drugs can only be explained by the number of patients attending the hospitals.

I will explain that the modern drugs, which are prescribed for patients and which are actually very good for them, are very expensive, and until we have adequate funds made available to us there is little we can do in this direction. We can do much only if funds are available. We are very anxious to provide everything for this purpose but if we should satisfy the whims and caprices of every patient in this Region, I do not think that the whole revenue of this Region will be sufficient to maintain the Ministry of Health in this Region.

The hon. Member for Ondo West I (*Alhaji Fawehinmi*) spoke very bitterly about the position of Ondo General Hospital. I have to congratulate Ondo people for being able to build their own General Hospital on their own. It is the Ondo community which built the hospital; it is not a Government hospital, but when the people could not afford to run this hospital again they applied to Government to take it over. The officers of my Ministry went to the hospital to see what addition could be made to bring it to a standard hospital. They have done that and we intend to spend a sum of money this year on that. In July 1962, we intended to start this work but the crisis came and the work had to be suspended.

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It is not the fault of my Ministry, but due to the excesses of all of us. I am fully aware, Sir, of the condition of Ondo hospital, and I have been there myself and have submitted my report and my Government will certainly do something about it.

The hon. Member for Ibarapa East (*Mr Olaniyan*) wants a General Hospital for Ibarapa area. At present the Government has not really forgotten that part of Ibadan. There is a rural health centre which is being run jointly by the Government and the University College Teaching Hospital and the people have the facility to send any urgent cases to Ibadan, Abeokuta, or even to Oyo.

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

£1,806,230 for Head 330.—*Ministry of Health—agreed to.*

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH
(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £39,570 for Head 726.—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £487,170 for Head 331.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Ositelu: I move that Head 331 be reduced by £10.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not my intention to embarrass this Government but, as long as this Government continues to cheat the poor tax-payers of this Region, we people on this Side of the House will continue to expose and condemn them.

Two weeks ago, the NNDP Government of this Region published a White Paper which can be called a political party propaganda sheet. Nobody grudges the NNDP for publishing a White Paper with the money of the NNDP as a party but these people went out of their way to use the Government Printing staff to publish a party leaflet and when the Action Group and the NCNC decried this attitude of this Government, what happened? Mr Chairman, Sir, several White Papers had been published since then by this Government. When they use Government staff to print their White Paper, instead of showing the Government Printing Division on the imprint, they put "Printed by the Star Press Ltd".

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is very immoral for Members of this Government to deceive the people of the Region. It is very immoral; if these people want propaganda, there is nothing wrong in doing so, provided they use their own party money and not Government money. (*Interruptions*). I am informed, Sir, and I have no doubt as to the correctness of my information, that these people are using the Printing Press to publish their propaganda leaflets and this is immoral.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the other point I will like to mention is the service condition of the Local Government Police in this Region. Much has been said by Members of this Government of their intention to raise the standard of the Local Government Police to the level of that of the Nigeria Police but nothing has been done. Mr Chairman, Sir, if this Government will use the tax-payers' money in the way it should be used, if they do not waste the tax-payers' money in appointing useless and wasteful Ministers, I think the Government will have money to better the condition of service of the Local Government Police. I am not here playing politics, but I am just appealing to the Members of the Government to please see that they better the lot of the Local Government Police.

Another point I want to make is about the withdrawal of liquor licences from people simply because they do not support the politics of the Government in power in this Region. (*Interruptions*). I know what I am talking about and if they are a little more patient with me, may be they will sympathise with me. I shall cite three cases of this type. Recently, in my area in Ikorodu, two Action Group beer sellers, who have been selling beer for the past twenty years, simply because these gentlemen refused to change their political complexion, simply because they refused to be bought by the NNDP to their side, what happened? These people were denied the renewal of their beer licences. Not that alone, Sir, two of them were dragged to court and prosecuted in the customary court and were fined £70. I reported this matter to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government and he promised to look into the matter. I should not have raised the matter, but for the fact that there are some other areas where such is happening and where they will not have access to the Deputy Premier. I want this Government to please instruct the various local liquor licensing authorities not to use their position to victimise the poor people. After all, you can only win somebody by

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making friends with him; you cannot win people by punishing them; that is a very negative approach to the whole matter.

Another example I want to cite is this. Sometime ago, here in Ibadan, the "Seven Sisters" club house at Oke-Ado was closed down on the order of the Premier of this Region simply because when the Premier passed by the place some people shouted "Awo". Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not see anything wrong in people shouting "Awo", or "Power" or "SLA". (*Laughter*). Simply because some people shouted "Awo" the club house was closed down on the order of the Premier of this Region. That is very very wrong.

The same thing happened to a club house owned by one Mr James from Badagry, the home of the hon. Minister of Finance. This man, simply because he did not yield to the persuasions of the Minister of Finance; what happened? His club house was closed down and when this man finally yielded to the entreaties of the Minister the house was opened.

Oba Akran: It is the same "Seven Sisters". (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr Ositelu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have just been told that "Seven Sisters" belongs to Mr James's wife. I am happy that my allegations are not unfounded.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like £10 to be cut from this Head.

First of all I should like to make some points in respect of sub-head 57—Superintendent-General of Local Government Police. I should like to express myself by giving praise to the man now in charge of the post. (*Government Benches: Who is the man?*) He is Mr Adeola. The man is doing very well. He is an experienced man and he is unlike the other man, Mr Oluwole, who was removed by the Order of the Emergency Government. I think it is a good thing that the Government has done by giving the post to this man.

I want to speak again on the quarters for members of the Local Government Police Force. Year in year out when the Budget is presented we always plead that the Local Government Policemen should be given better quarters. For instance many of the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are living in good quarters and they are happy and that is why many of these people cannot

leave the Government party. If Government can improve the condition of service of local Government police I think it will be well appreciated. If somebody should go to their headquarters here in Ibadan he will see that the place is dirty. It is not because the people are not careful but because Government does not provide them with better quarters. I appeal to Government that they should be provided with better quarters.

Again in the Nigeria Police Force today we have women police. It will be a good idea for women to be recruited into the Local Government Police Force. They can be as useful to us as those of the Nigeria Police. There are some places where men are not allowed to go through but only women are allowed there. So these young girls who are doing nothing now, if they are considered for appointment into the Force and they are trained as in the Nigeria Police Force, will be very serviceable and useful to this Region.

With these few remarks I beg to move.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is interesting to hear the criticism of Mr Ositelu in respect of the Government Printing Press in this Region. It will be appreciated if Members of this House should speak the truth. The White Paper which was published about acts of discrimination against people of Western Nigeria origin in Federal Institutions and Statutory Corporations is a matter which is of paramount importance to all the people of this Region, and if anything is of importance to all the people of this Region, there is no reason why Government should not take it upon itself to inform the people of the Region of such a matter. All that the Government has done is to pinpoint a document which was made by a group of people who were formerly in a political party, people who had levelled charges of discrimination, tribalism and nepotism against members of their own party while they were in the same party, and when this was known to the Government of the Region it was considered by the Government that it should not be a matter which should be shelved in the cupboard of the particular party. If the matter had not been made known to the people of the Region it would have been absolutely hidden because the NCNC has died in this Region. So, Mr Chairman, I think the Government should be commended for its courage in publishing that White Paper. (*Cheers*). How then could it be said that Government Press has

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surreptitiously been used for party purposes. I would say that the accusation that the Government is using the Regional Press for publishing NNNDP documents is absolutely false. If Government Press is used for publishing documents, it will be shown on the face of that document as "Printed by the Government Press".

Mr Ositelu and Mr Oyewole spoke about the condition of service of the Local Government Police Force in this Region. I may say that I am proud to say that in these days, the conditions of service of the Local Government Police Force in this Region are much better than they used to be two or three years ago. Members of the Opposition agree that the conditions are much better than they used to be but they say that there is need for improvement. The world is a progressive world, there is always room for improvement. I agree that there is room for improvement in every aspect of life in this Region. The Local Government Policemen will not be an exception in this improvement. Certainly they are members of the community, they deserve better conditions of living, they deserve to live in clean environment and certainly the Government is looking after their conditions of service as they should be.

The last point I want to answer is the false allegation by my hon. Friend, Mr Ositelu that the Liquor Licensing Boards are discriminating against members of the Action Group. I know that in the good old days of the Action Group in this Region, a good number of members of the Action Group were selling liquor without obtaining licences. These are the people that have now been found out. They are going to be prosecuted for selling liquor without licences; and that is the type of case which is referred to by Mr Ositelu and that is the type of thing which he has found amongst the Action Group members in Ikorodu and I must say here today that we do not need to induce the people of Ikorodu to join the Nigeria National Democratic Party. Today, about ninety-five per cent of the people of Ikorodu are now members of the NNNDP.

£487,170 for Head 331.—Ministry of Home Affairs—agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £31,800 for Head 727—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 332.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that the sum of £161,600 for Head 332—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, we quarrel with the management of this Ministry. I will therefore ask that the provision for this Head be reduced by £10.

Sir, if you look at the Publicity Division you find adequate provision for the staff to carry out the work of the Government. But what we find, Sir, is instead of publicising the work of the Government purely or simply, some of the officials of the Ministry work towards publicising a political party. If you go to the WNBS/WNTV, which is not directly under Government, you will find this branch of the Ministry misdirected and turned into an instrument, purely of propaganda, for the NNNDP, previously the UPP. We discover also that nothing that belongs to the other parties, especially the Action Group, is allowed to see the light of day on the WNTV/WNBS as a result of misdirection from this Ministry. Money spent on WNTV/WNBS comes partly through the coffers of the Government and therefore belongs to the public. We should all benefit from the service which this Ministry can offer. What I am saying, Sir, is that this Division should pay attention more to the work of Government rather than to the work of a political party.

Not only that, Sir, we find that many of our boys employed as commentators are now saddled with the work of distributing pamphlets and leaflets of the NNNDP. In my Division, people have refused to take propaganda leaflets distributed by these commentators. They were told that their work was to publicise the Government and not a political party.

Recently, when Ministers went on tour to preach the so-called "Yoruba Unity", the photographers of this Ministry had no rest. They were taking photographs of campaign meetings and, of course, the people who came to attend the meetings were people imported from Ogbomosho and Iwo to swell the attendance. As a matter of fact, more of the failure is due to the fact that the people of the Region, having known that the second man in command who calls himself 'Power', will use power recklessly, were afraid to come and meet him.

Mr Chairman, we passed a law here which says by implication that records praising the leaders of political parties opposed to the NNNDP will be banned.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Government of this Region had planned

Volkswagen car in front of the house. I went there three days ago, and the thing I saw was a Volkswagen car parked in front

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Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I do not remember our passing any law to that effect.....(interruptions).

Chief Babatola: The Theatre Law, by implication, is going to ban these records.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I say that this Ministry has not been discharging its duty to the best interest of the people of this Region.

Chief Fani-Kayode: (Shouts of 'Power' from the Government Benches and shouts of 'powder' from the Opposition Benches). I want to make a very brief explanation. It is very difficult to draw a line between party activities and Government activities, so if there has been any difficulty in the past, the Members of the Opposition should please point it out to us and we shall try to comply in future with their request. I will assure them that the WNTV/WNBS has never been used as a party organ. If they can tell us on those occasions when they issue releases that are of general interest to the whole of the Region certainly we shall be at their service.

As for the Action Group being blacked out on the WNBS, I can assure them that this is none of Government business. We do not know anything about it. But if they actually assert that this is so, we shall look into it because, in the past, I have heard hon. Adegbenro's speech on the WNBS. I am sure that they will be obliged any time but they must bring to the regional level the type of matter they want publicised.

As for the unity being preached throughout the Region, I am very happy that this has been brought to the notice of the Opposition and I hope that one day, we shall preach it much more widely and they will listen, not only with their ears, but with their hearts also.

Opposition Benches: How can we listen with our hearts?

Chief Fani-Kayode: Yes they can. The thing comes in through the right ear and goes out through the left ear because there is nothing in the forehead in the middle to stop it.....(prolonged laughter) but when you listen with your heart you have it permanently fixed in your mind.

Coming to this Theatre Law, I can assure the Opposition that the Theatre Law is of vital necessity in the Region and it applies to everybody. It applies to the NNNDP supporters, it applies to the Action Group people, it applies to everybody. It is passed in order to make sure that peace, order and good government will raise the name of this Region.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

£161,600 for Head 332—Ministry of Information—agreed to.

HEAD 728.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION—
OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the sum of £119,000 for Head 728.—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, I just want to correct an impression already created by the hon. Deputy Premier. The impression is to the effect that the Action Group has never been blacked out on WNBS and WNTV. This is not true.

I wanted to reply to the broadcast of the Premier on the network of the NBC and also WNBS and WNTV, I wrote letters under my own hand to the Director of NBC and also to the Director of the WNBS. I was allowed by the NBC to make the broadcast but no reply from the WNBS has been received up till today.

(Government Benches: Are you sure the letter was delivered?)

Chief Odebisi, an hon. Member for Egbado North-East in this House, complained to the Leader of the House and he was informed that the matter would be looked into. Later on, Chief S. L. Akintola made another broadcast in reply to my own broadcast.

Again, under my own hand, I wrote another letter to the Directors of the WNBS and WNTV. Up till today, Mr Chairman, there has been no reply. I know of no other means of making this known to the Government, but this is the treatment that we are receiving from WNBS. After all the Corporation is being run with the tax-payers' money. That is why we have raised this point but the defence that the Deputy Premier has tried to put up was in effect untrue. We have heard a lot to assess the feelings of people of this Region and when the Government looks into the matter, then I should be given the opportunity of making my own broadcast on the WNBS and WNTV.

Chief Fani-Kayode: I am sorry to hear the lamentations of the Leader of Opposition in respect of the broadcast but I can assure him, Mr Chairman, that I shall make every effort to investigate the allegations he has made here. He himself will appreciate that the Corporation in question is completely independent. I can assure him, Sir, that I shall take all steps to make the investigations and also agree, Sir, to convey the results of the investigations to him at the earliest possible date.

Oba Akran: I beg to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £6,000 to £226,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Chief Babatola: The members of the Town Planning Authorities, very often people drafted from the various Management Committees, have no experience whatsoever of town planning though we know that is not necessarily a qualification provided you have one or two people there who are knowledgeable in town planning. Yet it is necessary that people who are responsible be chosen as members of Town Planning Authorities. The only qualification was membership of the UPP/NCNC, during the Coalition, but now it is membership of the NNPD.

In my Division in particular, people like His Highness the Ewi of Ado Ekiti and important chiefs in the town were removed from membership of the Town Planning Authority and people who have never even owned a shed in their life were drafted into this Authority, and they have no sense of responsibility. What did we have? They ordered houses of opponents to be pulled down. In some cases they spread alarm by telling people that they had decided to pull down certain houses but that if they were given so much money, action on the decision would not be taken. That is why I am here urging Government to look into their irresponsibility and see that those who are not likely to be affected by partisan politics are made members of our Town Planning Authorities, which plan the development of our towns, so that our towns and roads will look well. It is the responsibility of this Government, and unless they put people in a committee who have good sense and whose sense is good enough to be an asset to our towns, they will not be doing this generation any good service. People at present who serve on these Committees have not worked for the benefit of their people; they only work for the enrichment of their own pockets.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to add to what has been said by the hon. Member on this Head. The Town Planning Authorities should be encouraged by the Government to extend their functions to villages and even to hamlets in the Region. For that to be possible responsible citizens should be appointed as members of Town Planning Authorities, but unfortunately, this is not done. I would not like to repeat what my hon. Friend, Chief Babatola, has said but there are many instances

of bad practices by members of the Town Planning Authorities. When you appoint members who have no knowledge of town planning matters, the object for which the Town Planning Authority is established has been defeated. Mr Chairman, Sir, responsible people should be appointed to serve on Town Planning Authorities throughout the Region. It is my sincere belief that the Government will take immediate action and that right persons will be appointed to these Authorities.

£226,000 for Head 731.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £212,120 for Head 336.—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this Head and to give concrete advice to my hon. Friend, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government.

As we all know, the Ministry of Local Government is an arm of the Government and whatever any Member on this Side has to say, or is going to say, will be for the improvement of certain aspects of the functions of the Ministry.

Mr Chairman, I would like to direct attention to sub-head 1 of the Estimate, Item 8, Temporary Secretarial Assistance—£480. There was no provision for this last year. I do not know exactly what "Temporary Secretarial Assistance" means. However, I am informed that these people who get this money are not civil servants but they are political agents. What I know is there should be a Private Secretary to the Minister but why the question of Temporary Secretarial Assistance should come in is not clear to me. Perhaps the Minister of Local Government will be able to explain.

The other thing, Mr Chairman, is this question of the Deputy Premier and "Power! Power!" that you hear every now and then. There is no provision in the Ministry of Local Government for Deputy Premier, and there is no such provision in the Estimates passed for the Office of the Premier yesterday. It is useless styling oneself Deputy Premier and Power when such things will not appear in the Estimates. I thought the post of Deputy Premier would appear under the provision for the Premier's Office. Since we have Deputy Premier, the title or office which is peculiar to this Region in the Federation, I

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think they should share the same vote which is for the Premier himself. Nobody will quarrel with that.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Local Government touches the whole life of our community and unless our Local Government system is sound, the Government will be so unstable that the whole community may be turned into a state of anarchy. I have said that the Local Government system in this Region should be guarded by the Government, not by simply resorting to reckless dissolution of Local Councils in the Region and the setting up of Care-taker Committees comprising people who never won elections before, either on the local government level or on parliamentary level. Mr Chairman, Sir, appointing Care-taker Committees into many of our Councils in the Region is terrible because the people so appointed are not the type of persons that Local Government Council services require.

At a meeting in August last year when I met my Friend, the Deputy Premier and "Power" I told him that his marriage with Chief S. L. Akintola was a question of time. I told him that it was just like the marriage between the cat and the mouse. Mr Chairman Sir, he assured me that theirs was a Catholic marriage which is never dissolved. Mr Chairman, before dawn there was no divorce and there was no more Coalition Government either, but what do you find? The Deputy Premier was swallowed by the Premier. We saw another Party, NNDP. The NCNC was set aside. I had to talk to the Deputy Premier because he is a chief in Abeokuta and I think he is the son of Lisabi. Mr Chairman, Sir, what I am about to prove is that it will be a loss of face, if he now comes back and, without election, I repeat, and without election, reinstates the Councils. So in the interest of the Region the appointments of Care-taker Committees are not good, the members so appointed are irresponsible. My charge is to the Minister of Local Government and "Power" and he should go round to see the type of work which these people are doing. They are not the right type of persons to be so appointed. My advice is that the situation can be saved by appointing Local Government Advisers in the areas concerned as Administrators until he is ready for election when the people will elect the right type of people to serve on the councils. You hear cries all over the Councils that they are short of money. They will continue to be short of money when they do not appoint the right persons to run the Local

Council affairs. My advice, as I have said above, is that for the time being, Local Government Advisers should be appointed as Administrators in order to save the finances of the Local Councils.

Why I said that was that the trouble with the local government authorities came about as a result of the inability of this Government to meet its promise to the local authorities concerned. What was the promise? It was that whatever was the difference between the reduced tax which was imposed by the 1961 Akintola Government and the balance of their previous year's collection of tax, would be remitted as a subsidy to various local authorities. But up till now, Government has found it extremely difficult to fulfil that obligation. That is the main reason why many local authorities are now in financial difficulty and the only way by which these local authorities can find their feet again is by making the collection of tax, collection of all revenues from motor parks, from market dues, and so on and so forth, sacrosanct so that there will be no room for money grabbers who would like to be wealthy over-night at the expense of the poor taxpayers.

In all seriousness, Mr Chairman, I think Government will take this advice and see that Local Government Advisers are put in charge of local authorities instead of these mushroom management committees.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, I must thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for thanking this Ministry for dissolving most of the local government councils in the Region. He has commended the Ministry for this and I am certain that in future the Ministry will not let him down.

Furthermore, I must at this stage also, Mr Chairman, congratulate the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry and all the officials of the Ministry for the kind words used by the Leader of Opposition with respect to their great effort on behalf of the Region.

On the issue of Secretarial Assistance, the honourable Leader of Opposition knows the amount of work that goes on in that Ministry and that term means exactly what it says—"secretarial assistance"—not "political".

On the issue of Deputy Premier, as on the issue of any other Ministry, it is not put down at all in the Constitution and it depends on whether one wants to accept the pay for any post or not. (*Interruptions*). I have made it quite clear that I am satisfied to accept the same salary as my Colleagues and I do not want a penny more. Neither do I take

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main Head had been passed, I will like to make some observations on the other part of the Head.

I wish to call the attention of this honourable House to the fact that when, during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and also during the Debate on the Speech from the Throne, we on this Side of the House criticised the Minister of Trade and Industry and his Ministry, instead of him to reply to such criticisms at the time they were levelled against him, the Minister had no answers to make to such criticisms and it must have taken the Minister of Finance sleepless nights to be able to marshal all the points raised against the Minister of Trade and Industry. In future, the Minister should be well warned that he should reply to criticisms at the time they are levelled against him and not wait for the protection offered by a Ministerial Statement to reply. This is a cowardly attitude, which is greatly deprecated.

Mr Chairman, Sir, many of the industries claimed as the achievement of the present Government were actually started by the Action Group Government. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*). Mr Chairman, Sir, if you search your mind thoroughly, you will agree with me that this present Government had no time for industrialising this Region. All its efforts had been directed to ways and means of clinging to office. Nobody will grudge them the fact that they want to keep themselves in office but now, as time runs out, they want to deceive the people that they have started to create industries. As this is my own opportunity, Mr Chairman, I am telling the House now that the Minister of Trade and Industry has just made up figures in order to convince the public that this Government had done something worthwhile. If the Minister is not a coward—I believe Mr Chairman is not one because Ijeshas are no cowards—he ought to have spoken at a time when we on this Side would have been able to give him back in his own coins and if I tell him now that the figures just submitted are frivolous he will not agree with me.

We on this side of the House are proud of the achievements of the Action Group in industrialising the Region as a whole. I hope, Mr Chairman, Sir, that when we come again, and I hope this Government will convene a Meeting of this House as early as possible because it is in the habit of not summoning a Meeting of this House for a very long time—what they are afraid of I never can tell—we will level fresh charges against the Minister for him to answer.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Sir, the public, as the judge and final arbiter of us all here, are patiently waiting for the opportunity of a general election. (*Interruptions*). The electorate are the final arbiters in this matter and if they are given the opportunity to say in whose hands they want their affairs, I am sure my Friends opposite will not come back to the Floor of the House. They will not win any election. I do not quarrel with them when they say that the people of this Region are solidly behind them. They are entitled to false claims. I am satisfied that the day of reckoning will soon arrive. We are going to win. Let them continue to parade and make use of newspapers and the "Daily Sketch" and of the WNBS and WNTV. We are satisfied that we have the massive support of the people of this Region. This is not the place to quarrel. May I therefore urge the Government to dissolve the House because of their inability to face the Debates and give replies and answers to criticisms by the Opposition of an important Ministry like this. A Ministerial Statement is made when it is proper but answers to Debates are never given by way of Ministerial Statements. It was a cowardly act on the part of the Minister and if his Colleagues are prepared, I will let the Government headed by the "Alagbada No. 1"—the "Head Gangster".....(*interruptions*).

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Point of order. Order 27 (1) No unparliamentary language shall be used on the Floor of this House. The Leader of Opposition should not have used the words "Head Gangster". They are unparliamentary and offensive and are most unworthy of a Leader of Opposition.

Mr Chairman: I myself agree with the Minister that the words "Head Gangster" are too strong and should not have been used. I appeal to the hon. Leader of Opposition to withdraw.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, we are no cowards. I have always insisted that I will not at any time challenge the ruling of the Chairman. May I with respect withdraw the words "Head Gangster".

We hope that the architects of this infamous Government will be able to give us an opportunity to debate important issues instead of hiding under the cover of Ministerial Statements.

That is all I wanted to say, Mr Chairman. (*Interruptions*).

£28,500 for Head 734.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—agreed to.

HEAD 339—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT

Question proposed that the sum of £1,514,890 for Head 339—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, while I have decided to leave further comments to my Colleagues on this Side of the House, I would like to call attention to some items under the 1964-65 Estimates. Mr Chairman, you will see that a good deal of projects have been locked up under this Head. I know the man we are dealing with—that is the Head of this Government, the Premier—very well. He is a man who will like to satisfy even the Arch-angels and all those that inhabit the heavens. Of course, I do not know how many heavens there are but I know that he is a man who will like to satisfy even the devil by putting everything in these Estimates so heavily. It is a means of deceiving people. This is not the first time he will do it. You will see provisions for water, electricity, roads, bridges, everything, but he will never carry out any of these projects (*laughter*). He is deceiving the electorate. I therefore warn all the people of this Region not to take all that are inserted seriously at all. They will never become real. Compare with 1963-64, you will find that under the Ministry of Works and Transport, everything that is said here was said last year and nothing was done. It is all *jankara* business. He is an expert in that type of business. Therefore we do not want this man again to deceive us. Thank God that He has separated us wide that he can never deceive us again.

Leaving that aside, as I have said, Mr Chairman, my Colleagues on this Side will do justice to the other items of the Estimates. I do not know, Mr Chairman, why the Minister of Works and Transport, who used to be a veritable Minister of Trade and Industry and was, in the late Akintola Government, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has now been catapulted to the Ministry of Works and Transport. I just cannot tell but, in any event, I think that it must be on this special qualification that he is a very right-hand man of the "Architect" so that the method of loading all the incorrect and untrue items in the Estimate can be easily achieved. He must have been a perfect disciple and therefore he is the best person for that post. That is very well. But by all means he should do a little bit of work this year, and leave deceit alone. He should try to show people that for the taxes which they pay they are getting something back. Tar some roads, at least repair

all the roads that have been washed away by the rains. Mr Chairman, go through Lebanon Street in Ibadan; I won't touch Ijesha roads, between Ibadan and Ijesha, you know that very well yourself, if you go through these roads you will understand what I am saying. Let them repair these roads and let people enjoy some amenities for the tax they pay.

Furthermore, in the days of the Action Group, we used to hear about boreholes. They supplied water to villages. Last year in 1963-64 Estimates there were provision for rural water supply for Ilugun, Odeda, Obafemi, Ifo but, Mr Chairman, this is April, 1964, no single borehole has ever been started. It is also true of other parts of the Region. In all earnestness, I will appeal to the Minister of Works and Transport and to his Government to see to it that something is done. If they do a little, be sure I will give praise to them.

What about electricity supply? Electricity is a matter to be forgotten entirely by towns and villages, in the days of this *Tipatipa* Government but in any event, I know that when we come to power all these things will be provided for the people.

The last point I will like to make is in respect of the people of Aiyetoro in Egbado Division. There is a Comprehensive School at Aiyetoro with supply of electric power. The electricity is run by an engine of 100 kilowatts and whereas the report of experts shows that this engine is capable of supplying light to the township but because of vindictiveness, because of political victimisation, this Government has not thought it fit to extend the use of the electric power to the township. I will ask the Government to make investigations and see whether the engine supplying power to the school cannot supply electric power to the township. If they do find that it is possible to supply power to the township through this engine of 100 kilowatts, by all means let them do so, so that the people of Aiyetoro can enjoy a little bit of the amenities provided by their own Government. But I should say that it should have occurred to the Government that they are wasting power by restricting the scope of this engine which can supply electricity to a large number of people in Aiyetoro township.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support that the Head of the Minister of Works and Transport should be allowed to rest but after a little bit of shaking.

Mr Popoola: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make some suggestions especially as far as the Minister of Works and

[MR POPOOLA]

Transport is concerned. The Minister is from Oyo South-East. Mr Chairman, I would like to make this explanation in connection with the Minister. His educational background is sound. He is a man who is very sympathetic. I know him from youth. Whenever it is necessary that he should render assistance to anyone, he used to do it at all costs. He is a Minister of experience, he is one of the most experienced Ministers.

I now like to pull his leg as far as this Water Board is concerned. The expenditure under Head 339 which is the Ministry of Works and Transport should be reduced by £10. The reason is that the condition of the roads in our constituency is very deplorable. I know the hon. Minister of Works and Transport moves about more on these roads than anybody else. Sometimes he would come on that road in big flashy cars, at times in small cars that are not even allowed as taxis, sometimes he drives himself. I will only appeal, through this House, Sir, that the hon. Minister should please remember that the roads of Afijio area need tarring and surfacing and if this is done earlier the better it is for the people and the Minister himself. I do not want to occupy much more of your time, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Oyewole: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few words to say to the hon. Minister on this Head. In the first place, under sub-head 117 repairs should be made to the ruins caused by the heavy rainfall in this Region. This Region should be properly maintained and I should say that the Government has already voted funds to maintain all these roads and I would like the Government to see that all the roads in Western Nigeria as a whole are well maintained. I can say that the amount spent on these roads is £28,000. Now that the Midwest has been cut-off from the Region the amount left should be enough to maintain our roads.

On electrical installations and equipment, last year the sum of £22,000 was spent and again this year the same amount has been voted, whereas the area to be maintained by this sub-head does not include the Midwest. I feel this amount should be reduced.

Under sub-head 21, maintenance of Private Buildings rented by this Government, I think the Government of this Region has got sufficient buildings and going to hire houses or buildings of their friends and wives, which they received loans to build, at fantastic rentage is dishonest. I think it is

good for the Government to stop this action because it is a waste of money.

I now turn to the question of contractors. Once more, I must say, Sir, that I have gone round the places in the Western Region where we have the Workshops of the Ministry of Works and Transport. I visited Eleiyele where they have their Headquarters. When I got there I was so surprised because our people who are contractors, both men and women, find it difficult to register as contractors. All the contractors who registered since about ten or twelve years ago, even when the British were ruling this Region, had their registrations cancelled and to issue fresh ones now is difficult. Why? Because before anybody can register as a contractor now he must come through a Minister. When somebody does not belong to the ruling party how can such a man get registered?

Chief Olowofoyeku: On point of information, Sir, may we know from Mr Oyewole how many people went through the Minister when he was in the Government party?

Mr Oyewole: Mr Chairman, Sir, as a matter of fact, I could remember one man who wanted to register, he sent a form to Eleiyele and was directed back to me. Immediately I got on to the Minister he registered the man. Mr Chairman, Sir, that is all I have to say about the contractors.

I have complained about women; I do not say that Government should not award contracts to women. What I am saying about contractors, Sir, is that it will be appreciated, if anybody wants to register in this Region, whether man or woman, if he or she is given a form to fill and after he has filled that form, for the Ministry to register him or her. But after filling a form one is asked to produce his tools, his timber, everything they know that he will not be able to get at once. There are many women, Sir, who are simply registered without being asked to produce their particulars. These actions should be cleared if they want progress in this Region. It is good to be loyal to the Government, it is good to agree with the Government but the Government must at the same time do something in turn to encourage the citizens. Sir, when the contractors leave their names and they are told they will be called according to the list, what happens? If somebody is to go to the office and says it is his turn today the officials will say there is no letter from the Minister. But when it is time to pay tax the tax collectors will demand money from all. Everybody

[MR OYEWOLE]

who is a private man is going to pay according to what he earns, but when it comes to getting something from the Government, if one does not know a Minister there is nothing for him. Where are our contractors today? They are all hungry. I know that an hungry man is an angry man. (*Laughter*). If they are not given jobs they will waylay these people on the roads and condemn the Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition has said many things about the hon. the Premier of this Region. It is unfortunate that he has left the House; but I hope he will read my comments in the Official Report.

The hon. Premier of this Region is not a man of shady character. Everybody who has dealings with him knows him to be a Godly person, a straightforward man and a gentleman in every respect.

The Leader of Opposition said that we should disbelieve the contents of the Estimates and my Colleagues have had the courage to ask him whether his accusation was his own stock of trade when we were together in the Action Group. Unfortunately, the Leader of Opposition has not been able to confirm or deny the point made about whether he also had a hand in preparing the Estimates in the way he has suggested. I am sure the Premier is not a man who prepares Estimates in that way. As a matter of fact the first time that we had Estimates prepared in that manner was the time that his boss, the leader who is now elsewhere, prepared the Estimates under the cover of darkness and passed it through my Friend, Chief the hon. J. A. O. Odebiyi. Chief Odebiyi also confirmed that these Estimates were prepared for him by Chief Awolowo. Nobody likes that, and today the Leader of Opposition has stepped into the shoes of Chief Awolowo. That was why he suggested that to the Premier, because birds of the same feather flock together. May I, Mr Chairman, emphasise here that the Premier of this Region is not interested in that kind of character or action and he will never do that type of thing. If there is no money in the Treasury, we know how the money of this Government went away. We will get back the money from the people to whom the Leader of the Action Group passed the money. I am sure the people of this Region

will be grateful to Chief Akintola for the great part he has played. (*Cheers*).

The Leader of Opposition also said that I was at one time Minister of Trade and Industry, then Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and now Minister of Works and Transport. He further said that I must have been a very good disciple of Chief Akintola. I am not only a disciple but I was a pupil of Chief Akintola for several years . . . (*Cheers*) and pupils who studied under Akintola, are important leaders in Nigeria today, unlike the pupils who studied under another leader who is not here today. (*interruptions*). The Leader of Opposition knows me very well and my performances; they are nothing to be ashamed of. As a matter of fact he will not stand where I stand because where I stand he will not be able to work or stand there. He knows that from time.

The Leader of Opposition said that there has never been any work of progress done since this Government took over the affairs of this Region. I would like to say a word about what my Ministry, and especially the Government of the Region, has done within the last financial year.

My Ministry embarked upon an expensive programme of water supply. Chief among the schemes extended or completed are the water projects for Ilesha, Isho-Igbesse, Arigidi, Epe, Ishonyin-Odosenlu and Shaga. The water schemes under construction include those for Ondo-Idanre, Ikerre-Ekiti, Ife-Gbongan, Ogbomosho, Ado-Odo, Ifon-Ikaro, Shaki, Igbetti, Oyo Stage II extensions to Iware and the Ilora Farm Settlement in Oyo Province.

Investigations on the planning and design work on future water schemes have proceeded with equal enthusiasm. Some of the towns for which designs have been prepared and for which constructional works are expected to start this financial year include Badagry, Illa, Ipetu-Ijesha, Ilaro, Ifon, Ilobu and Erin in Oshun Division. The water scheme for Igbogilla in Egbado is also expected to commence this year.

Similarly design work is progressing in respect of water supply for several places throughout the Region including Eruwa, Igbo-ora, Idere, Lanlate in Ibarapa (this is in Ibadan Province), Odeda, Olodo and Ilugun Station, Osiele and Obafemi in Abeokuta Province.

Furthermore a feasibility report has been prepared on all the water supply projects proposed for development during the 1962-68 development period. The estimated total

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cost of all the schemes amount to about £12 million. The hydrological section of my Ministry has been engaged on the organisation and collection of data for the planning and design of projected schemes for water resources survey throughout the Region.

This, Mr Chairman, Sir, appears to me a convenient point at which to reply to some of the observations already made by honourable Members during the Debates on the water supply activities of my Ministry.

Concerning the supply of water to Otun, Ijero and Ido District, preliminary investigations were carried out in order to locate a source of water for the respective towns. It was later discovered, however, after preliminary investigations, that it would be more economical to supply several towns with water from a single source. It is now proposed to construct a scheme which will supply water to towns and villages spread over an area of 250 square miles. This is in Ekiti Division. This scheme is estimated to cost about £1.3 million and it has been included in the Development Programme.

Regarding Ikerre/Ekiti, this project is linked up with the Ondo-Akure-Idanre scheme. In fact, the construction is in its final stages and it is hoped that the scheme will be completed during this financial year.

As far as the Emure water supply is concerned, it has been proved, after a thorough investigation on the supply of water to Emure, that it would be better to construct a scheme which will supply Emure, Emure-Ile and Eporo. It is expected that this scheme will be constructed during the current Development Programme and it is estimated to cost about £150,000.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier asked when the water project for Ogbomosho will be completed. I have no doubt that the contractors will hand over the works about October this year.

I have said also that we have handed over the work for Shaki water supply to contractors. The cost of this project is about £450,000. Work has already started in Shaki in Oyo Province, and for the information of the hon. Members, we have not got the money in our pockets here. The Treasury is empty as you all know very well.

Similarly, in reply to the question raised by the hon. Mr S. O. Akerele on the installation of pipe-borne water for Illa, proposals for water supply for this area are receiving active consideration.

Honourable S. A. Akerele raised the next point. The untreated rural water supply scheme constructed for Oye is not running now because of the lack of vigilance of the honourable Members from that part of the Region. The water supply at Oye was constructed for Oye people free of charge, but because of inability of the Council to maintain this scheme, it failed but it has now continued to work. In any event, we are now planning a very big water scheme which will include Oye, Ishan, Aiyede, Ifaki, Otun, Iddo, Ijero, Ipoti, Igogo, Erinmope and neighbouring places. When this is completed it will be at a cost of about £1.3 million. This will serve a population of about 244,200 and will thus be more economical to manage and maintain.

Mr Chairman, I have to express my gratitude to my Colleague and townsman from Afijio (*Mr Popoola*). He comes from Oyo South-West and I come from Oyo South-East. I thank him for all the good things he has said about me. In any event I should like to say a few words on his request that attention should be given to certain roads in our joint constituencies. I would like to say something about this particular point because the honourable Gentleman was once the Chairman of Oyo Southern District Council and I should have thought that he would have devoted some of this time to using some of the funds of the Council to develop these roads. These roads are District Council roads but unfortunately my Friend failed to carry out this responsibility when he was there.

Here, again I should like to comment on the observation made by hon. Members on road development generally. Preliminary survey is being undertaken in Oyo Province on completion of which specific proposals will be considered in relation to such projects as the Fiditi-Ilu-Aje-Ijaye Ojutaiye Road; and Ilora-Ir-ini-Ilu-Aje road; the Ilora Oluwatedo-Odo Ogun Road, the Akinmorin-Idi Igba-Alabi Olorunda, and the Awe-Alabi roads. Even so, the Fiditi Iware Road and the Awe-Akinmorin to junction with Ibadan-Oyo Road, have been surveyed and negotiations for work on the roads will soon commence. Ekiti Division is situated in Ondo Province, and action has been taken by this Government to see to their roads. Some of the projects in this area have been included in approved contracts, and active steps are being taken to start work on them. I refer to such projects mentioned like the Aiyedun to Irele road, Aiyede-Omu road, Itapa to Omu road. The Ido-Ifaki road and the Okeho to Ijio road

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are yet to be surveyed before any concrete representations could be made on the feasibility of their construction. Concerning the Omi-Adio, Ido-Akufo Road the distance is twelve miles, but it is a project for further survey in the current financial year.

As regards the Igbotu-Shabomi road, experts have started work on the survey, and this Government will do all that is possible within their power during the current financial year.

An hon. Member mentioned the redundancy of Dugbe and Gege Markets. Here I should like to comment on the development of markets and motor parks. As such schemes will affect traffic circulation and general road and urban development, consultation is in progress between my Ministry and the Ministries of Local Government and of Lands and Housing in finalising the survey of the projects for the modernisation of the Dugbe and Gege markets and the provision of motor parks at each of the five entrances to Ibadan. Ibadan roads are also being surveyed, and as soon as this is completed we shall do all that is within our power, within the limit of the financial year's resources.

On maintenance of buildings, the hon. Gentleman for Ibadan, Mr Oyewole, said something about the maintenance of private buildings hired from private individuals, but before anything can be done on this matter we must sign agreement and if we sign this agreement the Government will do all they can and we must keep to our agreement. (*Interruptions*).

The question of contractors which one of our hon. Gentleman referred to is one which I cannot really understand. The hon. Gentleman is a contractor and he has approached me several times for work, and I have made him understand that I have never issued any letter to any one to the Engineers in the Ministry of Works and Transport and I told him that in no circumstance will I ever write any letter to anybody to assist. It is possible for me to speak to the Controller of Works and Transport so that he could speak to the Engineer in charge who will be able to help him and the Controller of Works and Transport could do that. I will not like anybody to come and disturb these engineers who are doing their work very quickly and loyally. We have about 6,000 contractors in Ibadan here alone including the hon. Gentleman.

As far as women contractors are concerned, I say that if a woman is qualified to be a contractor, and she can satisfy the conditions

we require, I see no reason why a woman should not be a contractor. We send both boys and girls to school, we have women lawyers, doctors, and judges, why should there be no woman contractor? After all when they get contracts they pay tax in the same way as men contractors.

Finally, Sir, I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the Administrative Division of my Ministry which has the responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of the construction and maintenance services.

The question of Electricity which the hon. Leader of Opposition referred to will be found in the Estimates; we have not stopped work on question of rural and urban electrifications in this Region. As a matter of fact we are spending very large sums of money on this project, and work will soon start in earnest. We have given the job of investigation to two consultants, both in Nigeria and overseas, to give us the cost on rural electrification. Some of these reports have been received; others are still coming and I have no doubt that we will start the work of electrification of rural and urban areas in Western Nigeria very soon, in places like Ikare and other places in Oshun Division.

The hon. Leader of Opposition made some serious allegations about the people of Aiyetoro, I think the Leader of Opposition has been misinformed, or, like other Members of the Opposition, has never made thorough investigations before he came into this House to make very serious or misleading allegations.

Aiyetoro Comprehensive Secondary School is under construction and is almost completed. There are two electric plants and one is 125 KW and the other 90 KW; the third is only 100 KW. I like to give the following informations.

These plants when they are working will supply electricity to quarters and certain school buildings. And at the moment when it is at the peak of its work only 60 KW is being used.

The following are still to be connected.

- (a) Laundry for the school;
- (b) Assembly Hall;
- (c) Workshops;
- (d) Domestic Science blocks;
- (e) Two classrooms blocks;
- (f) Two science blocks;
- (g) Two hostels blocks;
- (h) Technology workshop;
- (i) Trade centre workshop.

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It is not because the Leader of Opposition raised the point that we are considering extension of these plants to the township. We have been consulting the experts to know the voltage of power which is generated from the plant, but the experts have not reported to us yet. But when the Leader of Opposition comes here to use it as a vote catching stunt, I want to make him know that we are going to do our work, that is why I have got the information here.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the vote for the Ministry of Works and Transport.

£1,514,890 for Head 339.—Ministry of Works and Transport—agreed to.

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question proposed that the sum of £2,377,680 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £14,000 making a total of £2,391,680.

Amendment agreed to.

£2,391,680 for Head 701—Buildings—agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question proposed that the sum of £3,188,970 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I beg to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £100,000 to £3,288,970.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr I. A. Olukaju (Owo South I): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House to Head 702, subhead 11. In this group you have a large sum of money for road reconstruction. I am referring to Oba-Idoani road under this group. The total money for this Head in the previous Budget was £22,000. Of this amount only £6,000 was expended and it is surprising, Mr Chairman, that although a part of this money was spent on Oba-Idoani road but if you look at the road today it is appalling.

The hon. Minister of Finance giving the list of roads recently tarred, as supplied him by the Minister of Works and Transport, mentioned Ikaro-Imoru road. May I say, Sir, that this road had been completed before the last Session. It is therefore wrong to list this road among the roads recently tarred and I think the Minister has been misinformed. When the Minister of Works and Transport was responding to the Debate a few minutes

ago he gave details of places where projects have been undertaken or where projects are under consideration, he never mentioned anything in Owo Division. It may be that Owo Division is not part of this Region or that if something is done in Owo town that is sufficient for the whole Division.

I want the Minister of Works and Transport to tell us what programme he has for Owo South I constituency. May I say this, that this part of the Region seems to me to be neglected altogether. Before the Budget Session in 1962, when the Premier was to tour Ondo Province, this part of the Region was neglected until I went to meet the Premier at Ado Ekiti. I do not know whether this part of the Region is not part of Western Nigeria, and if it is, it may be necessary to tell us what Government has in store for us.

Oka has a population of 28,000 but nothing has been done for the people. This Government is not interested in whether they have water supply, or tarred road or electricity. I will like an explanation from the Minister of Works and Transport.

In 1961 preliminary survey was done for the supply of water for Oka and Idoani but up till now nothing has been done and the Minister of Works and Transport has cleverly omitted mentioning any programme for that part of the Region; if there is any.

Furthermore the improvement of water supply scheme for Ifon and Ikaro was started in 1959-61. It is a very small area and those who have visited the area know this. One would have expected that within two or three years this scheme would have been brought to an end. Up till now that work has not been finished and in that District, Ekamarun District Council, there are five towns—Ifon, Ikaro, Sobe, Imoru and Jagba, and if the installation of water supply takes about five years for only these two towns I do not know how many years it will take to supply water to the other three towns, not to talk of Idoani and Oka.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I do not know what responsibility the Government holds for the people in that place. They are taxpayers of this Region and they should be provided with amenities like good water and electricity.

Mr Olaniyan: I just want to talk on this Head dealing with roads. Although when we talk of Ibarapa one hears of Igboora, Eruwa and Lanlate yet there are other important places in the Division like Igangan, Tapa and Aise. So I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Transport to rebuild these roads. It will be good if the road from Igboora

[MR OLANIYAN]

to Igangan is included in next year's Estimate. Another road of importance is that from Eruwa to Oguro.

£3,288,970 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—agreed to.

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

Question proposed that the sum of £1,542,000 for Head 703.—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £30,000 to £1,572,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Chief Babatola: Mr Chairman, Sir, in the year 1960-61 we had in the Estimates, provision for water supply for Igede. When, later, Government took certain steps and decided to bring both Ado-Ekiti and Igede together and treat them as one for urban water supply we were happy. As a matter of fact plans were drawn up and I saw them myself and Government proceeded to order materials for the installation of this water supply. But, unfortunately, since the crisis we have heard nothing again and our experience is that that scheme has been abandoned and there is no evidence of any work and in the Minister's catalogue of urban water supplies no mention has been made of Igede at all.

For your information, Mr Chairman, during the census the population of these places was about 10,000 and I think Government ought not to forget this area. So we want to know from the Minister why a scheme already approved is not executed at all.

£1,572,000 for Head 703.—Urban Water Supplies—agreed to.

HEAD 704.—RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

Question proposed that the sum of £334,000 for Head 704.—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £30,000 to read £364,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Olaniyan: Mr Chairman, Sir, it is lamentable and deplorable to note what is happening in this Region at present. I hope Sir, it is not honourable for any Head of Government to stand up and declare publicly that he would not allow amenities to spread to certain areas because the people there fail

to support the Government party. It is the usual habit of the people on the Government Benches to boast like that when they go out. These people should realise that they are sowing the seeds of disunity and hatred. This is an unpardonable offence against the tax-payers who are deprived of their right. The Premier of this Region came to Ibarapa to tell my people he would not give water to them. In fulfilment of this our proposed Rural Water Supply was deleted from the Estimates for 1964-65.

Sir, it is a merciless action to punish people with water or food. A sum of money, £35,000 was set aside for Ibarapa Water Supply in the 1961-62 and 1962-63 Estimates. This year, this has been taken out entirely. Whereas there was no job done in the area. Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a miserable action. Such things happen all over this Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, many a time this Government has failed to know that it is the public money they are spending. They fail to know that it is not hereditary to be Premier, Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or even Member of the House. It is a game of chance. These people will surely live to reap the fruits of their cruelty, wickedness and misuse of power. I see no reason, Sir, why Ibarapa water supply should be deleted from this year's Estimates. For the people in Ibarapa are law abiding; they pay their taxes and rates regularly. Despite all these, it is discouraging to see that Government amenities are never extended to our area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is not a joke. I want a full explanation from the Minister of Works as to why he was asked by the Premier of this Region to delete Ibarapa from Rural Water Supply Scheme. If you visit my place, you will pity the innocent people. Thousands of them suffer from guineaworm every year. Many are deformed; many are rendered useless; many become beggars as a result of the attack by these water-borne diseases. The disease had hindered the progress of many school children. It will be unpardonable if, for political reasons, anyone will stand in the way of Ibarapa to have pipe-borne water. We patiently wait to see what the Government will do this year.

Chief Adeyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, nobody went to Ibarapa to tell people that they would not be supplied with water. I went there and mentioned the progress of the work being done in connection with the investigation at Eruwa, Igbo-Ora and Lanlate. It is not honest for the hon. Gentleman to come and say that the hon. Premier asked me to delete this project. The Lanlate scheme is one of the

projects which we have given to those overseas countries which have tried to assist us by way of loans and grants.

Mr Olukoju: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am going to spend a very short time on this Head 704, Sub-Head 21—should read Ifon/Ikaro not Ilaro. Mr Chairman, I have thrown it as a challenge to the Minister of Works and Transport to please explain why in his Estimates, he did not think it fit to include any town in Owo for Water Supply and road tarring in 1964. I would very much like an explanation of this, Sir.

£364,000 for Head 704.—Rural Water Supplies—agreed to.

HEAD 707.—ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £890,000 for Head 707—Electricity Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I beg to move that the provision for this Head be increased by £20,000 to £910,000.

Amendment agreed to.

£910,000 for Head 707—Electricity Development—agreed to.

HEAD 735.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT—(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £143,750 for Head 735.—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

TOTAL, FIRST SCHEDULE

Question proposed that the sum of £15,404,030—Total, First Schedule—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the Total figure for the First Schedule should read £15,845,750 instead of £15,404,030.

Amendment agreed to.

Amended sum of £15,845,750—Total First Schedule—agreed to.

TOTAL, SECOND SCHEDULE

Question proposed that £11,025,350 as Total for Part I of the Second Schedule stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the total figure for Part I of the Second Schedule should read £11,219,350 instead of £11,025,350.

Amendment agreed to.

Amended sum of £11,219,350 as Total Part

I of Second Schedule agreed to.

Question proposed that £1,728,670 as Total for Part II of the Second Schedule stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the total figure for Part II of the Second Schedule should read £1,728,670 instead of £1,78,670.

Amendment agreed to.

Amended sum of £1,734,670 as total Part II of Second Schedule agreed to.

First and Second Schedules as amended agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the figure £15,404,030 in the marginal note be deleted and £15,845,750 be substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the figure £12,754,020 in the marginal note be deleted and £12,954,020 substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3 as amended agreed to.

Long Title.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the words "fifteen million four hundred and four thousand and thirty pounds" in lines 3 and 4 be deleted and the words "fifteen million, eight hundred and forty-five thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds" be substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Oba Akran: I rise to move that the word "seven" in line 5 be deleted and the word "nine" substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Long Title, as amended, agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the House do now adjourn. (Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 7.25 p.m. until Monday, 20th April, 1964, at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to a Resolution of the House this day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 20TH APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.15) a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-63—First Progress Report

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Oshuntokun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of this honourable House to the White Paper laid on the Table of the House as Western Nigeria Official Document No. 2 of 1964. Hon. Members will recall that two years ago, this House adopted a Six-year Development Programme entitled "Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68", presented by my worthy predecessor, Oba C. D. Akran, now the hon. Minister of Finance.

The main objective of the Plan, as you all know, is to bring to this Region a steady rise in real income through increased agricultural and industrial production. Our target is a $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent annual increase in real income for the period, 1962-68. And, as an insurance against fluctuations in the world market for primary products, our strategy has been to diversify both within agriculture and away from it.

Hon. Members will agree that it is a bit too early for us in this Region to make an appraisal of our achievements and failures in the Six-year Development Plan, having regard to the political situation into which the Region was thrown during the best part of the first year of the Plan period. Nevertheless, in accordance with my promise and in deference to a decision reached by the Joint Planning Committee of the National Economic Council that all Governments of the Republic should place before the Budget Session of their Legislatures progress reports on their Development Plans for the year 1962-63, I have to present the First Progress Report on the Plan. Even when we take into effect the incidents of 1962, we, in the Western Region, have performed as well as any other Region in the Republic in 1963-64. We have impressed the outside world so much that the European Countries, particularly West Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Britain

and the United States of America, have continued to show interest and participate in our development projects. When I led an Economic Mission to Western Europe—Western Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France and Holland—it was quite clear to me that Western Nigeria or the country as a whole stands high in the estimation of these countries, and since then three large industries have been established or are being established in Western Nigeria—the £2 million jute factory, pharmaceutical factory, cocoa cleaning and processing factory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the 1962-68 Development Plan was based on the assumption that one-half of the cost of financing the various projects thereon would come from abroad by way of loans and grants. On this assumption, something like £9 million was expected from foreign loans and grants to this Government in 1962-63. But less than £1 million was actually received, apart from technical assistance which is, in many cases, difficult to assess in terms of pounds, shillings, and pence.

Hon. Members will observe that lack of funds was largely responsible for the inability of this Government to carry out most of the projects earmarked for the year 1962-63. This must not be allowed, however, to obscure the fact that out of the £9 million expected to be derived from domestic sources for capital expenditure during the year, not less than £8.8 million was actually so derived; and this in spite of the fact that the export duty on cocoa, our largest single source of revenue, fell continuously from £5½ million in 1959-60 to just over £3 million in 1962-63. This is a reflection, no doubt, on Government's determined efforts to diversify both the economy and the Region's fiscal system. Mr Speaker, Sir, without any intention to encourage complacency, I would venture to say that this Region has done all it could possibly do to keep the economy going and growing under the circumstances prevailing in the year 1962-63.

One of our achievements in the field of agriculture in 1962-63 is the introduction of a high-yielding variety of cotton, known as Allen 26J, which was successfully cultivated on experimental basis during the year. Today, several acres of land throughout the Region have been cultivated with the new variety of cotton which not only brings more prosperity to the local farmers but also provides essential raw material for the Nigerian Textile Mills Ltd. at Ikeja. Spectacular achievements have also been made in the production of livestock, especially poultry.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, that is why some years ago in this Region we decided to make certain provisions for the Leader of the Opposition and I assure the Members of the Opposition that these same facilities will be open to hon. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro as the Leader of the Opposition. He will continue to receive, like his predecessors, the full salary of the Leader of Opposition of £1,510 per year.

In spite of all that has been said that the financial position of the Government of Western Nigeria is in a chaotic condition, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that he will always get his salary. Throughout the past twelve months every Member of the Opposition has been receiving his pay regularly, although occasionally they have been shouting that there is chaos in the Region, there is no employment and so on, yet looking at their faces, every one of them looks robust. In this case it means the Government has not failed in its duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, not only will he have the normal salary of £1,510 per annum, he will also have an official residence provided for him with a care-taker and a night watchman, to be sure that he is safe night and day. (*Opposition Benches: What about Police?*) Not only that, Mr Speaker, Sir, if he is afraid at any time and he wants police protection he will be given. It will be arranged for him.

Mr Awopeju: Alhaji Adegbenro is free, he can walk about in the town without police protection, unlike the Premier.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that on this Side there are no explosives at all so there is nothing to fear. But if he entertains any fears, police protection will be arranged for him.

It is not only that the Government will provide him with official residence, the Government will pay his electricity bill, telephone bill and all such things which were available to his predecessors.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want the Leader of Opposition to think only of the salary of the office, the allowances and other amenities attached to it, but he should attach great importance to the responsibility of the office. If the Leader of Opposition, in discharging his duties, is to approach me or any of my Ministers for information desired by the Members of his party we shall cooperate with him. We are prepared to receive criticism from time to time provided it is made honestly and we shall take it in good faith. We are prepared to welcome the Leader of Opposition at any time he wants any

information from any Ministry. This statement goes to every Member of the Opposition who is concerned with serving the interests of the people. They are here to serve the interest of Western Nigeria just like everyone on this Side of the House. What I object to, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the making of reckless statements which are not based on any effort to ascertain facts. I am giving Alhaji Adegbenro information about the functions of the Leader of Opposition. I am quite sure the Leader of the Opposition will retrace his steps now and begin to make honest criticisms and I am sure this will influence his Colleagues in the House. We welcome criticism from the Opposition, let us not criticise with a spirit of vendetta, let us not criticise with a spirit of bitterness, but let us do so with the spirit of service not only to the Government, but to the Opposition and to the people of Western Nigeria in general.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I say that apart from references made to him in the past we shall continue from today to recognise Alhaji Adegbenro *de jure and de facto* as the Leader of Opposition in Western Nigeria.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that all the Members of the Opposition welcome the official recognition accorded me this morning. May I say that this is in keeping with the tradition established by the Action Group Government. The Action Group Government was the first to recognise a Leader of Opposition in Nigeria. I am very pleased to say that since then, other Governments of the Federation had followed same. I am glad, Mr Speaker, Sir, to note that this Government has today followed this tradition which has been set by the Action Group.

As I have said before, this recognition is welcome not because of the monetary benefits alone. May I say, Sir, Mr Speaker, that I do not intend to say much on this, perhaps there may be other Members from this Side who may like to speak. But under normal circumstances, Mr Speaker, Sir, you know the circumstances which led to my being on this Side today. The manipulations and manoeuvres of the people on the Government Benches caused the change of events and that is why I am here. Any way the Deputy Premier occupied this place before and the the circumstances that brought me to be on this Side will, I am sure in due course bring the two of them, Chief S. L. Akintola and Chief Fani-Kayode, to their places back here. By the Grace of God, I would then accord

due recognition to the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, as the Leader of Opposition in this House. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Chief Akintola: I always thought that Alhajis are no prophets but, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro is now professing to be a prophet. (*Interruptions*.)

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said before, the circumstances which put me here will certainly put the Premier here in due course.

May I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that when this present Meeting started I gave an undertaking that the Opposition would give constructive opposition. We shall not unduly be obstructive of Government business and if Government brings a Bill or a proposal before the House with goodness in it we will give the devil its due. (*Government Benches: Devil?*) Yes, devil. (*Laughter*). But we will oppose all measures that we consider to be inimical to the best interests of the people of Western Nigeria; no more no less.

The hon. Premier himself aptly put it two days ago when tempers ran high, when some youngish boys from that Side started to make some interruptions. We consider ourselves—both the Government and the Opposition—as opposing teams on a football field. That is how it should be provided there is goodwill on all sides. If this goodwill is lacking there can be no doubt that not only will both Government and the Opposition suffer, the masses of the people in this Region, the poor tax payers, the toiling farmers, all of them will suffer and it is our duty as Opposition to see to it that the interests of the people are adequately watched and safeguarded. That should be our duty.

And, Mr Speaker, Sir, since the imposition of the Premier on Western Nigeria since January 1963, we on this Side have never at any time subverted or even obstructed the Government in their business in this House. We have done our duty to the best of our conscience and to our satisfaction, we know the role that we ought to play and, by the Grace of God, we are going to play that role very well indeed. We have not at any time done anything which could be regarded as obstructive to all measures introduced by the Government excepting for spotlighting some misdeeds of Government and may I say this finally, Mr Speaker, that we will continue to do that so long as we are here; we take consolation in the fact that their days are numbered. (*Laughter*). They will soon find themselves in their proper places and therefore we will continue to work to

the best of our knowledge and satisfaction to ensure that we are playing the role in which we find ourselves today and when the time does come, we are sure again, Mr Speaker, it may be "Number One" or "Number Two" who is going to lead the Opposition then, one of them will have to lead the Opposition, (*laughter*), we will accord him the due recognition that he is entitled to because both of us are committed to the service of the people of Western Nigeria.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. (*Cheers*).

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Works and Transport—Water Corporation—A Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of a Western Nigeria Water Corporation, for the functions of the Corporation, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith: *read the First time, to be read a Second time later in the day.*

2. By the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice—Fire Service—A Bill for a Law to amend the Fire Services Law, No. 4 of 1960: *read the First time, to be read a Second time later in the day.*

3. By the Minister of Education—University of Ife—A Bill for a Law to amend the University of Ife (Provisional Council) Law, No. 6 of 1961: *read the First time, to be read a Second time later in the day.*

4. By the Minister of Finance—Hire Purchase and Credit Sales—A Bill for a Law to confer upon the Federal Parliament authority to make Law for Western Nigeria with respect to the Regulation of Hire Purchase and Credit Sale Agreements, and to provide for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith: *read the First time; to be read a Second time later in the day.*

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

May I appeal to the Opposition that an Interpretation Act is not like a comic, it is not a fairy tale; in fact it is so technical that only very few initiated members of the esoteric cult of the Law understand it. I therefore appeal to hon. Members to spare themselves the trouble of looking into it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one honourable Member of the Opposition made reference to the circulation of Federal Gazettes. May I give this assurance that information will be passed to the Clerk of the Regional Legislature, through the honourable the Speaker, that in future when Regional Gazettes are being posted to Members copies of the Federal Gazettes available should also be posted to honourable Members so that there is no unusual accumulation of them. I sympathise with the hon. Member for Remo North because the volume of the Federal Gazette is always very heavy and burdensome. From now on, it will be ensured that Members get them one by one and I have no doubt that this Bill will be passed without challenge.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Ahaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not oppose.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WESTERN NIGERIA

WATER CORPORATION BILL —SECOND READING

Order for the Second Reading.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of a Western Nigeria Water Corporation, for the functions of the Corporation, and for other matters incidental thereto, or connected therewith.

Before I proceed to speak on this Bill, may I be permitted, Sir, for a brief time, to deal with some of the general circumstances which necessitated the introduction of this legislation. If I were asked, Sir, what are the reasons and objects of this Bill, I shall answer simply in the words of Louis Pasteur and say "Water for all". We seek to provide water at home and for school children; water in the hospitals; water for farmers and workers; water for industries; water in urban and rural areas—good, clean and wholesome water everywhere and for all purposes.

For several years past, it was customary to refer to water supply as a municipal undertaking, carried out by local Government Authorities acting under a parliamentary permit or franchise; but in modern times, the provision of water supply has been described, in particular by the Fabians, as a "public utility service".

I must add that the utilitarian concept of water has brought about a new element in water supply systems—the element of regulation and control. Thus, an outstanding fact in the development of pipe-borne water systems throughout the world is the dominant part played by Parliament in their establishment, uniformity and consistency. It is of supreme importance to the community that a water supply should be wholesome and good.

I am happy to say, Sir, that in line with the utility concept of water in other places, all the pipe-borne water undertakings in this Region, have hitherto been managed and worked by local authorities under the supervision of the Regional Government. These local authorities received grants on capital cost and annual subsidies from the Regional Government. The municipal water undertakings represent isolated water schemes in relation to the overall social and economic needs of the people of this Region. Although a number of these municipal water undertakings have been operating for very many years, it is a matter for great regret that they have been beset by financial difficulties and organisational setbacks. Consequently, these schemes have been unable to run economically and efficiently, and to meet the desired standards.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the existing water undertakings, if well managed, will be self-supporting and viable. None at present operates an effective rates system. In fact, statistics reveal that, at present, only ten per cent of water users contribute to the cost of water production. I need hardly say that if more water users subscribe to water production charges, the cost of water to the average consumer will, eventually, decrease appreciably.

These, Sir, are only a few of the manifold handicaps in our existing pipe-borne water supply system which have dictated the dire necessity for the introduction of this legislation. Thus in October, 1962, the Government set up a Working Party comprising of representatives of Ministries concerned with water-supply and professional officers of my Ministry.

[CHIEF ADEYI]

They recommended that the Region should be divided into four water area advisory councils, operating under a central organization to be called the Western Nigeria Water Corporation. Our aim, Sir, is to reassure all people of whatever shade of political belief, creed or class, that we seek to provide water as a purely social and economic venture in the collective interest of all. The Corporation shall comprise of twelve members under a Chairman, being a person of the highest integrity. The first major feature of the Bill is, therefore, that strict economic consideration have been paramount in formulating the structure of the Corporation.

Secondly, the Corporation will operate through four Water Area Advisory Councils, each comprising of twelve members being representatives of farmers, consumers' interests, industrial concerns and officials of the Ministries connected with water supply and demand. Representation on the four Area Advisory Councils would, therefore, be made from the community at large—they will be persons of integrity and ability, who are impartial in their outlook, and who are willing and able to serve the community to the best of their ability. The Area Council members of the Corporation will have policy-making powers but executive functions shall be the responsibility of the staff of the Corporation. This is the second feature of this Bill.

Thirdly, the Corporation will take over all existing water-works from the municipal authorities on the vesting day which will be notified later, but no compensation will be paid to Municipal Authorities concerned.

It would be appreciated that under the Local Government Law, as amplified by the Financial Memoranda, the local government authorities are not allowed to utilise water-works revenue for any other purpose apart from for the maintenance and improvement of water undertakings. I wish to mention here the fact that the construction of the waterworks was originally financed by the Regional Government and handed over to municipal authorities who are required to pay half the capital cost over a number of years and to manage and maintain the water projects. For this reason, the take-over of the water assets of the municipal authorities could not correctly be said to create any financial detriment for any council. Furthermore, in taking over these water undertakings the Corporation, would, in effect, be relieving the municipal authorities of a great burden since most of the existing water schemes are being run at a loss.

This is a convenient point, I think, Sir, at which to say a few words on the functions of the Corporation. We seek to provide water for all purposes. As such, the Corporation will establish, control, manage and develop water projects for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the general public, agriculture, trade and industry in various parts of the Region. It will ensure that water is supplied to the consumers at reasonable charges in potable quality and adequate quantity. For the first time, Sir, a central institution will organise the conduct of comprehensive research, the result of which will contribute to the formulation of a regional water policy. Furthermore, the Corporation will abstract water, not only from any lake, river, stream or other natural source forming part of regional waters, but will do likewise in respect of other sources affecting more than one Region by arrangement with the appropriate authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The total initial capital expenditure has been estimated at £168,000 and the annual recurrent expenditure has been assessed at £1,196,000. The Government has already earmarked the sum of £500,000 for the establishment and development of the Water Corporation during the 1962-68 Development programme. The cost of future development would be to the tune of approximately £2,000,000 annually.

Under the present system, however, Government makes an outright grant of fifty per cent of capital cost to water undertakings and it also makes available the balance of fifty per cent as a loan repayable with interest over a number of years. Furthermore, it is Government's policy to keep water rates as low as possible and this has resulted in the subsidy of water rates from Government funds. It is not desirable to introduce a sudden change in this system. We hope, therefore, that Government will continue to subsidise the Corporation until such time as the revenue collection system of the Corporation is effectively established.

Even so, I wish, Sir, to say that a Water Corporation ought not to be looked upon as a deliberate profit making venture. Although many social reformers, like the Fabians, have opposed the idea that a public utility service should run on a profit making basis, yet the undertakings should not constitute a liability to the Government.

Judging from statistics, it could appear that the average production cost of water in Nigeria is peculiarly high, and this will remain so even after the formation of the Corporation. In the United Kingdom or the United States

[CHIEF ADEYI]

of America, for example, construction plant and equipment could be hired and returned after use, whereas in Nigeria they have to be purchased as part of the capital outlay of the water project, since hiring formalities for such equipment are not available. Also, materials like pipes, fittings, chemicals and spares, which are manufactured in foreign countries, have to be imported with consequential insurance costs, freight, customs and delivery charges. To all these considerations must be added the cost of inducing expatriate consultants and plant erectors. As such, the Corporation will strive to "keep its head above water"—it will aim at viability and self-sufficiency—and we hope and trust that the Corporation will meet the expectations of the consumers.

I have now covered the essential features of this legislation. The remainder of the Bill deals with incidental measures and collateral considerations such as the administrative departments and organisation of the Corporation; their subsidiary divisions and field officers. The Bill lays down the powers and procedure of the Corporation in respect of rates and scales of charges for water. In the final chapter of the Bill are provisions governing the annual statement of accounts and reports of the functions of the Corporation. Also, there are provisions prescribing penalties for violation of rules and regulations made by the Corporation under this Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have not dealt with the Corporation's central area and field organisations, considered as employers of labour to relieve unemployment in urban and rural communities; yet there is much to be said in that context. Suffice it to say, however, that the establishment of a Western Nigeria Water Corporation marks another milestone in the social advancement of our generation. We have before the House an ambitious scheme, and to carry it out we shall need, I think, Sir, something like what the hon. Oba C. D. Akran, Minister of Finance, in his speech on the Appropriation Bill, 1964-65, described as "a phenomenal demonstration in the power of faith in a just cause". Nothing short of that will meet the challenge.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish to pay tribute to the work of the Local Government Councils who were pioneers and fathers of the existing waterworks and who have paved the way for the development we propose today. Their labours will find a secure place in history; their schemes will not be discarded; rather, they will form the nucleus of the field and branch organisations of the Corporation.

Finally, I wish to say that whatever is written into this Water Law will merely serve as an indication of the intention of the Government in this great endeavour. As Tccqueville told the French Chamber in the days of Louis Phillipe—

"It is not the mechanism of laws that produces great events—but the inner spirit of men".

I hope that we shall all realise our responsibilities under this legislation, and that we shall all bring to its implementation a spirit which will not allow private or sectional feelings to obscure the common interest of us all, and the love which we shall have for our fatherland and for our people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition support the Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of the Western Nigeria Water Corporation.

In any event, Mr Speaker, I have one or two observations to make. About four years ago, when I was Minister of Local Government, it was my assignment to commission one of the most senior officers of the Ministry of Local Government, Mr Cameron, to conduct a survey of water undertakings in the Region. Not only did Mr Cameron make recommendations on water undertakings, but he also made recommendations in respect of services, assignments and discipline of staff of Local Government Councils who are not under the Local Government Service Board. Mr Cameron did not recommend that the Water Corporation should be set up, but he recommended that there should be a Water Authority for the whole Region, the members of which should be civil servants who are experts in maintaining water undertakings.

I see that this Bill is, Mr Speaker, another avenue of providing jobs for the relatives of the members of the Government party. If you look at the composition of the Water Corporation you will find that the Corporation will consist of about twelve members to be appointed by the Minister. These will be members of the NNDP or NNDP followers who know next to nothing about water undertakings. It is true that there are going to be five ex-officio members but the policy-making body comprises those twelve members who would have declared their support to the NNDP. In my opinion Government should have set up a Water Authority or Service Authority comprising mainly of civil servants

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

in the Ministry who are experts in their own fields. We want Government to do it in a way that we may be satisfied that there is going to be an uninterrupted water supply throughout the Region.

The second point is that providing in this Bill for a Water Corporation alone is not sufficient. I think the Government should bring another Bill dealing with the control and maintenance of roads. You know that in the Region we have different classes of roads. There are roads maintained by the Local Authorities and there are some others maintained by the Regional Government and some still maintained by the Federal Government. Mr Cameron thought that all these should be integrated into one corporate body. It is therefore desired that all roads should be maintained by the service authorities and not by that corporation in which only the members of the NNDDP would serve. It appears the Government is trying to ditch out different Corporations one by one, and I do not think that this will be in the best interest of the Region. There is no need setting up another corporation, we have had enough corporations, boards and so on and so forth.

In fact it was the Minister of Economic Planning who started the thing. (*laughter*). When he started the borehole problem I reminded him that boreholes are of different dimensions and it also depends on the gravity or the depth of the ground; and that is why I say I welcome the setting up of water services authority manned by civil servants who are experts. When we come to the Committee Stage I shall ask for something about it. The Bill can stand as it is but Government can take this advice—let the civil servants man the thing for a time and let us see how it runs, but I appeal to the Government not to make it another opportunity for finding business for the members of the Government party.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill but it appears to me that the formation of this Corporation will involve much expense. As has been said by the Minister, about half a million pounds will be spent, and if a Road Corporation should be created very soon, it will be nothing short of wastefulness.

Mr Speaker, during the Action Group regime many roads were constructed, many bridges were built and water was supplied throughout so many areas. There was nothing like the Water Corporation yet the work was successfully done. If we consider the tax payers of this Region we would not

think of all these wastefulness. It will be recalled that before the formation of corporations, such as the one they are trying to introduce, the Government had no money to put water where it was needed, many bridges were broken down, and the roads were washed away. I am therefore sounding a note of warning to the Members of the Government that they do not waste the Region's money.

Chief Adeyi: Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of Opposition for the useful points which he has raised on this very very important Bill. There is no doubt that Mr Cameron gave us very useful information on which we could build, for which I am grateful to him. We must find a way whereby the services we want to render to the people of Western Nigeria could be done more effectively.

The question of job for the boys is a usual thing which we have been accustomed to. The Leader of Opposition aptly described these boys as the good boys and, as was said in the morning, it is in the interest of the unity of us all that we should come together and we should be of same opinion. (*Cheers*).

The question of setting up another authority for the control or management of roads is one that I will have to take back to the Government for consideration and if it is necessary that a body should be set up to control our roads that will be considered in due course of time.

The object of the Water Corporation has been largely explained in my introduction and I do not think there is another thing which is misunderstood in the points which I have already covered.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to ask the Minister of Works and Transport, what will be the functions of these area councils under clause 5 (b)? I also ask what will be the function of the Committee to be provided under clause 8 and may I further ask, if the Minister will be able to answer two questions under clause 8, why these committees should be appointed by the Corporation again?

[MR AWOPEJU]

refuse to pay any rate or charge shall be liable to a fine of £100. I agree with the hon. Leader of Opposition but I will suggest that the word "or pays" be deleted and the words "after due and ample warning" substituted so that it will read:

"Any person who refuses to pay or anybody who refuses to pay after due and ample warning."

(Prolonged interruptions).

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, the provision in this clause, which was referred to by Mr Awopeju, is precisely the language used in the Tax Law of this Region and in the recent amendment to the Local Government Law. It is essential that anybody who refuses, or anybody who fails, to pay should come under this penalty. It makes no difference at all, but that is precisely why we give some discretion to the Judge, or to the Court that is trying the person concerned, to impose a fine or to sentence into imprisonment and in which case I am happy that the Leader of the Opposition has said that he would not like the ordinary people of this Region to be left at the mercy of the Judges. I believe that in this Country we all feel that we are under the rule of law and that we believe that everybody will have to go to the court hoping that he is going to have justice from the court. I wonder now whether the hon. Leader of Opposition wants to substitute his own discretion. *(Interruptions).*

Chief Adeyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the fear entertained by the Leader of Opposition has been removed by the hon. Minister of Justice.

Clause 48 agreed to.

Clauses 49 to 63 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Fire Services Law.

Section 3 of the Fire Services Law which was enacted in 1960 provides that the Minister may appoint any Local Government Council which so desires, to be a Fire Authority for its area but there is no provision in the Law

for Government Fire Brigade to be appointed a Fire Authority. As honourable Members are aware, however, the only Fire Brigade in the whole Region at present is that established by the Government and therefore no Local Government Council has been appointed a Fire Authority. A situation has thus arisen whereby the powers and duties of Fire Authorities under Sections 4 to 7 and 9 to 14 of the Law remain dormant even though their exercise and performance are equally essential to the proper maintenance and functioning of the Government's own Fire Brigade. It has therefore been decided that the Law should be amended to include a new definition of "Government Fire Authority" as meaning an authority appointed by the Minister as a Government Fire Authority for a particular area; to confer upon the Minister power to make such an appointment and to provide that the functions and duties of a Fire Authority under Sections 4 to 7 and 9 to 14 may be exercised or performed also by the Government Fire Authority.

Mr Speaker, Sir, consideration has also been given to the desirability of appointing the Regional Fire Officer as a Government Fire Authority. It is clear from the provisions of Part V of the principal Law that the Regional Fire Officer was intended to perform only a supervisory and controlling role in relation to fire authorities; hence the Regional Fire Officer has powers under Section 18 to give the fire authorities directions of a general character. With respect to various matters and powers of inspection under section 19 the Fire Authority have duties under section 20 to afford him all reasonable facilities for the performance of his functions under the Law. Since, however, the Regional Fire Officer cannot exercise a supervisory and controlling role in relation to himself in his capacity as a Fire Authority it is proposed that whenever the Minister finds it necessary to appoint the Regional Fire Officer to be a Fire Authority certain provisions in Part V of the Law shall not apply in relation to that Fire Authority. The attention of honourable Members is invited to Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill containing all these amendments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, certain provisions of the Fire Services Act, 1963, No. 11 of 1963, for the Federal Territory of Lagos are considered very useful and are being incorporated in our Fire Services Law. One such provision in section 5 (c) of the Act would require an amendment to section 4 (1) (c) of our Law so that the arrangements to be made by fire authorities for assistance to be

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

rendered by fire brigades may cover not only cases of fire but also cases of other emergencies. Another provision to be found in section 21(1) of the Lagos Act would require an amendment to section 16(1) of our Law so that protection from fire could be extended to animals in distress on premises apart from persons and properties therein. These amendments are contained in Clauses 4 and 5 of the Bill.

As honourable Members are aware members of the Government Fire Brigade are civil servants, and, therefore, their appointments, promotion and disciplinary control are matters for the Public Service Commission of the Region. It follows that they can be disciplined by superior officers of the Government Fire Brigade only if the Public Service Commission delegates its power of disciplinary control to such officers. The Public Service Commission has delegated this power to the Regional Fire Officer and it is therefore necessary to bring section 21 of the Law into line with the relevant Constitutional provisions by amending that section so as to exclude members of the Government Fire Brigade from the scope of any rules that may be made thereunder in respect of the procedure or qualification for appointment or promotion, and the maintenance of discipline. Clause 6 of the Bill provides for this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I respectfully invite the attention of hon. Members to Clause 7 of the Bill which provides for the establishment of Fire Brigade Reward Funds into which shall be paid pays forfeited by Members of fire brigades for offences against discipline and all fines levied for assaults on such members and to Clause 8 which confers upon the Minister miscellaneous regulation-making powers for the proper and better carrying out of the provisions of the Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief J. O. Oshuntokun: I beg to second.
Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, I beg to move an amendment to Clause 3—

That the words “unless otherwise herein provided” in sub-section (2) of the new

clause 3A be deleted and the words “unless as otherwise herein provided” substituted therefor.

The amendment is merely to correct the grammar.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Chief Olowofoyeku: I beg to move an amendment to clause 8. In the new clause 27 (e) delete the words “and as the Regional Fire Officer may deem necessary” in lines 10 and 11.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

UNIVERSITY OF IFE (PROVISIONAL COUNCIL) (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move a Bill for a Law to amend the University of Ife (Provisional Council) Law, No. 6 of 1961. This is a non-controversial Bill and it cannot be otherwise, Sir, having regard to the fact that I am presenting it as my maiden Bill. Hon. Members are probably aware of the fact that the foundation students of the University of Ife will be entering their final year in the next Session and it is therefore necessary to arrange for the graduation of these students by making provision for the appointment of the Chancellor.

This Bill will doubtless confer a great esteem on our University. Government is quite satisfied with the progress made in the University and has provided £1,000,000 this financial year to erect the buildings on the permanent site and, in fact, the preliminary work to effect this proposal has already started.

The objects of the Bill are self explanatory. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Oba Akran: Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. E. Babatola (Ekiti North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this Side of the House would gladly have conceded to

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

the Minister the privilege of avoiding a controversy over this Bill which is the first ever he is sponsoring on the Floor of this House. But since he has brought here a Bill which calls for nothing but controversy, I think he has himself to blame. We must have to quarrel with any provision of any Bill which is discovered to be faulty.

I refer to a provision of the Bill which says that the Governor in Council may after consultation with the Provisional Council terminate the appointment of a Chancellor. One would have expected, Sir, that certain regulations should be made determining the conditions of service of a Chancellor and stipulating the circumstances under which he may be removed. It would be better than simply telling the House that the Governor in Council after consultation shall decide to terminate the appointment of a Chancellor.

The Government very cleverly made provisions which empower them to appoint their favourite as Chancellor of a University. In other words, we will always have a Chancellor who is a politician of the complexion of the ruling party in the Region. This is not conducive to academic freedom Sir, if it is possible for a Chancellor to disagree with the Government of the day, by all means, let him disagree. In matters of policy we should make provision such as will encourage the practice of freedom of learning. If this is not done, we are not doing the right thing for the country nor for the generations yet to come. Provisions of the law should not be such as will impose fear on the Chancellor and the Head of the highest place of learning in our country. We on this Side are not opposing this Bill, but we want academic freedom to be guaranteed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that this Bill, which ought to have come before the House a long time ago, should now be moved by the Minister of Education.

The office of the Chancellor of a University certainly is an office which the Head of Government, if properly elected, ought to occupy. As it is now, it still has to be decided by the electorate of this Region whether the Head of Government is properly elected or not.

But one thing is very significant today.

Mr Speaker, the Government of Western Nigeria used to be in fore front. Whereas all other Universities in other parts of the Republic have appointed their Chancellors, for reasons best known to our Friends on the

other Side they cannot appoint one for the University of Ife. We are not going to sit down in this way to appoint a Chancellor for our University. It is not in doubt that in other Regions the Heads of Governments have been appointed Chancellors of their various Universities and, even in the University of Ibadan, the Prime Minister of this Republic was appointed the Chancellor. Therefore what we want to ask is: when is the Minister going to make a proposal to appoint a Chancellor for the University of Ife? I think we should wait until the power struggle is over. The battle is raging fierce in the field and when we come face to face in the field we shall know the victor.

The other point I will like to raise, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the appointment of a Deputy Registrar. It is said that the Deputy Registrar will be appointed by the Governor in Council. I agree that the Registrar may be appointed by the Governor in Council but why should the Deputy Registrar be appointed by the Governor in Council? This should be a matter for the Provisional Council. I suppose this will not be one of the subtle attempts of providing jobs for one of the Ministers who has lost an election in his constituency. If it is the Provisional Council that will appoint the Deputy Registrar we are not going to quarrel with this Bill. We say he should be appointed by the Provisional Council which is autonomous.

I hope the Minister of Education will ask the Governor in Council to wait for some time before appointing a Chancellor who will enjoy the confidence of the masses. It will be unfair to appoint a Chancellor who will not enjoy the support of the masses and it will be sad to have to appoint a Chancellor and after say a year or two to have to remove him. So I ask Government to wait patiently until the time is ripe for an appointment to be made.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that I am exceedingly surprised at the arguments of the Leader of Opposition. He started by stating that it is too late for Ife University to have a Chancellor because all the other Universities in this Federal Republic have had their Chancellors. He said that this is because this Government is not active enough. He also referred to the question of struggle for power. May I remind the House that the Leader of Opposition was most vocal during the struggle for power. It was he who, under cover of night, allowed himself to be made Premier instead of his leader. May I say that if the struggle for power in this Region has been responsible

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

for the lateness in appointing a Chancellor the Leader of Opposition is primarily responsible for the situation.

Again the Member for Ekiti North-East II (*Chief Babatola*) said that the Opposition would not like to have a politician Chancellor. I suppose because the hon. Gentleman will always like to be associated with "First in Africa" that is why he said so. The Ahmadu Bello University in the North has the Premier of the North as the Chancellor. If I remember rightly that Premier is a politician. When the University of Nsukka was to have a Chancellor it was the then Premier of Eastern Nigeria who was made the Chancellor and he was then a politician. In the same way the Prime Minister of this Federation was appointed the Chancellor of the University of Ibadan. I also know that he is a politician. It is surprising that if all the Regions in the Federation appointed politicians as Chancellors the Opposition here are afraid that a politician may be appointed a Chancellor here. May I say that it is the intention of this Government to appoint a politician as Chancellor of the University of Ife.

The last point made by the hon. Leader of Opposition is about the Deputy Registrar. I do not think that this is quite right. If you look at the amendment to the relevant clause in this Bill it reads 'there shall be a Deputy Registrar who shall act as Secretary of the Board'. At the moment there is an office of a Secretary. This officer usually acts as Secretary of the Board. Today, there is no Registrar appointed in that University and it is necessary to have an officer who will stand in the position and who will act as Secretary of the Board. According to the existing Law the Registrar is appointed by the Governor in Council not by the Provisional Council. In addition this Provisional Council Law with its amendments is of a temporary nature and in course of time, in fact before the end of this year, the Constitution for the University will be ready and all these minor details will be incorporated. We will then bring a Bill to this House and we on this Side of the House will pass it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly ready a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

HIRE PURCHASE AND CREDIT SALES (AUTHORISATION OF PARLIAMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to confer authority upon the Federal Parliament to make Laws for Western Nigeria with respect to the Regulation of Hire Purchase and Credit Sale Agreements, and to provide for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

In asking this honourable House to agree to surrender to the Federal Parliament its legislative authority in so far as the regulation of Hire Purchase and Credit Sales is concerned, I consider it in the interest of national uniformity to have a comprehensive legislation which will have nation-wide application.

Hon. Members may perhaps remember that, as far back as 1960, the Federal Government had agreed that there was need for a law to regulate and control Hire Purchase and Credit Sales business. While it is not my intention, here, to repeat all the arguments in support of the need for a law on this subject, I will like to remind hon. Members that Hire Purchase activities in Nigeria appear likely to expand rapidly and become an important and permanent part of the country's financial structure. If properly used hire purchase can assist in the development of Nigeria's economy, and the provision of instalment credit, particularly from overseas, can be welcome in so far as it relates to capital goods such as agricultural machinery and other similar capital equipment. On the other hand, in the consumer goods field, unduly rapid expansion of hire purchase finance can produce serious effects on the economy since any significant increase in the demand for such goods may produce a consequent inflationary pressure, thus giving rise to additional strain on the balance of payments. It follows, therefore, that if a monetary policy designed to maintain stability in the national economy is to be pursued, hon. Members will agree that some system of flexible and variable control over Hire Purchase and Credit Sales is necessary.

There is another reason for the need for a law to regulate Hire Purchase and Credit Sales in this country. It is common knowledge that transactions of this type, as they are carried out today, give undue advantage to the owners while they often result in hardship

[OBA AKRAN]

to the hirers. Surely the Shylocks among the hire purchase creditors have had enough of their pounds of flesh and the time has come for these transactions to be tempered with the milk of human touch. The hire purchase legislation will provide adequate protection for hirers and owners alike. Whilst there is no doubt that owners require a reasonable degree of protection against defaulting customers, it is also important to ensure that hirers are protected from unscrupulous owners. There have been cases on record where for failure on the part of a purchaser to pay the last instalment under a hire purchase agreement, the sellers have seized the goods regardless of the fact that the purchaser had almost virtually completed payments. In the absence of a hire purchase legislation, hirers in this country will continue to be at the mercy of owners.

Under the present distribution of legislative powers as between the Federal Government and the Regions, the Federal Government can legislate on this matter for only the Federal territory. In the interest of uniformity, the Federal Government has, therefore, approached the Regional Governments to give up some of their jurisdiction so that it may legislate on such control as is now required to have a nation-wide effect. While it would be possible without too much inconvenience to the business community for Regional Governments to enact separate or identical legislations to protect hirers and owners under hire purchase transactions, it is considered desirable that measures to control hire purchase credit should be Nigeria-wide in their operation.

As Members would have observed, this Bill, if passed into law, will serve to confer upon the Federal Parliament, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 72 of the Constitution of the Federation Act, No. 20 of 1963, authority to make laws for Western Nigeria with respect to the regulation of Hire Purchase and Credit Sale agreements. The power to make laws with respect to the said matter, in relation to a Region, is vested exclusively in the Regional Legislature but may be exercised by the Federal Parliament if an enabling law, such as is here intended, is enacted under section 72 of the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill and I sincerely believe that this House will have no difficulty in passing it into law. The objective is to make for uniformity of enactment and application of the law on

Hire Purchase and Credit Sales when the time comes. Our action in this regard is not unilateral. Both the Northern and the Eastern Governments have formally expressed the willingness of their respective Governments to the proposal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief J. O. Oshuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition will not quarrel with this Bill. But I like the Minister of Finance to give an undertaking that the terms of the proposed Federal Bill will be circulated among Members of this House for all of us to have an opportunity of discussing the terms of the Bill to be laid before the Federal Parliament.

Mr J. O. Awopaju (Ijebu-Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to support this Bill and I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance and Leader of the House for this timely Bill which is, I feel, long overdue in so far as the interest of the masses of our people is concerned.

It is true that in the United Kingdom there is the Hire Purchase Act of 1938 which regulates the hire purchase transactions in that country. But in this country, the hirer and the renter are left in what could be described as the freedom of contract or the sanctity of contract, and in what the Government regards as *laissez faire* atmosphere, which is like that operating in the days of old under the Factory System—freedom between the employer and the employee without state interference. But what was the experience? It turned out to be freedom in a combat where one person holds the whip and the other man is left with no other alternative but to bow submissively to castigation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we will urge that the Bill to be passed by the Federal Government be circulated among Members of this House so that we will see and know if we can give advice or make suggestions.

Oba Akran: According to the suggestion of Members of the Opposition, when we are conveying approval to the request of the Federal Government, we shall ask that copies of their Bill be sent here for the information of Members of this House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn. (Oba C. D. Akran).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.10 p.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday, 21st April, 1964 at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 21ST APRIL, 1964

(The House met at 10.25 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

1. White Paper on the New Political Alignment in Western Nigeria—Western Nigeria Official Document No. 1 of 1964.

2. Report of the Accountant-General for the year ended 31st March, 1962—Western Nigeria Official Document No. 4 of 1964.

To lie on the Table.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Water Supply (Eruwa)

2/13. Mr Bola Olaniyan asked the Minister of Works and Transport when work will start on Eruwa Rural Water Supply project for which provision was made in the 1959-60 and 1960-61 Estimates.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works (Mr L. A. Ajimobi): The preliminary investigation has been completed for the supply of pipe-borne water to Igbo-ora, Eruwa, Lanlate, Idere, Igangan, Aiyete, Tapa, and Akeke at an estimated cost of £617,000. The scheme is at present being designed and constructional work is expected to commence on completion of the design, etc.

Roads (Ibarapa)

3/13. Mr Bola Olaniyan asked the Minister of Works and Transport when his Ministry will begin tarring Igbo-Ora-Igangan, Eruwa-Okolo Roads.

Mr L. A. Ajimobi: The tarring of the Igbo-Ora-Igangan road is not included in the current Development Plan—but the Road Feasibility Report and Economic study shortly to be undertaken might well give high priority to this road, in which case it would be included in the next Development Plan.

The Eruwa-Okolo Road is a very minor road of purely local importance and not included in the current Development Plan.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr

Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 41 (1)

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order 41 (1) be suspended this day to enable the House to take all the stages of the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill this day.

Chief A. O. Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment Sine Die

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn sine die.

Chief A. O. Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the present Meeting of this House started on the 2nd of this month and today, the 21st of April, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and sixty-four, the House has not done enough work and there is no doubt that these people ought to give services for the money they get from the coffers of the Government. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I think we are the only persons who want to prolong the Meeting of this House because we want to give service to our people. I will appeal in all seriousness that the House does not adjourn sine die.

Chief Adeyi: The hon. the Leader of Opposition is, by what he has said, inviting us to the Ileya ceremony. (Laughter).

Question put and agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Teachers

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I consider it appropriate before this honourable House adjourns sine die to pay fitting tributes to Teachers of all grades for the excellent and selfless services they have consistently rendered to this Region for many years. As hon. Members will no doubt admit, teachers

[MR OLUMOFIN]

anywhere in the world, and down through the ages, have always played a vital role in the educational, social and industrial developments of their countries by producing outstanding world figures who have benefited their countries in particular, and the world at large, by their knowledge, faith or conviction.

To come nearer home, Mr Speaker, just think of the several illustrious sons and daughters of this nation holding key positions in the public and social sectors of this land today, and then imagine what a totally different picture we would see without the far-reaching contributions their teachers had made to their education. The other day, an age-stricken man emerged from the crowd at a public function in Lagos to embrace our worthy President, exclaiming that he was the President's teacher many years ago! When the magnificent contributions our President has made to the progress of this country is considered, the value of the old man to our nation can be correctly assessed. Teachers, therefore, are not only benefactors of society but "investors in human resources", and I believe they do merit the commendation, encouragement and the gratitude of us all.

Paradoxically, however, teachers everywhere do not seem to be receiving the support which is commensurate with their efforts. At least, in this country, this has not only frustrated many teachers but has scared many talented young men and women away from the profession. Government is aware of this danger, to combat which it has resolved to go the whole "hog" in ensuring progressive improvements in the lot of these unobtrusive, but hard-working, servants of the nation, particularly the primary school teachers.

Hon. Members will surely agree with me that the past two decades have witnessed a steady improvement in the service conditions of teachers in this Region. Time there was when to be a teacher virtually amounted to social anathema and/or ostracism; time there was when teachers worked for "donkey" years without any hope of retiring benefits; and time there was also when teachers were regarded as socially inferior to civil servants and employees of commercial firms. This unhappy situation no longer exists today, thanks to increasing awareness by Government of its responsibilities towards the teaching class. I venture to assure this honourable House and all teachers in this Region that Government is resolved to ensure that the hopeful, steady and upward trend in teachers' service conditions will continue.

I salute all our primary school teachers through whose untiring efforts the Free Primary Education Scheme in this Region has continued to be a model to others in the country. With the inception of the scheme their duties have increased both in scope and complexity; but notwithstanding, they have produced results far surpassing all expectations. Particularly, I commend those of them working in lonely and out-of-the-way villages where the basic amenities of modern life are totally absent. I want them to take cheer in the thought that their Region places great value on their selfless services and they should have hope that in due course their labours would be rewarded abundantly.

I also salute all teachers of our Secondary Modern, and Secondary Grammar, Schools for their notable contributions to the educational advancement of the country; and last, but, by no means, the least, I commend all teachers associated with our Teacher Training Colleges for superbly discharging the all-important, though onerous, task of producing teachers saddled with the duty of shaping the thoughts, conduct and life of our future generations. In so far as the achievements of teachers are concerned I think I can, with some measure of confidence and justification say, like Winston Churchill: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few".

Notwithstanding the praises I have already showered on teachers, I must warn them all that they are still to reach the zenith of their efficiency. They should, therefore, endeavour to improve on their present performances by steering clear of malpractices like absenteeism, inadequate sense of responsibility, fraudulent practices and materialistic tendencies which do militate against improved standards. I am not suggesting that all teachers are guilty of these lapses, but all those who are genuinely interested in the progress of this Region should assist the "black sheep in the fold" to shed their faults as otherwise our great hopes for the future may be bedevilled.

Once again, I salute and congratulate the teachers who have done so well and so much for the Region; and I hope that their contributions would be appreciated by generations yet unborn.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

By the Minister of Lands and Housing:—

Housing Corporation—A Bill for a Law further to amend the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation Law, Cap. 130: *read the First time; to be read a Second time immediately.*

**WESTERN NIGERIA HOUSING
CORPORATION (AMENDMENT)
(No. 2) BILL—SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to further amend the Housing Corporation Law.

Earlier during the Meeting this Law was amended to give the Housing Corporation wider powers in its borrowing power, that is, to increase the borrowing power of the Corporation from two million pounds to fifteen million pounds.

As a follow up to this, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Corporation will be able to use the money for the greater services of the Region, and as a result, the Corporation intends to participate in two subsidiary Companies. Mr Speaker, Sir, the purposes of these Companies are: first, to have a Construction Company separate from the Housing Corporation and, second, to have a Mortgage Company in the form of a Mortgage Loan Society as in England.

This is done because when the Corporation gives out money now it has to wait for as long as fifteen years to get back the money so loaned out. If this Bill is passed into law the Housing Corporation will be able to realise the money that may be loaned to private individuals to build houses. If the Construction Company builds, the Mortgage Company will have to refund the money loaned to individuals to the Housing Corporation. Apart from that private investors will be able to participate in the present activities of the Corporation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very surprising to see this type of Bill here this morning. It was only recently we were called upon to endorse a Bill so as to give power to the Housing Corporation in respect of its loan business. The Minister did not tell us that another Bill would be introduced during this Meeting to further amend the Housing Corporation Law. This is an attempt by the Government to put the borrowers, who have not been able to pay their money, into the hands of private companies. They know it will not speak well of the Government

or the Housing Corporation itself to be dragging those who borrowed money to court, so they want to hand such business to private companies.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no need to rush this Bill. I do not see anything which is urgent in this Bill. The present arrangement means that they want to surrender the right of the Corporation to these two companies so that if they do not like the look of anybody on this Side of the House, then it is the company that will take action. And if you shout to the Corporation they will say it is not the business of the Corporation but that of the so-called companies. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is very dangerous to pass this Bill and I appeal through you to the Minister who should appeal to his Colleagues to defer this Bill even for at least six months. I am sure the table will soon turn and in the course of six months from now those of them on the Government Benches will be here and when we take over the Government we shall be in a position to put matters right.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in order not to waste the time of the House further, I would expressly ask the Minister to give more details about the establishment of these subsidiary Companies. There is nothing bad if the intention is to attract foreign loans to the Region but as I see things now there is a sinister move here to embarrass and to drive private borrowers into the hands of these companies who may come to the Region to play the part of Shylocks. Anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill ought to be deferred; there is nothing urgent in it.

The Minister of State (Economic Planning and Community Development) (Chief S. A. Layonu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill to further amend the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition has given a great misinterpretation to the Bill. All that the Bill seeks to do is just to empower the Housing Corporation to attract more money into the Region so that those people who cannot now afford it will have the opportunity to build; so that some of them on the Opposition Benches who have not got the opportunity to build may have the money ready to build houses.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not that the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation finds it difficult to give loans, but the reason is that during the Action Group regime the members of the Housing Corporation abused the privilege in that loans were given only to people who

[CHIEF LAYONU]

were not able to fulfil the conditions demanded. But now that we have a stable Government, under the regime of well-skilled men, planners and those who have the interest of the Region at heart, I assure you, Sir, that foreign investors are now prepared to come to the Region in order to help us because they know that the arrogant Action Group Government is no more.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Opposition got up to oppose this Bill, or to ask for the Bill to be deferred, when as a matter of fact there are so many people from my constituency, his constituency, and from all parts of the Region, even from Ibarapa, Iperu and Ogere, who would run to the Corporation to get money to build houses. So in the interest of the masses, in the interest of progress, I have to support this Bill and I appeal to the Leader of the Opposition to support it too.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola):

Mr Speaker Sir, I only rise to allay some of the fears to which references have been made in the course of the contribution of the hon. Leader of Opposition on this Debate.

I overheard him say that this Bill is a clever device to embarrass those people who are indebted to the Housing Corporation. May I assure all Sides of the House that this is not so at all. It is not the intention of Government to embarrass anyone. If anyone is indebted to the Housing Corporation, I do not think that there is anything extraordinary in it. The original intention of the Government is that the Housing Corporation should neutralise credits so that all those who are willing may be able to own their own houses and the intention of this Bill is to confirm this principle. If anyone here is owing the Housing Corporation, he should not entertain any fear at all. If anyone received any money from the Housing Corporation, the money was paid to him under a definite agreement and he is under an obligation to fulfil his own part of the bargain, and if he does not fulfil his own part of the bargain, I am quite sure that the Minister may be in a mood to receive representations from the borrower if, for one reason or the other, he may not be in a position to pay promptly. I do not think that the Corporation will gain anything by dragging to court all the defaulters whether they have good reasons for failing to pay or not. The fact is that the fewer the defaulters we have in the Region, the better. The fewer the number of people dragged to court by the Housing Corporation the better.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is not a pleasure to any Side of this House to hear the name of any hon. Member of this House being mentioned in any suit as a debtor. I assure Members, whether they are in the Opposition or whether they are on the side of the Government, it does not enhance the prestige of this Region for the name of any Member to be seen in the newspapers as having been sued to court for debt. Anything to prevent that would be done by the Government, whether the borrower is on the Opposition side or on this side of the House. After all, both of us are jointly responsible for the good name of this Region, for maintaining the reputation of this Region and for enhancing the prestige of anyone who is described as an hon. Member of this House. I assure you that if anyone is in difficulty at all and he has reasonable grounds why he has not been able to pay his money promptly, let him make approach to the Minister and, I am sure, the Minister is going to give sympathetic consideration to whatever approaches are made to him.

Secondly, the purpose of this Bill is in pursuance of the original decision already taken on the Floor of this House. The hon. Leader of Opposition said that the Minister earlier on approached the House for an enabling law which will empower the Corporation to raise a loan of up to about £15 million. If a loan of £15 million is raised, how is it going to be spent? Should we not provide machinery to ensure its efficient use and its effective use so that it goes to every part of the Region? That is the purpose of this Law, to allow the Corporation to set up Companies which the Corporation may own wholly, or which it may own in co-operation with others. If there are Building Societies for instance, if there are Construction Companies for instance, why cannot the Housing Corporation be a joint owner of such a construction company? Why can it not subscribe and become a shareholder in a construction company? After all these Construction Companies will also be for the Housing Corporation. If there is a Mortgage Company which will advance money to people, why cannot the Housing Corporation be either the owner of the Mortgage firm or be part owner of that firm?

May I unravel one secret again; those of them who are afraid that they may be sued or that this may be used as a camouflage to embarrass them should find solace in this Bill. Why does the Corporation sue? Because the Corporation has no money. Why is it strict? Because it is running out of funds.

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If £15 million is forthcoming and all these subsidiary companies are established, the Corporation will be in funds and those of them now being harassed will have the opportunity of a bit of relief, so this should give them a relief rather than embarrassment and I see no reason why we should defer the passing of this particular Bill.

It has been said that demand notes have been sent to people who are owing the Housing Corporation. Demand notes are sent indiscriminately. They are sent to all those who owe when the time of payment is due. Anyone who owes on this Side of the House also receives demand notes, have they not? (*Government Benches: They have.*) And if the people on the Opposite side owe, they will receive demand notes because those who send these demand notes are not members of the Government, they are officials and they only turn to the agreement and when the time is due to pay, they send a gentle reminder. (*Opposition Benches: A gentle reminder?*) Yes, they send a gentle reminder to demand the payment of the money which is due. After all, that money does not belong to the Members of the Government alone; it is our money, it is the money of the entire people of the Region. Everyone should therefore try to pay back whatever he receives and if there is any good reason why he cannot pay promptly, I assure him that the Minister will be sympathetic and he will be given the opportunity of repaying at the earliest possible time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. Ogundiran: I do not think that I can give a better or more fitting reply than that which the hon. Premier has given but I will like to add one thing. Although, the loan may not be here as the hon. Leader of Opposition has said, but I can assure him that it is on its way here. (*Cheers*) I would like to remind the Leader of Opposition that when I was the Minister of Home Affairs I had the privilege of passing a law limiting the powers of money-lenders in this Region, so that it would not be correct to say that this Government is passing a Law to drive the citizens of this Region into the hands of Shylocks. We do not encourage people to skin others. That is not the intention of Government. The intention of Government, on the contrary, is to save the people of this Region from Shylocks. When there is plenty of money, more houses will be built and this will create better employment opportunities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of Provincial Administration, and the appointment and functions of Provincial Commissioners for Provinces in Western Nigeria, and for any other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

The aims and objects of this Bill are clearly set out on the last page of the Printed Bill, copies of which are now in the hands of hon. Members.

If we cast our minds back through the colonial days of our history until the present, hon. Members would recognise the system of Administration envisaged in drafting this new Law as a natural stage arrived at by process of evolution. It is blending together the successful products of a series of experiments in administration in order to create a form of government which would confer maximum benefits on the people with minimum strains on the machinery engaged in producing the results.

In the recent past, that is, up to the time that this country became independent, the whole of the Federation was divided into large administrative units which were designated provinces. Each province was then administered as one unit with a senior official as co-ordinator of the activities of a number of subordinate officials, each of whom was assigned specific duties in a specific area. The senior official was then designated "Resident". He was the link between the entire people within his sphere of influence and the Central or the Regional Administration.

The critics of this system of administration were divided into two schools of thought. One school felt, firstly, that a Province was too large an administrative unit for efficient organisation; secondly that the minority

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units within the Province, apart from losing their respective identities, would easily be deprived of their rights of self-determination. This school of thought favoured division into smaller units which would be independent of one another, and, because of the smallness of their sizes, easier and more compact to administer.

The second school of thought believed that division into smaller units would result in uneconomic fragmentation in that they would be unable to operate independently certain essential services. Their independent existence would also not make for unity and cohesion.

The views of those in favour of division into smaller units for reasons of having independence and rights of self-determination prevailed until they realised that this process did lead to uneconomic fragmentation and created social and sociological problems in which people belonging to the same social, cultural, ethnic or family group were divided arbitrarily. In the process of this division many of the historic, traditional, and cultural links were broken. Areas that could conveniently be administered as one compact and undivided unit were carved into several isolated and independent compartments. In the process a good deal of damage was done to the original traditional spirit of unity and co-operation. The need for re-orientation of ideas was very soon felt.

A compromise between the two schools of thought was introduced in the form of Divisional Councils. The jurisdiction of a Divisional Council, as hon. Members know, extends over a political Division, and includes responsibility for the administration of Education, Chieftaincy and Health matters, Customary Courts, and so on. In the same area there exist smaller Councils like the District Councils or Local Councils which feed the Divisional Councils by way of precepts and exercise functions which are not the responsibility of Divisional Councils. How far did this halfway house last? How strong was it?

In actual practice, however, the above compromise became unacceptable. The smaller units again agitated, and a large number of them contracted out of the Divisional Councils. Of the eleven original Divisional Councils in Western Nigeria (the present Western Nigeria) only four now appear to be intact. Majority of these, if not all the four, are now suffering for lack of funds. In fact, hardly can any one of the four claim to be performing its functions efficiently. The others have either completely disintegrated

or are still disintegrating and have ceased to serve the whole Division which gives them their names. The original fear entertained, of uneconomic fragmentation, has turned out to be a reality. The Government has been unable to maintain close contact with the people as it would wish and the precarious existence of the Councils themselves is causing it serious concern.

The reasons given by the advocates for the breaking up of Divisional Councils should be mentioned because of their relevance to the case being made for the setting up of a Provincial Administration as proposed in the Bill which is about to be passed into Law. The critics of the Divisional Councils contend that—

(i) The constituent units of the Divisional Council are not satisfied that the amount spent on the development of their areas is commensurate with the amount of precepts demanded by the Divisional Council.

(ii) The method of assessing the precepts payable was unacceptable to the Councils. The precepts were, therefore, either not paid at all or most grudgingly paid.

(iii) The overhead charges for administration by the Divisional Council were, in the opinion of the District Councils, excessive, having regard to the question of services rendered.

(iv) The Divisional Council, intended to be a unifying and co-ordinating force, so far proved an unsuccessful administrative experiment.

Referring again to the system of Provincial Administration in the Colonial days, the Resident presided over a Provincial organisation which provided a forum for communal efforts, and for representatives from the different parts of the Province to discuss and suggest schemes for such development as the Central Government or the Regional Government was disposed to undertake in the area. He was also an *ex-officio* member of the Legislature. He was, therefore, able to act as a link between the Central or Regional Government and the people in the remote parts of the country.

The teams representing the constituent areas of a Province offered and stimulated healthy rivalry with each other. An area did not want the other to excel in responding to Government appeal. The Resident, who sat with the people, saw with his own eyes which area was getting slack, and applied the necessary stimulant to ensure that it kept up with the others. He was, with the co-operation of the

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Obas, the chiefs and his own officials, fully informed of the process of tax collection, and he made sure that the level of taxation did not fall below the level of previous years. Whatever might be the defects of the Colonial system it ensured the continuous forward and backward flow of information between the Government and the people, so that they understood each other perfectly well. In those days the ramifications of the activities of the Government were not so wide as to bear comparison with what they are at present.

The old Resident, within the framework of the then Provincial Administration, also rendered yeoman service by promptly playing the role of a peace maker in local disputes, which, if not nipped in the bud, could develop into major crisis that would then have to engage the attention of the Government and result in a lot of waste of public funds. When relieved of the responsibility for coping with local petty squabbles, and minor disputes, the Government was free to attend to the more serious affairs of the people. Under the old provincial system, a large volume of detailed administrative work was done in the fields under the direction of the Resident or his representative, thus leaving the headquarters to face or undertake major administrative duties.

In the main, the Provincial Commissioner, for which this Bill provides, with the assistance of carefully selected senior and other officials, would be expected to discharge the same functions, if even in advisory capacity, as the Resident. I imagine some critics pointing fingers at me and suggesting that I am trying to revive some of the relics of colonialism. (*Chief Babatola: Anticipation*). (*Laughter*). This certainly is not the intention of this Bill. As Shakespeare says: "There is a soul of goodness, even in things evil". The provisions of this Bill take out the best of the old system and modify them so that they may fit into modern concepts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I repeat, quoting from the objects and reasons as set out in this Bill:—

"The Bill when enacted into law, would have the effect of bringing the people closer to the Government by establishing in their midst (I repeat, in their midst) a machinery capable of ascertaining on the spot and very readily the social, educational, economic and other needs of the people, and bringing such needs to the notice of the appropriate Government authority for action". (*Hear, hear*).

It is proposed to appoint people with matured experience to these posts, and with the co-operation of the Obas, the Chiefs and the people of the areas, perform duties which would relieve the Ministers of certain comparatively minor responsibilities, and leave them free to concentrate on major national or regional issues. (*Hear, hear*).

It may be argued that the Local Government Advisers exist to do precisely these things. The functions of the Local Government Advisers are advisory, they do not exercise half the influence of the most junior Assistant District Officer under the old colonial system. Through no fault of their own, they are not as effective as they ought to be. But, with the new set up, the Local Government Adviser, now to be called a Provincial Secretary, will become more useful and more effective.

What will make him more useful? What will make him more effective? Since the Provincial Commissioner will be the representative of the Government, and will have the status of a Minister in an area, he will be clothed with greater authority and dignity than even a Resident. The other officers of Government serving under him will reflect his authority and dignity, thereby enhancing their effectiveness and usefulness in the field.

The set-up will not interfere or usurp the functions of local Councils. Rather it will have the effect of unifying them, fostering a greater degree of co-operation among them, and assisting them in administering the common services which are beyond the means of a single Local Council or a group of small Local Councils to organise and run.

There are undertakings, ventures or projects, which on the faces of their feasibility can only be taken up by a reasonable number of local councils put together. Institutions like the Local Government Police Force, which are provincial in their set-up, have now to rely on make shift arrangements. Major Trade and Vocational Training Centres, and such like, can only be effectively undertaken by administrative units larger than the existing Local or Divisional Councils. There is, therefore, a great need for the establishment of larger administrative units, competent by reason of their sizes and resources to undertake services of common concern. The intention of this Bill is to bring such an administrative unit into existence. By this we will be able to evolve a method of giving joint assistance to a provincial institution, which at present seems to be nobody's baby. (*Hear, hear*).

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Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, the aims and objects of this Bill are clearly set out on the last page of the printed Bill, copies of which are now in the hands of hon. Members.

Apart from this, the system of Provincial Administration, which the Bill seeks to introduce, has been in operation in other parts of the Federation. It has proved a great success in the North. The East has no reason to regret its introduction. Those who are acquainted with the system, including hon. Members of this House, have been speaking in high praise of it. Now that we are satisfied that the experiment has proved a success in other parts of the Federation, where administrative problems are similar to ours, the adoption of the system in this Region has not come a moment too soon. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence and that of the hon. Members to invite attention to some of the high-lights of this Bill. Under the proposed law, the Governor in Council shall have the power to appoint one Provincial Commissioner for each Province. Power is also conferred on the Governor in Council to determine the tenure of office of Provincial Commissioners, as well as their remunerations, allowances, and other conditions of service. Because of the high degree of responsibility which will devolve on the Commissioners, it is proposed that these conditions of service should not in any way be inferior to those of the Ministers of this Region. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if a Member of the House of Assembly of the Region were to be appointed a Provincial Commissioner, the Bill provides that he would not thereby automatically become disqualified for election to the House or for continued membership thereof by virtue of the provisions of sections 8 (1) (e) and 12 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, which state as follows:

"8. (1) No person shall be qualified for election to the House of Assembly—

(e) save as otherwise provided by the Legislature of the Region, if he is a member of the public service of the Region, the public service of the Federation or the public service of another Region, a member of the armed forces of the Federation or the holder of any other office of emolument under the state;"

"12. (1) A member of the House of Assembly shall vacate his seat in the House—

(b) if any other circumstances arise that, if he were not a Member of the

House, would cause him to be disqualified for election as such under sub-section (1), (2) or (3) of section 8 of this Constitution".

Mr Speaker, Sir, the proposed law also confers power on the Governor in Council to prescribe the powers, duties and responsibilities of Provincial Commissioners, *vis-a-vis* other Government authorities and the procedure and manner in which they shall discharge their functions.

This new set-up will ensure closer liaison between the people and the Government. On the one hand, a Resident Commissioner will learn at first hand of the needs of the people in the area, which he will collate and communicate regularly to the Governor in Council through the appropriate Minister. On the other hand, he will be expected to interpret directly to the people in his area of administration the implications of any new proposals of Government in so far as they affect the people. Experience has shown that whilst the above functions constitute a part of the duties of a Minister, in practice he is so bogged down at headquarters with his day-to-day duties and responsibilities, that he is unable to have much direct contact with the people and discharge these functions efficiently. The proposed system would, therefore, promote better understanding and mutual respect between the Government and the people it governs. Since each would know what the other wants or is thinking, then with the meeting of minds, it should not be difficult to find satisfactory solutions to the various problems; educational, economic or social, confronting the Region. The Provincial Commissioner will be resident within his sphere of influence.

As you all know very well, and as I said earlier on, under the existing administrative arrangements, Divisional Councils are no longer as attractive as they appeared at the beginning. Many groups which formed the Councils are now opting out. People in small areas are agitating for independent Councils of their own. As long as they are capable of fulfilling certain minimum conditions, the Government defers to their wishes and sets up the Councils. The Leader of Opposition, when he was Minister of Local Government, had the distinction of dissolving most of the councils. *(interruptions)*. I should like to add, of course, that they were hacked out under my Premiership. *(Laughter)*. This fragmentation has deprived the various communities of the opportunity for concerted action, of the opportunity of getting together in order to pursue schemes of mutual benefits

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to one another. The proposed new system lends itself to the promotion of industrial schemes and other projects requiring major communal efforts. The tendency to fragmentation, with the inevitable handicaps and disadvantages which follow in its wake, which has become the feature of the present set-up, is being replaced once again by a living unifying force in the form of the proposed Provincial Administration. While in Local Councils, large or small, the people can still exercise their rights of self determination, and deal with matters exclusively domestic, the Provincial Administration would provide them, in co-operation and in concert with their neighbours in other areas, opportunity to work together programmes of common concern.

The proposed set-up is not intended to destroy the Local Councils. It is, in fact, a useful machinery to assist them. It will, in effect, whittle down the disadvantages of fragmentation arising from the division of an area into a number of small administrative units.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are having once more the opportunity of falling in step with what is happening in other parts of the Federation. Experience is teaching us to appreciate that nothing can be gained by being the odd man out. We are not, of course, following the others blindly, but at the same time we are not blind to the advantages which are enjoyed by those who adopt the system that we are now planning to embrace in Western Nigeria.

I have enumerated some of these advantages earlier on, but I will mention one more to dispel any further doubts that some honourable Members may still be entertaining. Today we are clamouring for common services, such as Water, Local Government Police Forces, Electricity and such like overlapping Services, which no one single Council can afford alone to undertake and administer efficiently. The proposed Provincial Council, on which would be fully represented the people and various interests all over the province, would discharge these functions to the satisfaction of all concerned, and with the least strains to the small councils.

The Provincial Commissioners who would be in charge of the provincial administration would be men of ability, experience and integrity. (*Hear, hear*). They would possess all the qualities of efficient Public Relations Consultants. I would expect them to be men with a reasonable measure of administrative experience and ability. Above all, they

would be men imbued with a sense of mission.

May I here anticipate some critics opposite me? Provincial Administration is not set up, in the often repeated language of the Opposition, "to find job for the boys". It is intended to provide service for the people of Western Region. (*Hear hear*). I know some people on both Sides of this honourable House who are eminently qualified for appointment as Provincial Commissioners. In order to accommodate them, a provision has been made in this Bill to exempt them from disqualification as members of this honourable House by reason of their accepting office as Provincial Commissioners. My Friends opposite, as well as those who are on this Side of the House, may forward their applications to the appropriate quarters. No one is debarred. No one will be disqualified by reason of his political alignment. Every Provincial Commissioner is, however, expected, not only to associate himself with Government policies and practices, but also to interpret them loyally and sincerely to the people. All those who are prepared to accept this responsibility are welcome.

Arrangement may be made whereby some of the Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries may become Provincial Commissioners. I do not want to be misunderstood. Provincial Commissioners would not be drawn exclusively from the membership of the House of Assembly. Eminent and highly qualified people who are not legislators may also be appointed. This, I assure this honourable House, will be done in a spirit of impartiality.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not think that anyone is more qualified, by reason of his experience, ability and association with the governmental procedure of this country, to be a Provincial Commissioner than My Friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I can assure him that if he is willing to take up the appointment, he will have it. I also know a few of my Friends opposite, especially the hon. Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*), who is an efficient worker, as I have had the opportunity of working with him before, and I know that he is highly qualified for this appointment and if he is willing to undertake it, his application will be considered. Mr Speaker, Sir, having carefully studied the *curriculum vitae* of the hon. Member for Ijebu-Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*) I have no doubt that he possesses the requisite qualifications for this job and that he will be an efficient Provincial Commissioner. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, in so far as this Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of

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Provincial Administration and the appointment and functions of Provincial Commissioners for Provinces in Western Nigeria, and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith is designed to facilitate the work of the Government in the discharge of its responsibility to the people of this Region and enhance its efficiency, and confer such great benefits on every one as I have explained briefly in moving this Second Reading of the Bill, I do not consider it to be a controversial or contentious legislation. The ideal we set before ourselves, is to strengthen the link between the Government and the people of Western Nigeria on behalf of whom the Government is functioning. The people, wherever they may be, must know, from time to time, what the Regional Government is doing on their behalf. The Government, on the other hand, must be kept fully informed of the feelings, aspirations and yearnings of the people. The purpose of this Bill is, therefore, to establish in Western Nigeria an Informed Democracy.

This Bill, I repeat, is not contentious. I therefore, call on all the hon. Members of this House to support it, and support it wholeheartedly.

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

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise on behalf of the Opposition to oppose this Bill.

May I ask you, Mr Speaker, Sir, to be a bit patient with us as, because of the nature of this Bill, honourable Members of this Side of the House will like to have a full Debate on it. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that on my part I shall see to it that Members on this Side do not repeat themselves unnecessarily and also that they do not waste your time.

I say we oppose this Bill for reasons which will be enumerated later. If I may take the honourable the Premier on his words because I knew, when the Bill was first put on the Order Paper, that he would start by saying 'we are falling in line with other parts of the Republic', I think this is the second or third time this Bill has appeared on the Order Paper and therefore it gives nobody any other impression than that the Government itself has not made up its mind with the contents of the Bill. In any event, we are here faced with the Bill again at its final stages, but there are certain things for consideration before we accept or reject the

Bill.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is true that in the North and in the East, Provincial Administration has been set up and it should not have mattered for the same system to be introduced in Western Nigeria; but, do you believe, Mr Speaker, that circumstances in Western Nigeria are not the same as in either the North or East? While normal circumstances prevail in the North and East, the same cannot be said of Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker Sir, take your approved Estimate for 1964-65—if you have no copy here, I will supply you with one—and look at Head 321 up to Head 339, that is, Ministry of Works and Transport. You will find in every Ministry the figures embodied in the Estimate and I will quote. Mr Speaker Sir, on the Government Benches there you have fifty-seven Members belonging to the NNDP including the Speaker. (*Government Benches: We are fifty-eight*). There are four vacancies in the House. Of these fifty-seven, Mr Speaker, Sir, and throughout the Heads of Estimates you have fifty of them already holding one post of Minister or another. There are thirty-one Ministers including six Chiefs from the House of Chiefs—so that we have twenty-five Ministers in the House of Assembly. There are nineteen Parliamentary Secretaries. There is a Mr Speaker; there is the Deputy Speaker; there are two Government Chief Whips; there are two Government Whips all totalling fifty. (*Government Benches: There is a Clerk of the House and his Assistants*). The Clerk of the House and his Assistants are civil servants and therefore they do not come under the purpose of my intention. (*Government Benches: What of the Sergeant-at-Arms*). If you have fifty-seven Members on the Government Benches and already fifty Members of the total are holding offices, I am sure you will not say that circumstances under which we live in Western Nigeria are exactly the same as those obtaining either in the North or in the East. If people have no sense of shame that is their business (*Interruptions*). I understand that in the North we have twenty-one Ministers and in the East nineteen Ministers but here you are, with a complement of ninety Members in the House, fifty seven on the other Side and the remainder on this Side, they bring forward a proposal like this with a view to appointing Provincial Commissioners and the status, according to the Premier, will be identical to that of a Minister of State. Having observed that all the Members on the Government Benches of this House will hold one office of Government or the other and yet the

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number of Provincial Commissioners might not have been complete, the Premier cleverly added that the Government will have powers under the Bill to appoint Commissioners from outside this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I consider that the introduction of this Bill at this time is most inopportune. I think we ought to have cut down the number of Ministers in this Region instead of devising clever means to further increase the number. We have inundated the whole Region with Ministers: Ministers with Portfolios, Ministers without Portfolios, Ministers in the Ministries and a host of them. What are they doing now? Look at the whole lot of them—everybody is a Minister—what are they doing? (*prolonged interruptions*). We in this Region, Mr Speaker, Sir, cannot afford the luxury of this army of Ministers yet on top of it we have the introduction of the Provincial Commissioners.

We have been told under clause 3 of the Bill that a Member of the House can be a Commissioner; that would not disqualify him from membership of the House. We know this is how it will be because it is only a means of providing job for the boys.

And if you look at clause 5, sub-clause 3 of the Bill, you will see the unreasonableness of the Bill. You will see clearly that this is another Local Government Council set-up. There it says—

“There shall be a President of every Provincial Council who shall be an Oba appointed by the Governor in Council from among the members of the Provincial Council, and who shall preside at meetings of the Provincial Council on ceremonial occasions and shall have such other functions as the Governor in Council may, subject to the provisions of this Law, by order prescribe”.

Then go to clause 5 sub-sections 2 and 2 (a). It says:

“(2) Every Provincial Council shall consist of—

(a) the Provincial Commissioner for the province, who shall be the chairman;”

On top of that we are going to have an Oba who is going to be President. That is another Local Government Council. You are saying the Provincial Commissioner will be in direct contact with the people, able to resolve ugly situations on the spot and report to the Minister in Ibadan. Here you link up the Oba and, if I take your Province for instance, Mr Speaker, Ijebu Province, is it going to be the Akarigbo who is going to be

President of the Provincial Council for Ijebu Province or is it going to be the Awujale? (*Interruptions*). As you all know, Mr Speaker, the Akarigbo of Ijebu-Remo certainly is an Oba in his own right and if it comes to parading on ceremonial occasions I cannot imagine who is going to beat the other between him and the Awujale of Ijebu-Ode.

Chief Akintola: There is no controversy as to seniority between the Awujale and the Akarigbo.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I think Mr Speaker is the best person to answer that question.

Mr Speaker: I know they are both senior. (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we cannot afford, at this stage in Western Nigeria, a new Local Government set up.

If you go down again you will find under this very Clause:

“(5) There shall be paid to every member of a Provincial Council, other than the chairman, such allowances as the Governor in Council may determine”.

This is another ladder in the local government system and they are going to impose this system on us involving payment of allowances to Secretaries and to members of these Councils. I ask you again, Mr Speaker, can we afford the expenses at this time?

I see, Mr Speaker, that when introducing the Bill, the Premier indicated that the Local Government Advisers as at present will be posted as Secretaries to the various Provincial Councils. Then I ask, why, in all honesty, do they not scrap the system of Local Government Advisers; why the duplication? But Local Government Advisers took over the functions and the former responsibilities of Residents and they were responsible direct to the Government of the Region. And to these civil servants I think merit must be given for doing precisely what the Government of this Region would like anyone of them to do. That is to steer the ship of State in all local authority areas and also to bring first-hand information, accurate and reliable ones, to the notice of Government; but now they are going to make these Local Government Advisers, Secretaries of Provincial Councils. They no longer will have influence, they no longer will have a voice in the direction and determination of policies of the glorified Local Councils but the Provincial Council will assume those powers and functions, and in the end we are going to

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find that, it does not matter what way they put men into these Councils, the problems will come back to Government and there will be a lot of complication.

That is one of the reasons why I say the time is not opportune for us to introduce this Bill. If the time is favourable, we on this Side will not oppose the introduction of the system. I do say, in order to save the finances of this Region, that the Bill should be deferred at least for some time so that we all can be on our feet. I think the Bill is not ripe for introduction into this honourable House.

Before I close, because I would like to give my Colleagues on this Side, opportunity of saying a few words and of making some other points which appear to them obnoxious in this Bill, as indicated earlier, Mr Speaker Sir, we oppose this Bill because we feel the time is not yet ripe for the introduction of the Bill.

The last point which I will make in respect of these Local Government Advisers is that Government should have a second-thought over this Bill. To divest the Local Government Advisers of their statutory functions simply in the name of politics will do a lot of damage to the stability of the Government of this Region. It does not matter how these people get into power, the Government is the Government of the Region, and we must see to it that the Government discharges its functions to the best interest of the people of this Region. But to divest the Local Government Advisers of their functions which are statutory, I think, will do a lot of harm and will impede the progress and smooth running of administration in this Region. I would urge very seriously that Government should leave the Local Government Advisers alone to run the affairs of the various Provinces. In some cases one Local Government Adviser may be in charge of more than one Province, and it is to their credit that they have been able so far to satisfy Government, that they are the ears and eyes of the Government of the Region, and that on no occasion has it been brought to the public that any Local Government Adviser has so deflected in his functions as to get himself involved in local politics. (*Hear, hear*). But once he becomes a Secretary, he has to be kicked about by the order of the Commissioner, who may be a Minister in the Ministry or a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry and so on and so forth. This man, helpless and unfortunately incapacitated, will have to dance to the tune of these politicians. The less politics played into this affair, the better for us all it will be, and I will urge the Government to hold on this Bill for a while,

let the Premier bring the Bill later; the time is unripe.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill and to support the Amendment. It is high time we check this corrupt Government's hypocrisy. It is the common cry . . . (*prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I disallow the honourable Member from continuing to speak because he is speaking on an Amendment which is not before the House. (*Laughter*).

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. The Bill is a Bill of discrimination; it is most obnoxious. The fact that other Regions like the North and the East have passed it does not detract a jot from its being obnoxious. That very fact made it worse than it would otherwise have been. 'Thou shalt not follow multitude to do evil', says the Holy Writ. But after we shall have told them of the enormity in the present course of action they are taking and they refuse, as I am certain they are going to do, we shall be innocent and be free from the guilt and the guilt shall rest squarely on their heads and the heads of their children after them—the guilt of squandermania of public funds; the guilt of oppression and suppression; the guilt of blackmail and of persecution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when our brethren of the Eastern Region were introducing this Bill a few years ago, those who are now seeking the approval of this House for it were most vociferous in condemning the Eastern Region. They accused the Eastern Government of the most heinous act any Government could be guilty of. Today the same people shamelessly bring the same Bill before us, seeking our approval. We shall not give it. They would use their majority to pass it but if they stubbornly pass it without heeding our warning and withdrawing it, they would be tolling their death knell. I warn them to withdraw the Bill now. I ask that this Bill be withdrawn because if it is passed into law and put into law operation it would prove a great and incalculable danger to the economy of this Region and a great threat to the prosperity of the people of this Region more than any person can now imagine.

In this House are left eighty-nine Members. Of these thirty-two are in the Opposition. The remaining fifty-seven are on the side of the Government—people who belong to a Party unknown to the electorate of the

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Region. Out of these fifty-seven, about forty-three are Ministers or Junior Ministers; four are Government Whips leaving about ten only without office. From these five or six Commissioners are going to be appointed; and these are to be of the rank of Ministers. In effect, it comes to this: that every Member on the Government Benches is of the rank of a Minister or a Junior Minister drawing fantastic salaries and allowances, living in luxury and grandeur while the tax payers find it difficult to make two ends meet. It will be a good thing if the salaries of the Members of this House be reduced drastically, say to £600, and those of the Ministers to £2,000.

Many who have children in Secondary Schools find it difficult, if not impossible, to pay their fees. These who have children in modern Schools have to withdraw them because they have no money to pay their fees. Children who pass out of Secondary Schools roam about the streets without work for them. Secondary Modern School leavers abound in thousands all over the Region without any hope of work to do. Yet the Premier, the Deputy Premier and their Ministers never sit down to rack their brains about the plight of these poor innocent people. They never think of the plight of their parents.

What concerns our Government? Is it not how to find job for every Legislator on their Side that they might have money to propagate the NNDP? Every Legislator on the Government Bench must have a post! He must be a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary or a Commissioner. Even if the community dies of want, it does not matter as long as they remain in office even if the world goes to blazes. No matter what we do they would forget; they would vote for us. Richard Akinjide has said "The average African tends towards where power is... Why not stay with the devil that I know than to go to the one I do not know". This is the ideology of the NNDP. Therefore they do not care for the general public and their feelings. Richard Akinjide, (*Mr Layonu: Mr Akinjide is not a Member of this House*) and all like him in the NNDP, would soon discover their error to their utter chagrin.

In effect this Government is adding five or six Ministries to the existing fifteen or more Ministries. Tomorrow if they found that the spread of the NNDP is not fast enough they would appoint Assistant Commissioners to every Province to enable every Dick and Jack in the Government to become

a Minister and a propaganda secretary for the NNDP.

As things stand now the appointment of these Commissioners, Provincial Councils, their secretaries and members; their salaries and allowances would cost the tax payers of this Region an enormous sum of money in the neighbourhood of about half a million pounds or more, money needed for the establishment of industries to provide work for school leavers.

The Legislators who are already over-paid are going to be paid more while the poor who have nothing to lay hands on are forgotten. What a democracy or "demon-crazy"?

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Gentleman. When we were together I found a job for him as a Parliamentary Secretary. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Olusa: For the sake of the poor people of this Region please withdraw this Bill. For the sake of the poor school leavers who need work please withdraw this Bill. If they refuse to withdraw this Bill and use their majority to pass it they should know that nemesis is around the corner. The day of reckoning will soon come when the people of this Region will tell them what they think of them.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye (Egbado South-East): Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir. Order 29 (1).—'During a sitting all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum'. The hon. Member speaking does not put on his cap. He is not well dressed.

Mr Speaker: That the hon. Gentleman does not put on his cap is a sign of respect to Mr Speaker. (*Laughter*).

Mr Olusa: I therefore warn them to withdraw this obnoxious Bill before it is too late.

I am opposing this Bill because of one of the clandestine purposes for which this imposed Government is introducing it. Without these Provincial Commissioners the Action Group was able to bring this Region to a very high degree of prosperity. The people of this Region enjoyed good government; they enjoyed good roads; money flowed in abundance; people lived in a reasonable degree of prosperity; and all these without these Commissioners.

We see in this action of the Government a wasteful duplication of office and of functions. This they themselves anticipate in Clause 7 (6). Why create confusion?

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. The hon. Gentleman has spoken for thirty minutes. His time is up.

Mr Olusa: I have not spoken for thirty minutes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: You have.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West) Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill..... (*Interruptions*).

In opposing this kind of Bill, I would like to say that while it may be a good thing for other Regions to have Provincial Commissioners, in this Region today, Sir, if I may say so, I do not think it is good to have any Provincial Commissioner at all. We can remember what happened in this Region in 1962 and we still need to reconstruct many things and many roads in this Region. As a matter of fact, Sir, I know that the NNNDP Government is trying to have Commissicners at this time because the Premier promised a number of people who crossed to the other Side posts of Provincial Commissioner, before they declared for the NNNDP. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has got to be listened to with rapt attention because he is the only representative of the NCNC in this House . . . (*laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, he is not the only representative of the NCNC, he is the only Member of the NCNC present here today.

Mr Oyewole: I wish to inform you that we are five. (*Government Benches: Where are they?*).

Another reason for opposing this Bill, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that in the Eastern Region they have Provincial Commissioners because their Region is stable. There is no trouble at any time in their Region since they have voted the NCNC into power. They have never tackled any problem to make the Region to be ruled by an Administrator or to have two Premiers, or to have two parties running a coalition government one day and overnight a new political party emerges and takes over the next day. There is no trouble in the Northern Region where they have Provincial Commissioners. People in this Region want perfect peace; this is not the time to introduce this Bill.

Mr Speaker: There is peace in this House . . .

Mr Oyewole: We have peace here but in the town there is no peace.

The hon. Gentleman should bear in mind that the NNNDP was only formed a few weeks ago and since then the party has not appointed a single Minister. It may be reasonable to wisdom to find the war from the Norsemen. God heard his prayers. He built many warships and conquered the Norsemen by the

At any time the Premier may order the dissolution of this House for the people of this Region to go to the polls, then after the elections any party that controls the Government may easily introduce this kind of Bill and the Bill will be welcomed.

But now, I know the reason why the Premier is trying to introduce this Bill. He had promised many Members that they will get these appointments (*laughter*). The Premier knows very well that if he introduces this Bill at this time, it may happen after the dissolution of the House that many of his supporters and Members will run away. That is why he introduces this Bill so that every Member will be given new appointment or Parliamentary "waitin call" . . . (*laughter*) (*interruptions*).

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order.—Order 2. Section 22 of the Constitution provides that the Business of the Legislative Houses of the Region shall be conducted in English.

Mr Speaker, 'waitin call' is not proper English . . . (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: A point of Order has been raised and I have got to rule on it one way or the other. "Waitin call" is a strange word to me . . . (*laughter*).

Mr Oyewole: The Government Members will not listen to my speech because they know that I know a lot of their secrets. I am sure that many of them are disappointed at not being given Ministerial appointments. By passing this Bill many disappointed Members will be considered for the posts. That is the reason why this Bill is introduced this morning.

Mr Speaker: I do not rule him out of order for imputing improper motive because I think the motive is proper.

Mr Oyewole: In anything that the Government of this Region will like to do, it will be a good idea if they do not have any plan of punishing anybody. (*Government Benches: You won't be punished*). Last week Monday when we all came here, we had some of our supporters behind us who wanted to come in here.

Mr Speaker: Order! Irrelevant.

Mr Oyewole: What I am saying is this, if Provincial Commissioners are going to be appointed . . .

The Minister of State (Education) (Mr A. Ajibola): Point of Order. I would like this honourable House to note that although

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I know, Sir, that some politicians do not like experts and the look of scholars cause some people to shiver because they will challenge their intelligence, and they constitute a challenge to the power they wield, power which is not based on commonsense and on any accepted principle of life.

Sir, the proposed Councils will consist of politicians and office seekers who, of course, will seek the interest of our politicians. Secondly, Sir, the Premier's catalogue of qualities required of persons to be appointed Commissioners, I want to submit, Sir, are best discovered by a body of experts such as constitute the Public Service Commission. But what we know, however, is that the selection and appointment of these functionaries, these Provincial Commissioners, will be the responsibility of politicians. And believe me, Sir, the selection and appointment cannot be to the advantage of the Region as a whole but to the advantage of the selfish interest of politicians.

The question as to the justification of Provincial Administration in Western Nigeria has been answered by Members on this Side and I do say, Sir, that if I am asked whether the appointment can be justified or not, my answer will be that it cannot. As a system of government it constitutes a retrograde step in our already advanced state of civil administration. In the colonial days when Residents and District Officers held sway the Provincial Secretariat was the seat of imperial control albeit through our natural rulers. For most civil and criminal causes it was the highest court of appeal.

Our present system of administration, devised by the Action Group, is designed to encourage members of the public to take up responsibility of an administrative and civic nature at the local level. It begins by electing, by secret ballot, persons regarded as worthy of trust and committing to their charge the collection of local revenue and the spending of it for the good of the community.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this modification, which is to revive the provincial set-up, began when in 1963 the duly elected councils were dismissed *en masse* and replaced with nominated persons who ganged together into the caretaker committees. The Provincial Council to be set up will in accordance with a provision of the Bill partly consist of a number of appointed members, and that in Western Nigeria in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixty four! Like the old Provincial Residents, the Commissioners

who may not necessarily be members of our Houses of Legislature, will represent the power of Government. The provincial council will represent the old council of Obas that constituted a weapon for direct and distasteful control on behalf of the Government. This will be so because Government will certainly appoint as many members into the council as will enable it to control a majority of the members thereof.

Mr Speaker, Sir, for a people that have got accustomed to the practice of liberal democracy such as we have up to the time of the crisis in 1962, this proposal represents a backward trend in our political and administrative evolution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a hypocritical device of the new NNDP Party to multiply or diversify the points at which power may be employed to coerce the respectable elements of our society, to blackmail the necessitous, and to intimidate the weak-hearted and also to oppress the steadfast. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Commissioners will be the Provincial Organising Secretaries and the staff the Field Secretaries of the NNDP. The Obas, chiefs and the NNDP Parliamentarians will be Assistant Organising Secretaries and, or, a secret arm of the Provincial Police Force.

Mr Speaker: I think it is derogatory to refer to Obas as Organising Secretaries.

Chief Babatola: Mr Speaker Sir, I am not saying that they are. I am saying that a situation is being created which will make them so. It is left to them to refuse to accept.

Mr Speaker: The motive is being imputed that they will be Organising Secretaries.

Chief Babatola: Probably what I said was not properly grasped. (*Government Benches: Withdraw! Withdraw!*) I am not imputing any motive to any Oba. What I said was that

Mr Speaker: I prefer not to listen to an appeal against my order.

Chief Babatola: Well, I withdraw the point that Obas may become Organising Secretaries. But I still maintain that members of the Council can become, or can be made use of as, organising secretaries and/or as a secret arm of the Provincial Constabulary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another reason why we oppose this set-up is that there is no geographical or natural cause for it. The Region is now more compact and smaller

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than ever before. Roads and telecommunication have drawn every place closer to the Regional capital and to other centres. When formerly places were rather inaccessible and communication by radio and telephone was non-existent the provincial administration was an excellent device. Also, economically, the set-up is but a waste of public funds. Much expense will be involved at a time when we need every penny for development. I shall not belabour the point of the huge sums of money which will be spent in terms of salaries and allowances. This is better conceived than explained.

Mr Speaker Sir, one other reason why we oppose the set-up is that the Provincial Administration is in itself an expression of a lack of confidence in the ability of chiefs and elected Members of the Houses of Legislature to be able to represent the views and the need of their constituents to the Government. The Provincial Commissioner is going to be, as it were, a genius who possesses the ability to know the social, educational, economic and other needs of the people of a whole Province. Besides, his presentation of such needs to the Ministers will have an efficacy denied to the representations that other Members of our Houses of Legislature may make. But if I may anticipate Government's reply in this connection, may I ask why this illogical step must be taken if there is no loss of confidence in the people's elected lawmakers?

Mr Speaker Sir, with these few remarks, I do say that we cannot lend our voluntary support to this Bill.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am most surprised that we can receive any opposition whatever from the other Side of the House in respect of this Bill. I am sure that the Leader of Opposition himself realises the need for delegation of power from Ibadan to various centres in the Provinces. I think the Leader of Opposition is aware of the new development plans we have for the Region. He is also aware of all the efforts of Government in stamping out unemployment in the Region. These issues must be so localised and so well looked after at the provincial level and able men must be picked from each Province in order to see that the ideas of Government are practicalised on the spot.

I am sure that Members went to Erio last week to see the Premier open the Integrated Rural Development Centre. We are having a lot of these centres all over the

Region and it will be very difficult for Government to see to the day-to-day running of all these new institutions which are springing up in every part of the Region. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). You will see as time goes on that it is essential for Government itself to decentralise. For instance, we must be able to trust people in Ondo Province. We must be able to trust for instance, sons in Ondo Province who have the interest of the Ondo Province at heart and who will know the demand of the people and who will be living among the people, seeing that unemployment is wiped out through the machinery provided by Government. Also, these Commissioners will keep an eye on the various industries being opened and see to it that both Government, at local level, and development are both integrated. This is vital. Before we embarked on it, we took care to see how the other Regions are fairing under the present system. In the other Regions, there is no attempt to identify their provincial administration with the development of their areas. It is purely a sort of super-local government idea. But as the Premier has rightly said, these Provincial Councils will combine the efforts of sons of the soil with the Obas and chiefs of the area and these people will control the destiny of their people in their area.

Furthermore, I think the Leader of Opposition will assure you that for some time now the Ministry of Local Government has been inundated with letters, delegations and people, coming from near and far, leaving their homes, like Mr Olusa, sometimes he comes to Ibadan spending several days, trying to look after the interest of his people. He has to do that because the councils in his area in the past have been completely inefficient. He has to travel the long distance to Ibadan, but if we have Provincial Administration, he will find that his efforts will be minimised. He will stay at the local level and look after his own home and co-operate with his own people instead of bringing all schemes to Ibadan for implementation by the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, talking of waste, sometimes I fell ashamed for the Opposition. How dare they talk of waste? They compared the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and the other officials with other Regions. If you look at the Eastern Region Estimates for instance, we have twenty-two Ministers, twelve Provincial Commissioners, twenty-seven Parliamentary Secretaries, four Whips, making a total of fifty-five. (*Laughter*).

I should not do their home work for them ... (*interruptions*). The Members of the

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Opposition just come to this House to read notes to us; I know that the Speaker has been very indulgent this morning for allowing hon. Members to act in a way that is not honourable because hon. Members are not supposed to come here and read their speeches. I am ashamed. . . . (Interruptions). (Opposition Benches: *Are you challenging Mr Speaker*) I am not challenging anybody, Sir, it is sometimes necessary for the Speaker to close his eyes to these events but this morning was the most shameful day I have ever witnessed in this Legislature. I can excuse the hon. Leader of Opposition because he has to make a party statement on this and he will be permitted to use the opportunity offered by the Bill to read his speech. These Gentlemen, Sir, who have the destiny of their children in their hands cannot even read out a single correct line of English without writing it down previously. (Shame, shame).

I hope, Sir, that in future the history of wastage should never come to my Friends here. This morning our Friends were talking about money flowing in the Region when Chief Obafemi Awolowo was the Premier. (Opposition Benches: *Of course, the public know that*). I do not like speaking evil about the dead and the absent, but these people will compel me, Sir, by their Debates to refer to the *Hansard* to show what the Action Group did, when they were in power. I shall refer Mr Speaker to Western House of Assembly Debates, Second Session, 1954, when the Marketing Board Bill was brought before this House and I shall refer to it to show that the Action Group Government went there deliberately to deplete the Treasury of this Region for political purposes . . . (interruptions). (Opposition Benches: *Your boys did*). Except for a few hecklings, Mr Speaker, Sir, I implore you to implore them not to get too excited. I shall only talk about facts . . . (interruptions). I am sure they have nothing to hide.

Furthermore, Sir, before I even read out what their ex-Leader said in the Legislature I shall have to refresh their memory. How can the Gentlemen on that Side have so short memories? A very short time ago, their activities in this Region were exposed to the limelight and the stench that arose from that examination has not died out in the Western Region. Today we are still suffering from megalomaniacs, egocentrics, and persons who have no idea of what democracy ever meant, persons who shamelessly dipped their hands into the Treasury and denuded the Treasury completely to the last point. How dare these people come here,

Sir, and talk of anybody wasting money in this Region? It is about time that shame and conscience should prevail in the Opposition; it is about time that they think twice before they come here and make allegations against the Government. (Opposition Benches: *The present Premier was the Premier then*). The Leader of Opposition talked about Councils being short of funds, so also did one or two Members there. When we took over Government the hon. Regional Minister (*Mr Kotoye*) will tell you that there was less than £149,000 in the credit of Local Government Councils. These people depleted all Local Government Councils' resources and I am saying, Sir, that there was no Local Government Council which was not in debt. They were all in debt. And why Sir? Because it was the principle of robbing Peter to pay Paul. (Prolonged interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Some Members will have to be expelled from this hon. House if they do not act honourably.

Chief Fani-Kayode: These Gentlemen on that Side of the House shamelessly robbed the Treasury, and what did they do, Sir? Instead of being able to repay to the Local Government Councils the amount taken over by them, they had what they called the law of freezing. They were freezing assets of Local Government Councils. They froze the money that should go back as Pay as You Earn. All kinds of monies due to the Local Government Councils were frozen with the result that not one single Local Government Council could work efficiently in the Region. And what have we done? Since we got here, Sir, we paid the Local Government Councils last year the sum of £648,000, and never, Sir, for years, has the financial position of Local Government Councils in this Region been as bouyant as we have it today. Thanks to this new Administration. Not only have we saved money we have brought in new schemes of development to Local Government Councils which will help us in the new set-up of Provincial Administration.

Let us now come to those who are absent, but those whom they themselves brought into the Debate today. I shall refer Sir, to the Debates of 7th of September, 1954, Mr T. O. S. Benson was speaking on the Marketing Board Bill at the Committee stage—

“All right Sir, whether it is a repetition or not, I think in this hon. House I am entitled to speak for thirty minutes without listening to the Ministers who will not respect themselves when you are addressing me. On a point of procedure and etiquette, which we all learnt at school the other Side should keep quiet, they are not small boys.

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I am sorry to say that they have not home training. However, Mr Chairman, I do not believe in Baboon works, monkey eats". That is how he started it. He does not believe in baboon works and monkey chops.

"I shall tell you, Sir, why I am afraid of this clause. That is the hon. the Minister for Local Government there, during the last meeting of the House of Representatives, we met in front of that House and he said: 'The battle which you declared for the West has not gone half-way, but unfortunately you are getting dried up and we are getting fat, and when we shall have finished the £10 million we have in our hands, you shall run away from the field'. Where are they going to get the £10 million from?" That is T. O. S. Benson reporting to this House and what did hon. Awolowo say in reply? He said,

"It is true that I met Mr Benson in front of the House of Representatives. He saluted me in a polite manner and I answered him, and he said that their battle for the West has not yet gone half-way. I said it has not even gone half-way and yet you look so lean, and by the time it is in full swing you will almost be dead completely—just by way of joke. I said, yes, we shall finish you with our treasury—by way of jest".

That is Awolowo saying "we shall finish you with our Treasury". (*Opposition Benches: He said by way of jest*). (*Interruptions*). But now, have not recent events proved that Chief Awolowo was not joking, has not this recent event shown that they robbed this Government of fourteen million pounds? (*Interruptions*). Fourteen million pounds of which they spent over four million pounds in Northern Region for elections and yet they come here and talk of waste. (*Interruptions*). I can assure them that the time has come, when all of them should have a change of heart.

Last of all, my Friends here talk of victimisation and oppression. If this Government had not been a Government ordained by God, most of our Members here would have left the Western Region. Talking of loans, Sir, how many of them have we prosecuted or sued to the Law Courts? I am not going to mention names but they know themselves. There are over ninety per cent of the Members of the Opposition and their supporters outside who are still owing Nigersol thousands of pounds, up to millions of pounds (*interruptions*). These people are still here, and if the Action Group had the same opportunity against any Member of Opposition when we were on the Opposition they would have driven us out of this Country with oppression

and yet we let them breathe, we covered their shame for them, we did not embarrass them; but they have come here and they have the guts to talk of oppression and victimisation. (*Interruptions*).

Finally the remark about the Obas is very unkind and I hope the Leader of Opposition will do his best to withdraw that remark on behalf of his Members. (*Opposition Members What remarks?*)

The remarks about making Obas Organising Secretaries. Daily we hear the cry of the Obas that they must be given position of trust and a position in the pattern of things in the country. We are trying to integrate the past and the future with the present. Obas must have their position secured in the new regime, they must have the opportunity to pull their own weight, after all, they are our fathers. Are we going to relegate them to the back-ground? I think in the scheme of things now, Obas must have a large say in their Provincial Councils and this Government shall see, by the grace of God, in future, that the Obas and the people of Western Nigeria are all one and indivisible. (*Cheers*).

Our Friend, Chief Olusa, said there is no trouble in the East and there is no trouble in the North. Why is that? It is because, as the Premier says everytime, they have not got disruptive influences. These people are the ones causing all these disruptive influences in Western Nigeria. (*Interruptions*). Let them come with us and then they will see that the West will be one and there will be no trouble in the West.

(*Chief Babatola: You are always right!*)

I was right. I told them that the Action Group Government would collapse and it collapsed. They used to call me the Messiah at that time and I was proved right. But Chief Babatola had better write his application in time. Several Members of the Opposition party have been writing their applications for the post of Provincial Commissioner. I am exhorting those who have not written to write quickly because I can assure them a large number of them will be accommodated when the Premier thinks fit to appoint Commissioners. (*Cheers*).

Alhaji B. O. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. I will not, in opposing this Bill, go to the trouble of repeating the points already made by Members against this Bill. But I would like for a moment to deal with certain points made by the Deputy Premier.

He said he was ashamed that many of the Members on this Side were reading their notes. I will say it shows the amount of

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hard work that those people put in for the benefit of the people who elected them into this House.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Gentleman is not eulogising those who go against the Standing Order of this House, which says no Member of this House should read his speech, of course, with certain exceptions, the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. (*Opposition Benches: And Provincial Commissioners*).

Well, if they are Members of this House.

Alhaji Obisesan: I am not defending those who read their notes but I am saying that if Members should come here and refer to their notes occasionally, it shows that they take their job seriously.

Also I would like to say that we on this side of the House have the interest of the Obas and Chiefs at heart. We know that this NNDP Government is boasting that they have the interest of the Obas. Recent events speak for themselves, how Obas have become toys in the hands of the Government needs no saying and I can assure them that no amount of bragging will make these Obas forget who their enemies are. We are the friends of the Obas.

When I listened this morning to the hon. Premier moving the Second Reading of this Bill, I became more convinced that this NNDP Government has made up its mind to have its own back on the people of this Region. It appears to amount to—"if you do not support me I will see you ruined before I get out". What other interpretation could be given to this reckless attitude of this Government? The question they ask is "why must we not have these Provincial Commissioners?" The North has, the East also has. (*Government Benches: So the West should be "the odd man" out?*) The North with an alleged population of twenty-nine million. (*Government Benches: So you accept the figures now?*)

I said "alleged". (*Prolonged interruptions*). The North with an alleged population of twenty-nine million has twenty-one Ministers and a few Parliamentary Secretaries and less than twelve Provincial Commissioners.

(*Government Benches: Less than twelve? That is incorrect*).

I have my figures from a very reliable source. (*Government Benches: Where?*) Check up from the Estimates. The East with a population of twelve million, has only nineteen Ministers and less than ten Provincial Commissioners.

Chief Fani-Kayode: He is wrong, look at the Estimates!

Alhaji Obisesan: What have we in the West? In the West with a population of ten million

Chief Akintola: That is not alleged? You accept that.

Alhaji Obisesan: I accept that. (*Cheers*). We have an array of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I know as I said before, that in the West with a population of only ten million we have thirty-one Ministers and nineteen Parliamentary Secretaries. (*Government Benches: What about the Midwest?*)

Mr Speaker: Order. Do not ask the hon. Gentleman about particulars concerning the Midwest. The Action Group never won a seat there. (*Prolonged laughter from both sides of the House*).

Alhaji Obisesan: This Government did not content itself with these batallion of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who can be found all over the Region—they do not stay in the Headquarters. They are very busy I understand. I have been to some of these Ministries several times only to find that the Ministers are on tour of their constituencies. They are not content. We content ourselves, little be it that we have on this Side, and we will wait. We know that God is on our side. This Bill if passed today into Law. . . . (*Laughter*) I only pray because I know that some of them on that side are very anxious to be considered for the post of Provincial Commissioner.

Chief Olowofoyeku: He too will be considered.

Alhaji Obisesan: You can rule me out. I will never apply for the post of a Provincial Commissioner. It is a matter of this Government saying—"My good boys, if you scratch my back I will scratch yours in return". Let us search our conscience. What is this array of Ministers doing? Do we really need them? I say "No". The Premier might need them to sustain this Government. Why should the tax payers be called upon to pay for these organising secretaries? The saying has not become less popular that the Opposition must have its say and the Government must have its way, but will these Gentlemen, when passing this Bill this morning, think of the millions of people who are going about without jobs. If they do, they will not be asking us to enable them to appoint more Ministers or Provincial Commissioners. I know that if they do they will make themselves unpopular with the

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people. I appeal to them, through Mr Speaker, in the name of the suffering peasants, in the name of the teeming labourers and unemployed persons, the Premier and the Deputy Premier should withdraw this Bill because this is not the opportune time for such a Bill to be brought.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose this Bill.

Mr D. A. Popoola (Oyo South-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. In doing so, I have a few remarks to make. It is not too much to say that with the number of Ministers we have in this Region it is not the time, Mr Speaker, Sir, to introduce such a Bill on the floor of this House. Taking into account all the previous Members who said that unemployment is quite rampant in the country today we should try to limit our resources to arresting unemployment rather than increasing the number of Ministers and calling them Provincial Commissioners.

In addition, I particularly oppose the creation of Provincial Councils. So far we have Local Councils. In many areas we have Divisional Councils functioning today and to add the Provincial Councils to these will be sheer duplication.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to oppose.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North): I like to oppose this Bill for many reasons which I shall presently outline.

Before doing so, I should like to answer certain points made by the hon. Premier and his Deputy. It is true, Sir, that the hon. Premier has engaged us with the history of Local Administration in this country. It is something that could be recommended, not only as the Local Government history of this Region but of the entire country. Mr Speaker, Sir, this might be regarded as a sort of document which is of intellectual appeal to those people who are interested.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Premier told us that Local Government Advisers are not having enough powers under the present scheme of things.

Mr Kotoye: The hon. Premier never said anything of the sort. He never said that the Local Government Advisers had no adequate powers. He said they had not sufficient influence.

Mr Awopeju: I see, it is a question of distinction without a difference.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Premier assured us that if this Bill were passed, the Local Government Advisers will have increased powers and be able to do certain things which they cannot do under the present set-up. Mr Speaker, Sir, if that were so, why not increase the powers of these Local Government Advisers and throw away the services of the Commissioners? It is said, Sir, that the people who would be appointed as Provincial Commissioners would be men of integrity and honesty; men with administrative experience and ability and men imbued with a sense of responsibility. If we could get such materials, everyone of us on both Sides of this House will say that we are very blessed. But such men, Mr Speaker, Sir, are what we call in economic terms, 'rare commodities'.

Mr Speaker, Sir, is it from amongst carpet crossers or political weather-cocks, people who, because they are indebted to the Regime, have no other choice but to be in line with the present Government so as to save themselves from embarrassment of being taken to court? I say, Sir, that if such men were to be found, it would not be amongst these men and I am only sure that the hon. Premier cannot get any person outside these people—these political carpet crossers and debtors—to be appointed as Provincial Commissioners. I would suggest, Sir, Mr Speaker, that if the hon. Premier were to recommend people to fill these posts, he should take them from among Ministers in his own Government who are already not having any portfolios. That is the only solution. We have been complaining that we have too many Ministers—Ministers without portfolios or portman-teaux, Ministers in the Ministries and the like. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious thing. It will be better if these people who have not got portfolios should be given these posts and they should not be given to people outside this House, so that we may be able to say something to them.

Chief Akintola: On that ground, we accept it.

Mr Awopeju: The Deputy Premier unwittingly told us that there is a political trend at the back of the whole thing but it is not a predominant one. They do not want to cross for nothing. The consideration must be very heavy.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry in that I used the word "political" as opposed to "economic". I was speaking of development at the time. When we talk of political administration in which administration is opposed to development, that is not politics as we know it.

Mr Awopeju: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Chief Fani-Kayode: His heart, not my heart.

Mr Awopeju: The hon. Deputy Premier made some insinuations about the Action Group and its leadership, that they accused them of waste and so on. May I say that human memory may be short but the elephant does not forget. It was the hon. Deputy Premier who was the Assistant Federal Secretary of the Action Group at that time and the hon. Premier himself was the Deputy or the Assistant Federal Secretary of the Action Group in 1954. At least, he was a top-notching "Grouper" at the time. There was nothing done which the hon. Premier did not know of. In actual fact, the Premier wielded more influence in the Action Group than the hon. Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

(Cheers from the Opposition Bench).

Mr Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will like to know whether we were privy to the importation of arms and ammunition . . . ? *(Laughter).*

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member may not answer that question without notice.

Mr Awopeju: The purpose of this Bill runs counter to the doctrine which the hon. Minister of Finance and Leader of the House has been preaching to us in this House. I took his Budget Speech, I read it with voracious avidity. Meeting the hon. Minister of Finance is not enough; it is when you move near him that you know he is a great intellectual. Do not go near him to discuss Literature or Latin, he will beat you. Quite apart from the literary touch which the hon. Minister gave his speech, there is that exposition of the principle of Public Finance which the Minister disclosed. I was about to ask him whether he was a notable economist but it now comes to my mind that there is no greater economist than a married man . . . *(Laughter).*

In the last paragraph of the first page of his Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance described the NNDP as—

"a fusion of all honest and well-intentioned political parties in the nation having as its common objective the unity of our nation and the welfare and happiness of the entire people of this Region within that national unity".

Nobody knows more than the hon. Minister that this is not correct. This is evidenced by the fact that the shoals of Bills being rushed through this House expose the NNDP Government as a conglomeration of dissident

recusants, shameless renegades and mercenary apostates and traitors. Their dominant aims and objects are to fleece the poor taxpayers to the utmost in order to line their own pockets with gold and feather their own nests as best they could.

Mr Speaker, this Provincial Administration Bill is one of such Bills and the paramount object of its promoters is to find job for those people who have not had their own share. It is to console or compensate those Members who have been promised ministerial offices in order to get them deflect either from the NCNC or AG but who were not made Ministers or were only made Parliamentary Secretaries. If this Bill is passed it will be possible to humour the fancies of those disgruntled elements on the Government Benches. There are thirty-one Ministers already, eighteen Parliamentary Secretaries, two Chief Whips and two Whips. Thus there are fifty-three Government functionaries on the Government Benches. Sir, the salary and emoluments attaching to the office of a Provincial Commissioner will, according to clause 3 (3), be the same as that of a Minister. The true fact is that in the NNDP circle anybody would tolerate what can be describe as Esau's bargain—Give me a pot of porridge and I will sell you my birthright . . . *(Laughter)* Therefore the have-nots must have and so be palliated or mollified.

Mr Speaker, Sir, how can one reconcile the sweet speech of the hon. Minister of Finance and the supposed avowed object of the NNDP with this horrible and nauseating practice of the Government? How can such practice conduce to "the welfare and happiness of the entire people of this Region"? Let the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Premier search their conscience.

To pass this Bill would be a cardinal record of maladministration and stupendous waste of public money in the annals of the history of Western Nigeria. A close analysis of most of the definitions of "democracy" converges on the view that democracy means the subordination of the state to the ends and welfare of the common individual. How can the acts of the NNDP match their democratic profession or be translated to mean that they are seeking the welfare of the Region? The Bill depicts and exhibits the mess the NNDP Government is making of the affairs of this Region, the mess of wrongfully appointed men holding on to office by trick and subterfuge, and revelling in clannish hates and prejudices.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is only one of those instruments being wielded by the bogus party, known as the NNDP, to keep itself in office. It is aware of that plague and bane

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of the Government Back-benchers and Ministers and it is cashing on it. What is this plague? It is the complex of infantile dispositions to passive obedience, docility, and rabid support. I say the NNDP is bogus. The nomenclature is deceptive—the party is neither “Nigerian” in its outlook or conception nor “National” nor yet “Democratic” nor still yet a “Party”. It is insular in its outlook and policy. Its first slogan was “*Yoruba Ronu*” (*Laughter*). The only nexus or common interest of its founders is mania for office and money. It is “*Jeun Jeun*” Party (Chop-chop party) a plague on the Region and a bane to unity, progress and welfare of the entire people which the hon. Minister of Finance pledged so much to support. At this time when the financial condition of the Region is not at all buoyant, or negatively put, when the Region is in a state of financial quandary, the appointment of Provincial Commissioners will be nothing but arrant waste of money and an irresponsible act of prodigality. It is unjustifiable. It is indefensible. It is immoral. It is irresponsible.

In paragraph 7 of page 7 of the printed Budget Speech the hon. Minister of Finance observed that instead of having an estimated surplus of half a million pounds the indication shows an overspending of £0.9 million. He argued that the fact that a quarter of the Region was sliced off did not mean that it will necessarily follow that a quarter of Government expenditure will automatically be correspondingly reduced. The same Minister admitted failure and/or difficulty to relate expenditure to reduced revenue. The truth, which is often forgotten or ignored by modern politicians with disastrous results, is that which was expressed by Gladstone when he said:

“Good finance consists more in the spending than in the collecting of revenue”. Sir, this Government has yet to learn this. How can the hon. Minister of Finance relate expenditure to reduced revenue if his Government continues to indulge in this act of squandermania in the pursuit of a policy of finding jobs and posts for the boys? It is an ill-founded policy, economically unsound, politically unwise and socially undesirable.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with an array of thirty-one Ministers and eighteen Parliamentary Secretaries, one finds it difficult to accept, or even entertain, the idea of the appointment of Provincial Commissioners. Our argument becomes all the more formidably irresistible when one is made to know that most of these Ministers are without any portfolios.

I would suggest that if the Bill is passed, no Provincial Commissioner should be appointed from elsewhere save from among the present battalion of Ministers, especially from among those without portfolios. The illiterate Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries should be removed at once.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government has sworn eternal hostility to progress and honesty. This is evidenced in clause 5, sub-clause (2) (e) of this obnoxious Bill. It reads:

“2. Every Provincial Council shall consist of—

(e) such number of appointed members as shall be prescribed and appointed by the Governor in Council by Order”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is very bad in principle. Why nominating people into the Provincial Council? This is done in anticipation of failure at popular elections by NNDP men. It is deliberately inserted as a weapon to inundate councils with NNDP men to render nugatory any majority won by political opponents. It is a strategy of gaining on the roundabouts that which is lost on the swings. To put it at the mildest, the paragraph is a palpable evidence of the NNDP Government's proclivity to retrogressive and reactionary thinking and disposition.

The hon. Premier is not ashamed to bring this Bill here in spite of the financial crisis in the Region. The tax-payers will be called upon to pay these Provincial Commissioners even though they are already overburdened. Sir, at this present stage of our development we should not encourage the nomination of people into the Councils; they must go through the proper channel, they have got to be elected.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Chief S. L. Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all who have contributed to this Debate. In any event the Debate or the contributions which many people have made revealed a lot of things. I would not like to waste the time of this honourable House but I would like to refer to the hon. Member for Remo North (*Mr Awopeju*), to answer him and to enlighten him on the points which appear not to be clear to him.

Hon. Awopeju dealt lengthily with carpet crossing, and, in doing so, he was referring to the Members here as carpet crossers. Not he alone has said it on the Floor of this House but nearly all of them. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am now here to remind them and to enlighten them on what I feel they have

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forgotten. When we talk of carpet crossing, it is in the Action Group and their other supporters and allies all over the Republic that the practice of crossing carpet is common. Not within this party, and I shall explain it today. I remember Alhaji Obisesan was not in the old Action Group Government, I mean he was not a foundation member of the Action Group if my memory will serve me well. He crossed from the NCNC and then joined the Action Group. Is it not shameful that these people are now calling some people carpet crossers? Let us remember that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. These people over there live in glass houses and they are throwing stones. All these things are what they practise themselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these people referred to us here as carpet crossers, but many of their few supporters all over the Republic are bats, they are carpet crossers. To substantiate the fact, let us refer to the Midwestern Region. What about Mr Oye, the only Action Group Member in the Midwest House of Assembly? Mr Oye crossed the carpet there; he won on the platform of the Midwest Democratic Front, and when he crossed the carpet there, they all congratulated him; they did not drive him away. Why did they admit him as one of their members when they knew that he crossed the carpet which they now feel is very degrading? This shameless practice is common among their members all over the Republic. Go to the Federal Parliament it is the same. What about some members in the Action Group who crossed or declared for NPC in the Eastern Region? The practice is not peculiar to this Region alone. Even now, let us admit that there are some Members who crossed to this side, I can only say that they have repented. Is it bad to change from what is bad to what is good? Is it bad to do the righteous thing? I ask them. If they too repent, if they know that they have sinned and repent, we shall have them in our midst. If they feel that if they come to this side they will be useful to their people, they will be able to plan good things for the benefit of the common people, I do not see anything bad in that.

Mr Awopeju: According to the Catholicism I learnt in school it is stated that "to repent is to be truly sorry for sin and to resolve sincerely never to commit sin again".

Chief Akintola: Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, let us go back to the Coker Commission Report. We all were there—they were there too. I mean Awopeju, was there. I think Mr Odebiyi was a Minister of Finance in the old

Action Group Government and he admitted that the Treasury had been emptied as far back as two years to that time. I think Chief Odebiyi was a responsible Minister, a Minister of Finance at that. He was not an ordinary person in the Action Group Government. Chief Odebiyi was one of the top members of the Action Group and even superior to my Friend, Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro, who is now the Leader of the Opposition. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro is here to confirm my statement. We people do not hate them. What we say is that the Region belongs to the whole of us.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you go to the Ijebu area, Ijebu Remo in particular, you will see wonders. You will see how the money of Western Nigeria Government was spent lavishly for some sections of the community. Let us refer to Ikenne. I believe Ikenne is one of the smallest villages in Western Nigeria. You go there, you will see electricity all over the place, tarred roads and the installation of pipe-borne water. There are many large villages in Egba Division and in many parts of the Region, but were their roads tarred, were they given pipe-borne water, were they given electricity? But all the money spent in Ijebu area is part of the tax-payers money of this Region. You go to all the hamlets of Ijebu Remo, you will see all roads tarred, installation of pipe-borne water supply and electricity. What we are saying is that since they have done that for their area they should let the same thing be done to the other sections of the Region.

Most of our councils, as the hon. Deputy Premier has said, are just being built up. They have no potentiality. We want people who will fire the imagination of our people, people who will rekindle the flame of production in our people so that they can give generously towards their own developments. The post of Provincial Commissioner may be likened to that of able and efficient managers in shops, and if they are worth their hire, they will improve the financial position of the Region and of the Community.

They are talking of unemployment. If everybody is doing his own duty in the Region, if we can keep an eye on every section, if we can have the confidence of every section as we hope and believe that this Provincial Commissioners will co-operate in all we are prepared to do, I am quite sure that we will not only get the money to establish new industries, we will also be able to inspire young school leavers to find careers in Agriculture which has been mechanised and to find careers in other aspects of life in which the Government has been working extremely hard.

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The trouble with the Opposition is that they are too far away from this House. They are too far away from the Government. I will lead you again to another secret. Happily the Deputy Premier and I were Members of the Opposition before. Numerically, we were not up to them, but the secret of an effective Opposition is never to make an enemy of the Government of the day. I am not afraid of any of them because I know that none of them has mastered the secret of an efficient Opposition, not one of them. We beg the Leader of Opposition not to pour venom here. We pray all of them. In any case we are all paid by the tax-payers but by the Grace of God, the tax-payers have chosen us as their trustees. (*Prolonged interruptions*). If they accept the challenge, then shall I turn to the Clerk of the House and say that in order that they may understand and appreciate our problems that in future we do not pay the Opposition. (*prolonged laughter*).

They have said again that we want to use this as a political machinery. I will call their attention to clause 5 of the Bill:

(1) There shall be established for each Province in the Region a Provincial Council which shall be known by such name as the Governor in Council may by Order prescribe.

“(2) Every Provincial Council shall consist of—

(a) the Provincial Commissioner for the province, who shall be the chairman,

(b) such number of elected members as shall be prescribed by the Governor in Council by order and elected in accordance with the provisions of any order made under section 8;

(c) all Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly from the province, who shall be ex-officio members”.

If we want to use it as a political weapon, why do we include them in this machinery? They are there. In Ibadan Provincial Council, Alhaji Obisesan will be a member by reason of his being a Member of this House. In Ondo Provincial Council, the Member from Ekiti North-East I (*Chief Babatola*) will be a Member. In Abeokuta the hon. the Leader of Opposition is going to be a member. We are not motivated by any ill will. We want our Provinces to be so well represented and the set-up to reflect every shade of opinion. Whether they are in this party or that party, provision is made for them to be a member of the council. I doubt whether the Opposition Members have read carefully

the provisions of this Bill. I want to refer them to the fact that even as a Member of this House they are perfectly at liberty to go there to join the Obas to administer to the needs of their people. It is not an exclusive job that we are trying to establish. We are not like some of them at all. We do not want to set up anything which we are going to dominate. They are perfectly at liberty to come in. Not only that, the Obas who are Members of the House of Chiefs will also be members and nobody examines what political colour their Agbada or crown is. They are all perfectly welcome so long as they belong to the Province.

And now, Sir, there is one point which you must note. A while ago the hon. Leader of Opposition asked what would happen should His Highness the Awujale and His Highness the Akarigbo meet.

Alhaji Adegbenro: But the Speaker himself, who should know, said both of them are senior.

Chief Akintola: They have started all over again. They have started the same old story, the same old game of creating antagonism where peace should prevail. We are not to be motivated by desire to create trouble. The Remo people, the Ikorodu people, the Ijebu-Ode people, are all one people. In the past, they used to have their meeting house where they could exchange views. But this is not so under the new dispensation. Under the new dispensation, brothers have been torn asunder. Remo people are separate and distinct. The Ijebu-Ode people are separate and distinct, the Ikorodu people are separate and distinct, but what we want now is that although each one can maintain its own identity, each one can keep its own sovereignty, there should be a forum where people in Ijebu Province could meet to exchange views on matters of interest.

Alhaji Obisesan: What of Oshun? Will the Olubadan be made its permanent head?

Chief Akintola: If you know what has been going on, Oshun has never been away from Ibadan. We have always been together. We are brothers. We have always been regarded here as one and in fact, if I am to delve into history, I have a better root here even than the Alhaji. (*Laughter*). (*Alhaji Obisesan: I belong to Ogbomosho*). He belongs to Ogbomosho? (*Alhaji Obisesan: Yes*). Then he should be on this Side of the House. I am sure that is a notice for Alhaji Adegbenro for I am sure my brother is coming over here. (*Prolonged laughter*).

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

On this question of Provincial Councils, the people of Oshun who are in Ibadan Province and the people of Ibadan can still come together to discuss matters of common interest which cannot be undertaken by individual councils, not even by Divisional Councils. On the Provincial level, we can deal more effectively with the question of industrialisation of the Provinces. These are the things we have in mind. But unfortunately, some of my Friends have been bitten by bugs of election and they see nothing in it but the outcry about appointing Organising Secretaries.

May I end by giving them a warning. This is a very strong weapon for the protection of the people of this Region. This is also a very strong weapon against hypocrites, people who are in the habit of going to the Provinces to lie to the people and to misrepresent others. By the time they go, the Commissioners will be there. (*Interruptions*). If they send their political agents who tell the truth, so far so good, but if the Commissioners go out and they chase them. . .

Alhaji Obisesan: We will chase them out of the Provinces.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Alhaji's remarks are very pregnant and significant and I do hope they will be specifically noted in the *Hansard* for the information of the Commissioner of Police.

Alhaji Obisesan: Of course, he can note it, he is a friend.

Chief Akintola: So the Commissioner is his friend, and if he chases the Provincial Commissioners with cutlasses, the Commissioner of Police will not do anything?

Alhaji Obisesan: He will do nothing.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, he said that if even he chased these Commissioners with cutlasses, the police will do nothing.

Alhaji Obisesan: What I mean is that if the Provincial Commissioners are unable to stay in the Provinces, because they will be unwelcome there, they may be chased out. If anyone does anything wrong, the law shall take care of that. As I said, the Commissioner of Police is a person everyone of us can approach.

Chief Akintola: Are you going to chase the Provincial Commissioners out with cutlasses? If he is going to do that, he is not my brother! (*Prolonged laughter*).

In any case, as I have said, the duty of the Provincial Commissioners is to explain to the people the policies, the practices and the activities of the Government; to keep the people fully informed of these and to keep the Government fully informed of the yearnings and the aspirations of the people.

Sir, I beg to move. (*Cheers*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.
(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, the composition of the Provincial Council under clause 5 is, the Provincial Commissioner himself, who is going to be chairman, such number of elected members as shall be prescribed by the Governor in Council by order and elected in accordance with the provisions of any order made under section 8. What system of election is going to be adopted? Then all members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly in the Province; all presidents of all local government councils in the Province for the time being, who shall be *ex-officio* members. Why do we still have to have nominated members or appointed members on this Council? It appears that apart from the Commissioner himself, who is going to be a member of the ruling party, the elected members, no matter by what method they are elected, the Government fears that they may not, and they cannot, get majority of members of their party elected to the Provincial Council. Members of the House of Assembly in the Provinces are likely to be Members who would not certainly, in certain Provinces, be members of the ruling party. Therefore, in order to ensure that they have a working majority in these Provincial Councils, sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 5 have been inserted.

"Such number of elected members as shall be prescribed and appointed by the Governor in council".

That is to say, if in a Provincial Council comprising about thirty members, the Government finds that with the Members of the House of Chiefs and Members of the House of Assembly and those who are elected, they have still not got a working majority, they simply will inject those members of their choice into the Council. That means a reversal of the election altogether.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

I think it would be reasonable to limit membership to Presidents of local government councils, Members of both Houses of the Legislature and those who will be elected. Then we can say that the Provincial Council is adequately composed. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Government wants a means by which it can control all Provincial Councils in the Region by this method. This is not just, Sir, it is immoral.

Chief Akintola: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for inviting my attention to this because it will give me the opportunity of commenting upon the points made by hon. Babatola. I would like to say, and I want it to be clear, that the provincial council is not intended to be a council in which there is going to be politics; it is not a place for party politics.

I think I better start from the first one. In the first one, the Provincial Commissioner will be the Chairman, and such number of elected members as shall be prescribed by the Governor in Council by order and elected in accordance with the provisions of any order made under section 8.

We feel that every council from each area should have representation on this provincial council. If there are ten local councils in one province, each council should be represented, but the manner of representation would have to be regulated later. So, in order to ensure that every council is represented, that is why this particular provision has been made.

Now to 5 (c)—All Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly from the Province who shall be *ex-officio* members. They would be there as a link between the Legislature and the Provincial Assembly and because of the mixture of both of them, you can be sure that this is not intended to be a political organisation in which party politics will play a prominent part.

And now to 5 (d)—All Presidents of all local government councils in the province for the time being, who shall be *ex-officio* members: that is, the presidents of the councils will also be members. That is also to strengthen the link between the various councils and the provincial organisation.

Now, finally to 5 (e)—You remember, the Member for Ekiti North-East II (*Chief Babatola*) made a very nice point which was a very good contribution; that is, how does this set-up profit from the opinion of experts? If they want to discuss things economic, or they want to discuss matters pertaining to education, in which they require the services

of eminent people, these people may not be members of the Council, they may not be members either of this House or the Upper House, this section is designed so as to make it possible for the Governor in Council to make such experts members of the Provincial Council. (*Cheers*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Chairman, Sir, on the Second Reading, I referred to sub-clause (3) of this clause when I said that this is another local government set-up and under sub-clause (4) I referred to the provision making the Obas the ceremonial Presidents of the Provincial Councils. But when the Deputy Premier was making his own contribution, he did mention that we of the Opposition are in the habit of describing the Obas and Chiefs in this Region as party organising secretaries. My concern about this, Mr Chairman, is that I want to make it abundantly clear that the attitude and the policy of the Action Group are to enhance the status and dignity of Obas and Chiefs in this Region... (*Prolonged applause*). At no time whatsoever did we attempt to reduce or to diminish a jot from the prestige of the Obas and Chiefs in this Region and we are not going to do anything of the kind. It is true that we have given warnings to certain Obas and Chiefs who made themselves instruments to the whims and caprices of the ruling party, the NNDP, by attending launching ceremonies of the newly-formed party. We are entitled to give this warning and what did we say in our warning? We did say that Obas and Chiefs as the fathers of all should steer clear of partisan politics.

Everybody should be free to visit the Oba after launching his party in a town; anybody who desires to pay a courtesy call on any Oba or Chief is welcome and he has every right to do so. If I go to address a political meeting of my party, the Action Group of Nigeria, and I decide to pay a courtesy call on any Oba or Chief, I am perfectly entitled to do so, there is nothing wrong in doing that. But when I go out of my way, or the Premier himself goes out of his way, to ask Obas and Chiefs to move resolutions adopting and accepting the new party, I think a limit has been reached, and I think our duty is to call the attention of these Obas and Chiefs to the fact that we would not like to treat them as politicians. We did not say anything more than that.

I want to emphasise again, Mr Chairman, Sir, that it is our policy, our avowed policy, to regard all Obas and Chiefs in this Region as fathers of all... (*hear, hear*). We feel we should appeal to them to steer clear of partisan

politics. In our case, we are used to the game, we can throw brickbats at ourselves, but certainly, brick-bats are not for the Obas and Chiefs of this Region. (*hear, hear*).

Chief Akintola: I thank the hon. Leader of Opposition and I am very happy to note that he agrees that Obas be appointed as Presidents of the Provincial Councils. But this warning about the Obas not attending inaugural meetings of a political party is one I have heard mentioned often and often but I did not make any comments at all. If the hon. Leader of Opposition casts his mind back, he will remember that I took part in the many launching ceremonies of the Action Group and when we were launching the party, I do not remember any town which we visited for the purpose of launching the Action Group at which the Oba of the town did not preside at the ceremony.

Mr Kotoye: Point of information. It was the late Alake of Abeokuta who established the Leader of the Opposition in Egbanda as an Action Group member. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): I would like to remind the hon. Leader of Opposition, Mr Chairman, Sir, that the Action Group was first launched in my Division and the Olowo of Owo presided over the launching. (*Laughter*).

Chief Akintola: The hon. Member for Remo is always honest enough to admit that fact. He said the first one was wrong. According to him, since that was wrong we should do better this time. And although it was wrong to associate an Oba with a political party I remember that even for fear of Obas in certain areas or because of scarcity of natural rulers, an improvised Oba presided over their meeting at Mushin. (*prolonged laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Point of information, Mr Chairman. Although I did not attend the Mushin meeting, the Mushin meeting was the meeting of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa, a cultural organisation, and not that of the Action Group.

Chief Akintola: Very good. I understand the meeting of Mushin was not an Action Group meeting. If it was the meeting of Egbe Omo Oduduwa, politically I do not see the difference. (*Interruptions*). (*Opposition Benches: Egbe Omo Olofin!*)

In any event, when we launched the Action Group in Owo, the first ever inaugural meeting of the Action Group was presided over by the Olowo of Owo. When we went

to Ife to launch the party, at every meeting of the former Action Group, the Oni of Ife used to preside, and furthermore, whether it is right or wrong, one thing they can count upon is that whatever we do on this Side is always backed by the will of our traditional rulers. (*Cheers*). If a man of the status of the Leader of Opposition is going to hold a meeting in any town, he owes it a duty in the traditional Yoruba way to pay homage to the ruler of that town. If the ruler chooses to attend that meeting, what is wrong with it?

The trouble with the Opposition is that when the hon. Leader of Opposition was Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs and Local Government, he wielded his sceptre in such a strong, I won't say unsympathetic; in such a terrifying manner, that when he is no longer in office, some Obas say "thank God". (*Laughter*). So that whenever he wants to attend a meeting Obas will surely leave him alone and that is why he complains now. Why do we have to drive our fathers away from us?

Alhaji Adegbenro: Go and pay homage to them in their palaces but do not bring them to the political field.

Chief Akintola: We will pay homage to them in their palaces. If they choose to attend our meetings they are perfectly welcome.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Why must they pass resolutions?

Chief Akintola: They pass resolutions because they are thinking of the welfare of all their people in this Region. They want the unity of their children and if they notice that in a town where the Action Group, where the UPP, where the NCNC, used to cross swords and beat up one another and these people now want to settle the differences among themselves and come together, Obas owe it a duty to give their blessing to that meeting. They are giving blessing to the new spirit in this Region.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I understand that the NNNDP is an *Alajobi* Party and not a political party.

Chief Akintola: The NNNDP is not only a political party, it is also a fraternal organisation. It has strong ties of brotherhood binding us together and when I say it is *Egbe Alajobi*; watch it. It is *Egbe Alajobi*—comprising people who sever their historical and traditional origins and are proud to bind themselves together in order to protect the interest of their children and their children's children. That is why we come together. And those who are not in this brotherhood, "*E ma fiwon sepe, obo ni yio para re*". (*Prolonged laughter*).

[CHIEF AKINTLOA]

Mr Chairman, may I just point out a slight error, with your indulgence, Sir, in Clause 5 (2) (d) The word 'all' appears twice and I therefore move an amendment that the second 'all' should be deleted. It is a typographical error.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the amendment. But in supporting it I would like to say that on the 26th of this month, the hon. Leader of Opposition is going to Ishara and from the circular issued by the Action Group, the Odemo of Ishara will be presiding over that meeting. (*Laughter*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 8 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION— REPORT

The Minister of State (Local Government) (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): The following Members have been selected to the various Committees of the House for the 13th Session:—

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. Oba C. D. Akran	Member
3. Hon. N. A. B. Kotoye	Member
4. Hon. D. K. Olumofin	Member
5. Hon. Ayo Ajibola	Member
6. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
7. Mr O. Fashola	Member
8. Mr D. Atolagbe	Member

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEES

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Justice	Member
4. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
5. Mr J. O. Adeyemo	Member
6. Chief O. Sobande	Member
7. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
8. Mr Y. Adekunle	Member
9. Alhaji B. O. Obisesan	Member
10. Chief J. E. Babatola	Member
11. Chief A. Adekeye	Member

HOUSE COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Finance	Member
4. Mr D. O. Orowole	Member
5. Mr J. O. Kehinde	Member
6. Chief S. B. Aruwajoye	Member

7. Mr C. O. Olamigoke	Member
8. Mr J. A. Ajuwon	Member
9. Chief E. A. Fadayiro	Member
10. Mr J. O. Awopeju	Member
11. Chief S. A. Okeya	Member

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Justice	Member
3. Mr S. O. Oyewole	Member
4. Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye	Member
5. Mr C. O. Olamigoke	Member
6. Alhaji Y. Ogunyele	Member
7. Mr M. A. Adewumi	Member
8. Mr I. A. Ositelu	Member
9. Mr R. A. Olusa	Member
10. Mr D. A. Popoola	Member

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Chairman (<i>To be nominated by Executive Council</i>).	
2. The Minister of Works and Transport	Member
3. The Minister of Trade and Industry	Member
4. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
5. Mr N. A. Adibi	Member
6. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan	Member
7. Mr B. Olaniyan	Member

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Chairman (<i>To be nominated by Mr Speaker</i>).	
2. One member representing Minority interest to be nominated by Mr Speaker	
3. Mr K. O. Owonikoko	Member
4. Mr A. A. Adedigba	Member
5. Mr J. O. Adeyemo	Member
6. Chief S. B. Aruwajoye	Member
7. Chief O. Sobande	Member
8. Chief O. Olaitan	Member
9. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi	Member
10. Mr S. Onasanya	Member
11. Mr D. Atolagbe	Member

I beg to move that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Mr Olumofin: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Hooliganism and Thuggery

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu-Remo North):

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have all listened very patiently to the speeches made on the floor of this House by the hon. Premier and his Deputy. In that I am not at all alone, all callous heart will say that he is not touched by their appeal, and for that I would express my own gratitude to the hon. Premier and his Deputy; and in that I am not at all alone, all Members on this Side of the House are of the same opinion. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not enough for us to be told what unity is, or what we will gain by solidarity, we have to put it to practice and must demonstrate, on every Side of the House, that there must be peace and unity in this Region. We would like to welcome that appeal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we cannot but bring to the notice of this honourable House our experience, which might not be consistent with this doctrine of unity which is being dinned into our ears. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very sad to note and to bring to the notice of this honourable House the practice and the behaviour of certain NNNDP boys. May be the overzealous ones among the party, I am not saying that they were sent by the hon. Premier or his Deputy or the hon. Leader of the House or other top notching members of the NNNDP, but in order not to give room for anything that might lead to chaos or quarrel in this Region and particularly in this township of Ibadan, the metropoli of Western Nigeria, it will be very advisable that we bring this to the notice of the House. Namely that some of these boys went to Dugbe Market, Gbagi Market and Oja Oba intimidating women traders.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. This matter which is being raised by the hon. Member for Remo North is not a matter of urgent necessity under Standing Order 16. (*Opposition Benches: Public Order!*) Mr Speaker, Sir, under Order 16 of our Standing Orders, a matter which might be debated at this stage of the sitting of the House is a matter of "urgent public importance," and a matter dealing with the behaviour of certain boys in the street is not a matter of "urgent public importance". In this connection, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would refer you to *Erskine May*, page 317, where the question of matters of urgent importance is discussed. There it is stated that the matter must be *prima facie* urgent. There is nothing urgent in the matter that is being raised at the moment.

Mr Speaker: This may not be a matter of urgent public importance, but on Motions

for Adjournment any matter brought up, provided notice thereof had been given to me and provided the Minister who is responsible for such a matter has been apprehended of this submission to me, would be in order. In this connection the notice of this matter which is being raised was hinted to me yesterday and it was passed to the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House who made me to understand that the matter should come up today and that is why I have allowed it to come today after due notice has once again been given to me. In fact I tried to get in touch with the Leader of the House to find out whether he is here to answer the question, and he has indicated that this matter should be brought up.

Chief Fani-Kayode: In any case, the matter is coming to me and I will waive those irregularities.

Mr Speaker: The matter is regular and bringing it up at this time is also regular.

Mr Awopeju: I am grateful, Mr Speaker.

Sir, we have these market women threatened that unless they declared for the NNNDP party they would not be allowed to sell their wares and were actually asked to paste NNNDP labels on their shops.

We are prepared to accommodate our people; everybody has freedom of association as entrenched in the Constitution and not only that, Sir, when this House opened, nearly all Members on the Other Side, the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries had this palm symbol displayed on their cars. It is they who can say why they had to be removed—these symbols. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want us to take very seriously the advice of the hon. Premier, and in order to make that bear fruit, so that there will be peace, not only in the Headquarters but throughout the Region, people should be allowed to go about their business and to follow any party of their choice unmolested.

Not only that, Sir, they were even being harrassed to demonstrate their sincerity of following the NNNDP by insisting that they must organise a dance at Mapo Hall singing in praise of the Premier. I will sing in praise of the Premier if he happens to visit my constituency as Premier of the Region but not when he comes there as the President of the NNNDP. This is very important and I should only ask the hon. Premier and his Deputy and other leaders of the NNNDP to warn these boys so that they may not be given any opportunity for anything that may occasion bitterness and rancour as between

[MR AWOPEJU]

brothers because whether you are Action Group or NNNDP or NCNC, we are still brothers and Yorubas of Western Nigeria.

That is all I have to say. I do not need to waste your time.

Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for Remo North, but may I say this is unfortunate, in the sense that he himself must be aware of the various acts of hooliganism in the Region today by persons who are alleged or purported to be members of the Action Group. I used the words "alleged or purported" very carefully because nobody can say whether these people were sent on their acts of hooliganism by the Acting Leader of that party.

However this allegations of the activities of several persons at Dugbe and Gbagi markets brought here this morning has come as a surprise. In fact that was why we agreed that this issue should be raised because we people believe that these matters should be looked into very carefully by the authorities because preservation of law and order is one of the duties of our Government. I will like to say that law and order in this Region shall be preserved and we mean it. But for some time past, the Government itself had to watch and hesitate in dealing with persons who are in the habit of breaking the law by their acts of hooliganism in Ibadan in particular and in the Region in general. Because every activity of Government in suppressing thuggery by these people shall be called repression of the Opposition, that is why the Government itself had been very careful in the past and when a statement was made by the Opposition this morning that the Police would protect any of their persons who commits acts of thuggery, I was taken aback. (*Opposition Benches: Nobody said so*).

I can assure you, Sir, that we have taken note of these acts for the past few months. This Region has been subjected to stonethrowing by party thugs who purport to be acting for the Action Group. These thugs, Sir, are in the habit of assaulting any passer-by who is known to be a member of the NNNDP and they have gone to the extent of even bragging in the public that the Premier escaped from their area which they said they controlled because they had thugs awaiting him at Ado-Ekiti. The Opposition have been revelling in acts of thuggery shamelessly in the Region and we say, Sir, it is about time these acts of thuggery must stop. The Government can no longer tolerate acts of thuggery by anybody in the Region and I can

assure you that these persons whom you wrongly said are members of the NNNDP are not in any shade or form members of that party. We on this Side shall never, I repeat, never encourage or condone acts of hooliganism, recklessness or thuggery. We shall never do it and if we find anybody, irrespective of his political party, we shall recommend that the Police should deal with him quite thoroughly and I will appeal to the Members of the Opposition to make sure that these people who parade themselves as members of their party and who commit acts of hooliganism should be handed over to the Police by them when it comes to their notice and that will be their own act of sincerity for the unity which we all in this Region are preaching today.

In any event, we shall look into the allegation brought before this House by the hon. Member for Remo North and the Government shall see that these acts of thuggery shall cease.

Privilege: Breach of

Chief S. L. Akintola: The Meeting of this historic House is going towards a close and I consider it important, though a matter of regret, that I have to invite the attention of the hon. Members to what appeared to me a parliamentary lapse in the conduct of Debates in this House. It should not be necessary to have to keep on reminding hon. Members of this House that as hon. Members, they owe it a duty to avoid casting aspersions on members of the public or making unfounded and grossly untrue allegations against people who have not the opportunity of defending themselves against the charges levelled against them on the Floor of this House.

It is indeed a gross abuse of privilege to fabricate a malicious story about anybody but, least of all, impugning the integrity of members of our Judiciary is one of the greatest acts of disservice that any hon. Member can commit on the Floor of this House. During its last Meeting, certain Action Group Members of the Federal Parliament were sharply rebuked by the Prime Minister for indulging in this unwholesome exercise. In fact in the Federal House, there has been a convention, which has almost become a standing rule, that the acts of a Regional Government or the acts of a Regional Minister should not be brought to the Floor of that honourable House. It is my painful duty to invite the attention of this honourable House to this important aspect of our duty.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

A statement has been made by the Minister directly responsible for the subject on accusations made against certain members of the Judiciary whose offence obviously has been that they have been in one way or another connected with the Inquiry into certain statutory Corporations in Western Nigeria or some cases in which the Action Group people were involved. It is obviously a question of a sympathiser trying to get his pound of flesh at any expense, even at the expense of taking Members of this House for a ride on unfounded charges.

To deal specifically with just one or two. The hon. Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) during the Debate on the Vote of No Confidence in this Government stated that my Government hired a House from Mr Justice G. B. A. Coker at an annual rent of £2,500. May I state categorically that this is untrue. Secondly, he alleged that ten years' rent was paid in advance. I need not also add that this is grossly untrue. I think this type of attack is cowardly and unfair because the victim of this attack is not in this House to defend himself. I think it is unfortunate that Members of this House should not have availed themselves of the maximum opportunity open to them. If any bit of information strays into their hands, they are in a privileged position to walk straight to the Minister concerned and ascertain the facts, but if instead of ascertaining the facts, they keep on indulging in scurrilous attacks against people who deserve our respect, I think we are not enhancing the prestige of this House or advancing the cause of the entire Federation. I therefore appeal to hon. Members to desist from this type of attack.

The Member for Ikeja North also made reference to one Mr Sowemimo, an employee of the Co-operative Supply Association, whom he identified with Justice Sowemimo for obviously malicious reasons. He alleged that Justice Sowemimo came to me to beg for employment for his brother. All the statements which he went on to make about these gentlemen were grossly untrue and it was wicked and unkind to have brought in the Government in a matter of this man's appointment. The post to which Mr Sowemimo—I think his correct name is Coker as I understand—was appointed was advertised during the Emergency and the post was filled by the Emergency Administration and that was long before we took office. To suggest then that his brother who was a Judge approached me to employ him is very unfair and unkind and I do not think that

by this type of insinuation, by this type of accusation, we are enhancing our own prestige as hon. Members of this House.

The hon. Member next criticised the appointment of one Sobo Sowemimo, who is also another brother of Justice Sowemimo, by the Marketing Board and stated that Sobo Sowemimo was given £15,000 for the services which he rendered to the Board. As far as I can ascertain, Mr Sobo Sowemimo acted as a Junior to Chief Oladipo Moore. It was Chief Oladipo Moore who was retained by the Marketing Board during the Emergency Administration. What he received, because in a matter like that the payment will be made to the senior counsel, will not be a matter of my own concern.

Furthermore, Mr Sobo Sowemimo was not the only counsel appointed who took part in the affairs of the Marketing Board and the N.I.P.C. I remember Olu Ayoola, Barrister-at-Law, was also retained by the Marketing Board. Why was Sobo Sowemimo chosen as the only person who was worthy of being mentioned on the floor of this House? The innuendo is obvious and I think it is most inopportune. The Marketing Board was employing the services of many people. Awolowo and Akerele were employed as lawyers by the Marketing Board before. Why wasn't that raised on the Floor of this House? Ayo Rosiji was appointed by the Marketing Board, why was that not raised on the Floor of this House? I do not know. Furthermore on several occasions the services of Chief Rotimi Williams were employed by the Marketing Board. Why were the names of these people not brought to the Floor of this House? I do not think that it is a good policy for us to drag the names of members of the Judiciary to our Debates on the Floor of this House. These people mentioned are not Judges of this Region: they are employed as Judges in the Federal territory and I think if anyone attacks any of our Region's Judges in the Federal Parliament, I will be the first one to take it up with the Federal Government. I think in future our Members should be very guarded in their attack. It may be a pleasant part-time to them, but I think it is portraying the Region and the Legislature in a very bad light.

Lastly, of course, a lot of false accusation was made by the hon. Member who unfortunately is not here. He alleged that I awarded a contract to one firm which he described as Guinea Construction Company Limited for the construction of some stores belonging to the Marketing Board at Ikeja. The hon. Leader of Opposition is here. We

were together for at least two years. Have I taken part in awarding any contract on a single occasion?

Alhaji Adegbenro: Time has changed. (*Laughter*).

Chief Akintola: If time has changed I hope he will encourage his Members to find out what the facts are.

The Marketing Board is a statutory body with its own power which is regulated by law. Under that Law—if even time has changed, the law to regulate the functions of the Marketing Board has not changed and it cannot be changed behind the Opposition's back—the Marketing Board's function is to employ their own contractors. How do I come into the picture; what is my business? I understand that somebody offered to do the job for £1.6 million and eventually it was given out for £2.6 million. According to the information which I received after I had read the *Hansard*, nobody made such an offer for £1.6 million, and the contract awarded by the Marketing Board fortunately was for £2 million and not £2.6 million and that some people received £650,000 is a figment of the imagination of the hon. Member. He suggested that £650,000 was received and distributed among the members of the NNDP. By this type of allegation we are not

giving good advertisement of ourselves to the Federation of Nigeria, we are not giving good advertisement of ourselves as a Region. Nobody received any money from any firm in respect of contract awarded by the Marketing Board. As far as I know, and as far as many of them who are opposite me know, I do not interfere in such cases. The Marketing Board, like any other Corporation, regulates its own conduct according to the power vested in it by the Law.

I enjoin all Members of the House, and I have issued the appeal before, that proper decorum be maintained in this House and that Members of the Judiciary who cannot speak on the Floor of this House should be adequately protected. "Do unto others as you like them to do unto you." If anybody attacks us in a place where we cannot speak we will feel that we have been offended. I appeal to all of them, they could attack any Minister if they like, but they should do all they can to keep out from Debates unfair and gross misrepresentation regarding highly placed and eminent people who are not Members of this House. (*Cheers*).

Question put and agreed to.

The House accordingly adjourned sine die at 3.25 p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1964

(The House met at 10.30 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

DEATH OF A MEMBER

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I regret to have to inform the House of the death of hon. L. A. Ajimobi, Member for Ibadan South Central and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport, on the 3rd of September, 1964, and I desire to express the sense of loss we have suffered by his death and to express our sincere sympathy to the relatives of the deceased. I think we should pay our last respect to the deceased person by rising for two minutes in silence.

Hon. Members stood for two minutes in silence.

May he rest in peace.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Development Projects (Ibarapa)

9/13. Mr Bola Olaniyan asked the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development to state what development projects Government has for Ibarapa District in view of the fact that the area is backward and undeveloped.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker Sir, it is presumed that the question is in relation to the activities of the Community Development Division which is the only executive arm of my Ministry.

Broadly, there are two types of programmes already approved by Government for implementation through the Community Development Division, namely:

- (i) Training of male and female multi-purpose Community Development Workers; and
- (ii) The Integrated Rural Development Scheme.

Under the Multi-purpose Community Development Workers' Training Scheme shortly to be started, trainees will be selected from all parts of the Region, including the Ibarapa District Council area, for an intensive twelve-month training course in community development techniques and principles. With

regard to the second category of schemes, Government plans to have about twenty-four projects on Integrated Rural Development whose agricultural and economic facets have considerable economic potentialities.

As the hon. Member is aware, the first project under this Scheme was launched by the hon. Premier at Eruwa in Ibarapa District only six months ago. The Eruwa Scheme, which is intended to cater for all the youths from Ibarapa District, will, it is hoped, have a considerable impact on the economy of the area and result in raising the standard of living of the people. At present, the Government is arranging for the building of a poultry in this area which is planned to start immediately and furthermore, as a matter of fact, the Government has already approved two secondary grammar schools for that area and when these schools are opened and run for a number of years, say one or two, the Government is bound to give public grants to these institutions. Enquiries are being made into the water resources of this area because the Government is fully aware of the difficulties of this area in the supply of water and when these enquiries are concluded, the Government is bound to take action.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 18 (b)

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 18 (b) be suspended this day to enable Government Business to take precedence over Private Members Business.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to invite the attention of this House to the system adopted by Government in summoning Meetings of

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

this House through the radio and by telegrams and to say that this system should stop forthwith. We are starting the present Meeting on a Tuesday, which is a Private Members' Day. I have raised this matter on several occasions on the Floor of this House and I have on each occasion had the assurance of the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House that adequate notice will be given whenever the Meeting of the House will be held. It appears that the Government is not accepting both the spirit as well as the wording of the Law creating the Western House of Assembly. I should say that adequate notice ought to be given to Members.

Only this morning in the pigeon holes Members saw for the first time the most iniquitous and obnoxious Bills that have ever come before this House, and since momentous decisions are going to be taken on these Bills, one would have expected the Government to give Members adequate notice to be able to go over them in good time.

Oba Akran: I rise to apologise very profusely for the short notice.....(*prolonged laughter*). It was not deliberately done by Government to summon Meetings in such a hurry but it was mainly due to circumstances beyond the control of the Government. I apologise.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker Sir, this is most unfortunate but I remember quite rightly that when I was on the Other Side of the House and my hon. Friend who has raised this matter was the Leader of the House he did not normally apologise on such things but now we are all very sorry. (*Laughter*).

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 41 (1):

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 41 (1) be suspended this day to enable the House to take all the stages of the following Bills today:

- (a) The Newspapers (Amendment) Bill;
- (b) The Public Order (Amendment) Bill;
- (c) The Local Government (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill;
- (d) The Public Administration (Amendment) Bill.

Dr J. O. Omitowoju: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of the Opposition: (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to make a long speech but I would like to point out that we on this Side of the House are not satisfied with the manner in which these four Bills are being brought forward for debate today. You will observe from the Order Paper that the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House proposes to move that the House shall adjourn *sine die* after today's meeting.

Oba Akran: I am not going to move.

Alhaji Adegbenro: The Government ought to give the Opposition adequate and sufficient time to be able to go through these Bills. My hon. Friend, the Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) has already told you that these Bills are iniquitous and obnoxious and for us to come here this morning and pass these Bills will be a great disservice to the people of this Region.

We are here already and I do not see why the Government should make us rush through these Bills today. We are going to pass a Bill to amend the Newspaper Law, we are also going to pass the Local Government (Amendment) Bill and two other Bills today. Why? I would suggest that the Government should give us time to study these Bills, if there are no strings attached to them by Government, and let us come back later to debate them fully.

I would also suggest that after the presentation of the Bills by the various Ministers, the House should adjourn and then we should come back tomorrow and have a full dress debate on these Bills. It is true that they contain only some three or four Clauses but they are pernicious clauses and we require time to do our best and do our duty.

Question put.

The House divided.

Ayes—53; Noes—25.

DIVISION LIST NO. 12

AYES—53

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebessin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
9. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.

13. Ajibola, Hon. Ayo
 14. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
 15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
 16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
 17. Akintola, Chief S. L.
 18. Akran, Oba C. D.
 19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
 20. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
 21. Borokinni, Chief A.
 22. Bello, Hon. A. B.
 23. Elushade, Mr T. E.
 24. Fajimi, Hon. S. L. A.
 25. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
 26. Fashola, Mr O.
 27. John, Hon. C. O.
 28. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
 29. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
 30. Lana, Mr R. A.
 31. Lawal, Mr J. L.
 32. Layonu, Chief S. A.
 33. Ogundiran, Hon. Duro
 34. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
 35. Oke, Mr E. O.
 36. Olaitan, Chief O.
 37. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
 38. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
 39. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
 40. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
 41. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
 42. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
 43. Orowole, Mr D. O.
 44. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
 45. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
 46. Sanni, Mr S. A.
 47. Sobande, Chief O.
 48. Somotan, Mr A. S.
 49. Tifase, Chief J. L.
 50. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
 51. Williams, Mr C. A.
- Tellers for Ayes*
52. Adekunle, Mr Y. O.
 53. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

NOES—25

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adisa, Mr A.
4. Aina, Mr V. A.
5. Akerele, Mr S. A.
6. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Chief J. E.
10. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
11. Ebubedike, Mr F.
12. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
13. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
14. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
15. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
16. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
17. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
18. Okeya, Mr S. A.

19. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
20. Olusa, Mr R. A.
21. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
22. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
23. Popoola, Mr D. A.

Tellers for Noes

24. Olaniyan, Mr B.
25. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.

Question agreed to.

Adjournment Sine Die

Motion by leave withdrawn

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:

(i) *Newspaper*.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Newspapers Law—Cap. 81: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

(ii) *Public Order*.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Public Order Law—Cap. 107: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

2. By the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government:

Local Government.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law—Cap. 68: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

3. By the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House:

Public Administration.—A Bill for a Law to amend the Public Administration Law—Cap. 101: read the First time: *to be read a Second time later in the day.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NEWSPAPERS (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief B. Olowofoyeku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Newspapers Law, Cap. 81.

The purpose of this Bill, as shown in the Objects and Reasons, is to make an offence, the publication, reproduction, or circulation in a newspaper, any false statements or false reports by any person knowing the same to be false. Those who have regard for the sanctity of truth and those who abhor the

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKI[†]]

satanic villainy of deliberate and perverse falsehood will have no alternative but to support the Bill. (*Cheers*).

Our Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, but the same Constitution, Mr Speaker, protects the rights, reputation and freedom of other persons. Where there is a right to freedom of speech and expression, therefore, there is also a corresponding duty to protect the rights of the freedom of other persons. In other words, fundamental right to freedom of expression enshrined in the Constitution imposes upon the owner of the right a correlative duty of not interfering with the freedom of other people to keep their names, their honour and their reputation untarnished and unsullied by reckless and scurrilous attacks from the malignant pens of pedlars of falsehood disguising as newspaper editors. (*cheers*).

The Press in this country is as free as any other in the world. This is rightly so; a free press is necessary for the preservation of democracy on our soil. But nobody should be allowed to indulge in unbridled freedom, and liberty should not degenerate into licence.

Ours is a democratic society and there is no attempt to derogate from that democracy. It is the pride of every nation that our Press is free, but no nation that has pride in itself will, in conferring freedom on the Press, close its eye to the corresponding duty the Press has to perform. Man is not infallible, hence there are laws which will guide him against encroachment on the rights of others. So also is a newspaper; to clothe a newspaper with infallibility is to clothe it with tyranny. Infallibility of the Press will not only be a danger to the society but an exposure of the country to the ridicule of other nations.

Every Nigerian and every foreigner in this country is entitled to protection from being falsely represented. It is the duty of every newspaper, therefore, as it is the duty of every person, to take every reasonable step in seeing that a false statement or a false report is not disseminated about any person. This Bill, therefore, has done no more than to confer a duty on the newspaper that in its vigilance it still has to make sure that it checks the truth or falsity of every story before rushing to Press.

The Press is a powerful public organ. This power can be used for good or evil. Realising that the impact of the Press is of the mind, the soul and the intellect of the public, it is necessary that Government should strive to prevent the power of the Press from being deliberately directed towards

malevolent purposes. Power unchannelled into proper use can become tyranny; and the tyranny of an unbridled, yet potent, Press is capable of pulverising the public honour and image of any individual.

The greatest of us is a puny rat as compared with the Press, and since it is part of the duty of Government to protect the weak against the brutal strength of any assailant, this Bill has come as a tower of strength for the protection of the liberty of the individual against possible tyranny of the Press.

This Region will not lag behind in the protection of the private and public freedom of its citizens; Members will observe that a similar Bill has just been passed in the Federal Parliament, and in Eastern Nigeria, a corresponding penal section, in respect of the publication of false statements, had existed in its Newspaper Law since 1955.

But Mr Speaker, Sir, this is no slavish imitation; our Bill does not discriminate between individuals; there are no protected persons; in addition, safeguards have been provided in the Bill. For instance, no prosecution could proceed under this section without the consent of the Attorney-General. (*Prolonged laughter*). The Bill also provides a useful defence for the accused wherever he could show that before the publication, which is the subject matter of complaint, he took reasonable measures to verify the accuracy of the statement that has been published.

The provisions of this amending Bill, therefore, are designed to enhance the standards and the efficiency of our newspapers and I am sure these provisions would readily commend themselves to Members on both Sides of the House, and that the Bill will not provoke a protracted Debate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Prolonged cheers*).

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief E. A. A. Fadairo (Egbado North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this obnoxious Bill which should not have been presented at this time.

The Bill is oppressive, unwarranted and is couched to gag the Press in this country and I warn this Government very seriously that to gag the Press in this country is going to work adversely against the country—perhaps many of them on that Side do not know that. The only attraction which we have for foreign investors in this country is that we have a

[CHIEF FADAYIRO]

free Press and I appeal to the Government to withdraw this Bill and let us work amicably together with the Press. But if they want to gag the Press that is extremely bad and I think it is very unfair.

This Bill comes up with other four or five Bills which are very oppressive and I wonder what would have happened in the colonial days when our hon. Premier was fighting very hard for self-government if we were deprived of such right of not being able to study the Bills in advance. I wish that this Bill could have come up a long time ago so that we have record of what previous nationalists have written in the Press and yet our colonial masters of those days never thought of gagging us in this way because we were given the chance to express our opinion. But now that we are on our own, I think we should make an effective use of the Press to our advantage.

Why should the Government now put punitive measures under section 27A whereas the Press so far had contributed a lot to the progress of this country? To kill this freedom of the Press because they happen to be in Government today is extremely bad and I would wish they reconsider the repercussion. The Press was very useful to them when they were forming the Nigerian National Democratic Party. It is a very powerful weapon but because they want to face elections, they want to gag the Press. (*interruptions*).

It is against fundamental human rights. Let us give the Press a free hand in order to help us in our Development Programme in this country. Once any foreign investor is coming to this country and he knows that we have a free press, he will be satisfied that there is a public organ which will criticise the Government of the day. They must take criticisms but they do not even give any allowance for the press in this obnoxious Bill. (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, I say that this is a very obnoxious Bill and we on this Side are vehemently opposing the Bill.

With these few remarks I beg to oppose.

Mr I. A. Ositelu (Ikeja North): Mr Speaker, Sir, whenever the Premier of this Region wants to bring to this House any oppressive Bill, the most convenient person to introduce it is the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. The next most convenient person is the Minister of Local Government.

Now, what is the purpose of this Bill? During the last Meeting of the House I said here that the NNNDP Members exist only inside this House, that they have no following outside.

An hon. Member: Where is his proof, how does he know that?

Mr Ositelu: They will soon know that they have no supporters. If they rely on the Management Committees they set up now, when the time for election comes, they will be disappointed. (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill comes under the portfolio of the Minister of Information, but instead of the Minister of Information coming to the House to move it, it is assigned to the Attorney-General.

Mr Speaker: That is collective responsibility. (*cheers*).

Mr Ositelu: After all the Minister responsible for Information is in this House. Why did they not allow him to move it? Why does this man do it? He came here last April with the Customary Courts (Amendment) Bill. I said that the Bill was designed to punish the Opposition Members. They promised heaven and earth that they would use their powers well. But look at Ilesha where all opposition members who do not support them are now in jail. The same thing happens at Ife, from where the Minister of Local Government comes. The Minister of Local Government, when he was in the Opposition, was very good. Because they want to contest the next election, they are now bringing this Bill so that, whatever they do, no newspaper will have the right to publish it. Whether they pass this Bill or not, the day they dissolve this House none of them is coming back. (*Cheers from the Opposition*).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman has always been an hon. Member of this House. I never realised that he is a prophet. He is telling us what is going to happen in the future, but from all I know our future is not in his hands. (*Hear, hear*)

Mr Ositelu: I do not say that I am a prophet and I do not say their future is in my hands, but all I know is that when this House is dissolved none of them is coming here. If the Premier will accept my challenge, let him dissolve the House and let us see what will happen. (*Interruptions*).

What is the purpose of this Bill? Why do they want to bring it in at this time? I

[MR OSITELU]

understand that the NNNDP as a party has no money now and that the leaders of the NNNDP are planning to take money from the Regional Treasury for the purpose of the next elections.

Chief Akintola: There are rules governing parliamentary procedure and I will like to invite the hon. Member's attention to them so that he may not have to stand a trial for making wild allegations against this Government. If he is sure, and he is a man who believes in truth, I want him to come out and mention names and Treasury voucher numbers. Otherwise he should keep his mouth shut.

Mr Ositelu: I do not believe in making wild allegations.

Chief Akintola: It is only a wild allegation. It is against the Standing Orders and against all rules of parliamentary etiquette for him to impute motives against the Government.

Mr Ositelu: As I said, I do not believe in making wild allegations. When I came here in April I made allegations against this Government. Most people, and even some Ministers, got up and said that I was telling a lie. When the Minister of Lands and Housing got up he confirmed what I said. Another Minister got up and confirmed what I said. I am making another allegation. The Premier of this Region is busy touring the Region for his party at the expense of the tax payers of this Region. If he wants to tour, he has to use his party's money and not the money of the poor tax payers.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman keep to the subject under debate?

Mr Ositelu: Why do we need this Bill at this time? So that whatever they do, no newspaper will publish it. So that when he tours the Region propagating his party at the expense of the tax payers nobody will query his right, no newspaper will say anything lest the editors should be prosecuted and sent to jail.

The Premier was very agitated when I was trying to make allegations here. He got up to speak with such heat and, as a matter of fact, I should have even been sent to jail but for the fact that this is an honourable House. When I was working with the Premier I knew him to be a very accommodating person. I do not know when he has become so touchy.

knowing the same to be false.
It is provided under the Bill that proof by an accused person, charged with

Chief Akintola: When he was working with me he knew how accommodating I was, perhaps he was the one I was sending to the Treasury to steal money. *(prolonged laughter)*

Mr Ositelu: In any case the Premier was not like this then.

If this Government has nothing to hide, why bring this Bill now?

It is true that a Bill similar to this was passed in the Federal Parliament in Lagos yesterday but we need not be slaves to whatever they do there. When the hon. Attorney-General was on the Opposition he used to get up and defend the people, but now he has changed completely.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we know that there is nothing we can do in this House to change the mind of this Government from passing this Bill. I know that Members of the NNNDP in this House, if they are not Christians, are Muslims. I am therefore appealing through the Speaker to the hon. Premier to please advise the Attorney-General to drop this Bill. The Western Region does not need this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, they are presenting this Bill because they do not know what the average man thinks and feels; I know because I am in the field, I know because I am a poor man, I know because I am living with the people in the farm; they do not know. I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I am appealing through you to the Members of the Government to please drop this Bill.

The hon. Minister of Local Government and Deputy Premier should please advise the Premier to drop this Bill. After all he is from a Christian home.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to oppose the Bill.

The Minister of Information (Mr O. Adebayo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to make this Bill a controversial Bill but because of the statement made by the Member who has just spoken. I do not want to say that he foolishly made his remarks.*(Prolonged interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make him understand that it was Dr Elias who moved the Press Bill in Lagos and I want to tell him that Mr Benson is not better than myself. *(Laughter and interruptions)*. Mr Okoya my Colleague in the East is not better than myself and Mr Fadayiro, their former Minister, is not better than myself and if they are intelligent enough to see Section 27 (2) of the Bill, they will see that this matter concerns myself and the Attorney-General

[ALHAJI OPALEYE]

I think those who are Christians on the other Side of this House should consider the religious side of this Bill. It is in the teaching of the Bible by Jesus Christ that one should not tell lies and that "Thou shalt not make false statement" and also in the teaching of Islam, the hon. Leader of Opposition is my Colleague in Islam.

Mr Speaker, I think this Bill is simple and I accept that newspaper men should not tell lies.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker Sir, my main concern about the provision of this amendment Bill is of a fact that most newspapers do live on speculations, what they call "scoops", and by trying to find out that is going on behind the scenes. If they fail to publish what is called a scoop there is no doubt, Sir, that their circulation is likely to fall. Not only that, Sir, Newspaper Proprietors cannot afford very high level manpower on their reportorial staff and therefore most of the reporters are likely to make honest mistakes in the reporting of news. When that does happen, there is no provision here which will show the good intention of the reporter in reporting the particular news item.

The Government Whip (Mr O. Fashola): Order 29 (2). "Members shall not cross the floor of the House unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member." I believe that the hon. Member is speaking from the seat allocated to Alhaji Adegbenro.

Chief Odebiyi: As I was saying, Sir, I think what is important is the good intention—how the prosecuting party is going to make sure that the interest of the particular individual who has committed the offence is going to be safeguarded under this Newspaper (Amendment) Bill—because, as I have said, editors of newspapers do like to make speculations and I do know that if this type of amendment Bill had been passed in the colonial days the freedom which nationalists of those days had then would have been denied them.

One other point I want to make is that what is going to happen is that newspapers and their proprietors will be afraid to publish any news item if they have any suspicion that they have not made sure of the veracity of the statement to be published. There are even cases when these papers have published statements of fact which have been denied by Government. There was a case in the *Daily Express* recently about an appointment

of the Acting Manager of the Airways. This was denied whereas a photostat copy of the letter to that effect was published the following day. In a case like that the mere denial by the Minister could clamp the particular editor into jail on the mere supposition that the statement he made is false.

That also is one example of how these newspapers can get information; and there are many many ways by which the offender could be brought to book. There is the law of libel; there is the law of sedition; there is the law of criminal libel and all these have in the past been evoked in this Region; and the hon. Member for Ibadan North-East I (*Alhaji Obisesan*) has even mentioned that. In the case of the publications some people were prosecuted and were fined under the law of sedition.

What is the need for this, particularly on the eve of the Federal election? This is meant for one reason, and only one reason, to gag the Press.

Finally, Sir, according to Psalm 62 verse 11, with your permission, Sir, I quote:

"God has spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God." (*cheers*).

The Minister of Education (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my impression that the Members of the Opposition have not read the Objects of the Bill intelligently. If they have done so they would have noticed that this Bill merely seeks to prevent irresponsible and irascible statements from being made by editors of newspapers. The Bill does not prevent editors or anybody from criticising the Government. The law seeks to check people who go about making false statements, and, may I say, alarmist statements. It is known Sir, that the law is never, I repeat, never, a terror to good people. The law is only a terror to evil-doers and no honest citizen needs fear it. May I then ask whether the Members of Opposition are evil-doers?

Some of the Members on the Other Side have always boasted. I am used to this type of boasting. I used to boast when I was on the Other Side of the House—boasting that if the Government dissolved the House, the NCNC would win. I used to be a Front Bencher of the Opposition challenging the Government. The point I want to make is that Members of the Opposition in this House are used to boasting in vain and they are now boasting in vain. At no time has the Opposition won any election in this Region in spite of their boastful challenges. Those

[MR OLUMOFIN]

who feel, like my hon. Friend, that the Government Party has no following have come here to crack jokes. I would ask them to wait and see. They will know that the Government Party in this Region is the most popular party in the Federation. (*cheers*).

Why hide under the parliamentary immunity to tell lies against decent people? Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal to you to withdraw parliamentary immunity from the hon. Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) so that by the time he leaves this House he will face the law. I am sure he will not be able to take up the challenge of the hon. Premier to repeat even half of what he has said here outside the precincts of this House.

One of the Members on the Other Side said that newspaper men are being gagged. No clause of the Bill, to my mind, has said anything about gagging the Press. A very seasoned politician on the Opposition Benches also got up to say that newspaper men must be allowed to go on speculating. I agree. But the practice is that they must check their facts when they are in doubt. The Government only wants them to check when they are in doubt.

One more point, Mr Speaker. References have been made to the Northern House of Assembly and the Eastern House of Assembly. I would like to say that the Members of the Opposition are shameless in that they have failed to adopt the line of action taken by their counterparts in the Federal Parliament which passed a Bill similar to this only yesterday. If I were a Member of the Opposition I would not get up in this House to oppose what my colleagues in Lagos have already approved. That is why I say that they are shameless. All I want to say is that if even Lagos did not pass the Bill the West must, in view of the fact that, in the whole of the Federation, the readership of newspapers in the West exceeds that of all the other Regions put together; so that whatever harm is done in Lagos or in the North or in the East much more or twice that would be done in Western Nigeria. In the interest of the general public, therefore, Government has brought this Bill. We had thought that when they come here the Opposition will endorse the Bill. But they are now merely wasting their time; the Bill will be passed. Mr Speaker, Sir, I even think that this Bill ought to have been passed a long time ago—it is overdue.

I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that so many Members on the

Other Side are so anxious to speak but I am certain they will have plenty of opportunity when we come to the Committee Stage. I think it is about time the Debate on the Second Reading of the Bill is wound up.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the first thing I would like to assure the Opposition about is that we on this Side of the House, and especially myself, believe completely and absolutely in a democratic society. I am glad that every Member of the Opposition knows that I believe sincerely in democratic principles and it is for these principles that we have fought and some people have been punished and I must say, Sir, that the Member of Opposition who said that the nationalists who fought for the independence of this country would have been debarred from making their statements if this Bill had been passed a long time ago is not doing justice to those nationalists. The nationalists of yester-years did not base their struggle on falsity. The nationalists of yester-years fought for truth.

They published truth, they believed in the concept of democracy and they won. If every one of us is sure of his facts, he is quite at liberty to publish those facts in any newspaper. This Government will be the last to stand in the way of the publication of the truth, because from the moment an individual or a Government is placed in a position that he cannot speak the truth, that individual and that Government will go into perdition. From the day and moment when any person can live his own life without criticism, without truth, without the balance of truth being used against him, he is going to be ruined. It has happened to so many people before, people who will not tolerate criticism, people who fear the truth. This Government will never fear the truth, Sir.

A great journalist, G. B. Shaw, said: "Facts are sacred, but comments are free". Let all writers and editors accept that concept. We want them to acknowledge the sacredness of facts. This matter is a serious one and allegations had been made from that side of the House. Nobody will say, Sir, that an editor should not publish what is true. I remember during the Coker Commission of Inquiry that my good Friend, hon. Odebiyi, was in the box for some time. He perspired, but that is not the point Sir. He acknowledged that when there was a squabble in the Action Group, that his own faction of the Action Group deliberately published falsehood concerning the Premier of the Region regarding the reduction in the price of cocoa. This statement was repeated often and often in the Press. They went out

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

deliberately to woo and subvert the feelings of the people of this Region against the Premier. They used one of the most important factors in our economy, the price of the most important crop in the Region; a fact that nobody should make politics of at all. Will any Government with the fear of God in its heart, will any Government that desires to rule in justice, will any Government that desires to see everybody have the sense of fairness, not agree that such legislation should be passed, only for the purpose of removing falsity? What have we done, Sir? Look at the Eastern Region law. In the Eastern Region Law, rumour is included. I will read it to you, Sir. The Newspaper Law in the Eastern Region says, section 14, sub-section (1):

“Any person who publishes or reproduces or circulates for sale in a newspaper any statement, rumour or report, knowing or having reason to believe that such statement, rumour or report is false, shall be guilty of an offence”.

I overheard my hon. Friend, Mr Babatola, saying, whilst I was reading that section, that this Law had been overtaken by the Constitution. I will be very happy if he keeps to his teaching profession. If he comes into the legal profession, he will surely starve to death. (*Laughter*). Because that is a very bad interpretation of the Law. It is completely wrong, because this Law is still in force, and the Director of Public Prosecutions can at any time invoke it, if he desires. I am quite certain that my Friend who openly acknowledged that they have been dealing in falsity and that they made this statement to the whole world before the Commission of Inquiry under oath, will make sure that the tactics that they used in the past will not be useful to them now.

What do we say here in our own Bill? Where a person publishes or reproduces—now listen to this one—“without due regard”, it means the prosecution itself will have to prove before a conviction that this man had no regard to the truth and had not made any attempt to verify it. In the Eastern Region Law all you have to do to qualify for prison is to publish a statement or rumour. (*interruptions*). In our own law our generosity is so obvious. In section 2, sub-section 3. A defence can still be put up even where falsity is published. It says:

“It shall be a defence to a charge of an offence under this section to prove that the accused person, prior to such publication, took reasonable measures to verify the accuracy of such statement or report”.

That is even when the report is false. All you have to prove to the court is to say: “My Lord sir, before I published that hon. Odebiyi committed bigamy, I phoned Odebiyi, I went to his house and somebody answered and I thought that it was hon. Odebiyi.” Even if the fact is wrong, even if what was published is false, if he can prove that he took reasonable steps to check his facts he will not be convicted.

I am saying, Sir, that it is quite clear why this Bill is brought. It is brought in order to safeguard the interests of every individual in this country, from the smallest man in the street to the President himself. Complaints have often been brought by important personages in our community, right from the top, challenging news in the newspapers. Often an irresponsible person brings the President himself into contempt by publishing a wrong statement. We cannot just leave these people like that. These people must be dealt with by due process of law. I am saying that this Bill is for the purpose of making sure that editors, columnists, and people like themselves or myself, who write in the newspapers, make sure of their facts before they go to the Press.

Again hon. Ositelu made reference to this party, NNDP, using Treasury funds. We have learnt our lesson from them. We shall never take a penny from the Treasury. They took the people's money and they offended God, and God came down upon them very heavily, and their Government was destroyed by the power of God. That is why we say: “*Isa Allah*”—by the power of God. It is a piece of falsity to talk of anybody using Government funds to attract people because of election. But one should read the *Hansard* when hon. Benson challenged somebody, who is not here, as to his statement that he would use Government funds to win elections. They can never hear enough of the truth until they learn to respect it. We do not depend upon Government funds to win elections. When I was on the Other Side I was sure that the Action Group had taken money from the coffers of the Government and I said so; not only on the Floor of this House, I went outside and I published it because I was so confident that I was saying the truth and nobody dared to prosecute. (*interruptions*).

When hon. Ositelu was speaking, I did not interrupt him. When he was making allegations of the greatest seriousness nobody interrupted him; but when the proof comes out he becomes allergic to it, he becomes irritable. Because this Government realises

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

that it is here by the power of God Himself, we shall do everything, be it in the Customary Court as alleged, to see that justice is done. No one shall be convicted in any court of this Region without due process of law.

I have not had the opportunity of trying to rig an election, but I know those who are versed at this game but we shall make sure that the election is free and fair. Despite overseas tours to various places, I am assuring them, Sir, that this election shall be free and fair and no amount of thugs imported from the Eastern Region will be in a position to move us an inch off course.

A Friend of mine across the Table this morning made references about the two NNDP men who were brutally murdered. Sir, I want them to realise that we are going to rule this country in accordance with the law. We shall not take reprisals. It is easy for us to knock at Adegbenro's door at 12 midnight and say we want to speak to hon. Adegbenro, and twelve men would just rush in and cut him into pieces; it is easy; but we are not going to do that; we are not going to retaliate by murdering people. A Member of this House is happy that part of his election technique is to murder people and he had cause to say so to me this morning across the Table.

Chief Akinyemi: That is not true.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, I promise that the time will come by the Grace of God when we shall see those who will run. Mr Speaker, I tell you they will run so fast that you would not see them for the dust. That time will come, we would not do this, Sir, by murdering people. Mr Speaker Sir, we shall do it by due process of law until the gentlemen thugs are eliminated from this Region.

Sir, to end my contribution to this Debate, if they just want to know the truth about this kind of thing, they should read Chief Festus Okoti-Ebo's speech in the Federal Parliament, an admirable speech indeed, on this issue. The Minister who moved the Second Reading of the Bill in the Federal House said that he was moving it under the principle of collective responsibility. If a man is a man, let him be a man, if he is going to be a mouse let him be a mouse and remain a mouse, but as far as this Government is concerned, we are proud of it and this Bill will be passed and any person who intends to destroy the Government with impunity or any person who cares to impugn the integrity of another person in this Region shall be kept where he belongs. It was Mr Milton himself who said:

"Give me the liberty to know, to believe and to utter freely according to conscience".

What are we asking them to do is that we want them to know what they publish, and we want them to believe what they publish. That is all Sir, if they keep to that precept I am sure, Sir, not only will newspapermen and reasonable men in this country acknowledge this Bill as one of the greatest landmarks of this country, but also they will hail it as a means assuring that truth, and truth only, is the best.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Before I make my speech, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to clear the erroneous impression already created by the Government. Mr Speaker Sir, when the Minister of Local Government was speaking, he referred a statement which he ascribed to the hon. Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Akinyemi*). Mr Speaker, you can only place any premium on a statement made by a person when he is actually occupying the Floor of the House. We on this Side of the House do not know the time when the hon. Member made the alleged statement; I did not hear him at all. Secondly we do not take pride in the death of anybody, whether in the Opposition or in the Government. Death certainly, Mr Speaker, will come when it will come. We are not perpetrators of genocide in this part of the world but we cannot be threatened, we cannot be cowed down because people tried to portray us, Members of the Action Group, as perpetrators of evil. I would like it to be on record, Mr Speaker Sir, that apart from the matter being *sub judice*, I think we on this Side have the greatest sympathy for people who have fallen victims but if the Minister of Local Government and his Colleagues choose to retaliate we will be prepared to meet them. I do not think any true citizen of this Region has any intention to increase the tension already existing in this Region.

I will also like to sound a note of warning on the need for the election being free and fair. This can only be so if the Members of the Government want it to be so. It is true that efforts are being made not to make the election free and fair but when we get to the field, we shall see what they have in store because of the Government machinery at their disposal, but whether they actually exist in this Region will have to be left to time.

Members of the Government said that the Bill is not controversial, innocuous and all that. On the face of it, we may be tempted to think so or consider that the Bill is not controversial.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

But I hold that Clause 2, which is the main Clause of the Bill, has something cleverly tucked somewhere as I will show now, Mr Speaker. Under clause 2, Sub-section 2, if I make the genuine allegation that the Government of this Region is trying to do certain things which are not in the best interest of the people of this Region, or that certain members of the Government are taking certain decisions which are really bad and they want me to give them the sources of my information and if I cannot lay my hands on the Government papers or documents, which is very impossible, to prove my case, then they say I have committed a crime. They are trying to find ways and means to get some of us into jail, but this will not deter the Action Group who will fight the election and win it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will see again that Sub-section (2) also has something to say, and with your due permission, I will like to read this particular portion so that I can tell you that certain danger is lurking somewhere in the Bill.

“(2) A prosecution for an offence under this section shall not be instituted except with the consent of the Attorney-General.

Provided that a person charged with such an offence may be arrested, or a warrant for his arrest may be issued or executed, and any such person may be remanded in custody or on bail notwithstanding that the consent of the Attorney-General to the institution of a prosecution for the offence has not been obtained, but no further proceedings shall be taken until the consent has been obtained.”

Mr Speaker, the ruling party may cause the arrest of an editor or a reporter because he has committed an offence under this Bill, but if the consent of the Attorney-General has not been obtained, he can be kept away somewhere especially if this man is a thorn in the flesh of the powers that be or if he is standing for election.

It is true if they know that somebody is going to constitute an obstacle to their winning elections they will definitely like to haul him down by saying that he has written something in the newspapers and the next thing is that he will be jailed.

It is a well known fact that Members of the Government do not wish to see the face of the Opposition Members so that their wicked plans may not be revealed. We are not going to give them a chance. We have our fears and it must be put on record that we

vehemently oppose the Bill. We oppose the Bill because it is unconstitutional.

The hon. Member for Egbado North-West (*Chief Fadayiro*) has asked why this Bill should be introduced on the eve of the election. I think the intention is that we on this Side of the House will not have the opportunity to reveal all the evils that they have planned. My appeal to the Government is that this Bill should be shelved; it should not be passed now. I do not see the reason why it should be passed in a place where we say that democracy exists. If they have nothing to hide, if they feel that the election is going to be fair and free, why rush this Bill?

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government referred to paragraph 2, sub-section 3 of the Bill which says—

“It shall be a defence to a charge of an offence under this section to prove that the accused person prior to such publication, took reasonable measures to verify the accuracy of such statement or report.”

Mr Speaker, anybody may defend himself but before he is allowed a hearing, what do you think will happen to him or her? Members of the Opposition who are charged are detained indefinitely, and added to this, before such a person is charged the consent of the Attorney-General must be obtained. It means that if a Member of the Opposition is arrested, he may not be granted bail. He may be detained there indefinitely, until my hon. Friend, the Attorney-General, instructs that he be brought to trial. Members of the Opposition may be punished unnecessarily and without just cause. We have our fears for opposing this Bill; it is a design to punish the Opposition and a device which is being made so that wicked plans of the Members on the Government side may not be revealed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I conclude by saying that we on this side of the House oppose the passage of the Bill because of the inherent dangers contained in the Bill.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: I have followed closely the speeches made by some of the Opposition Members and I can only come to the conclusion that most of them do not understand the import of the Bill. Even I am surprised to see that some Members of the Opposition, who are lawyers who should be able to show the light, have failed to speak out the facts or the reasons for making or introducing the Bill. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the Opposition wants us to leave the newspaper proprietors to be publishing false statements about as is

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

common nowadays. The purpose of the Bill is to check inaccurate reports which some of our pressmen have indulged in making. It will even raise the standard of our newspapers in Nigeria. Any editor, or newspaper proprietor, should make it a point of duty to see that correct information is obtained before sending newspapers out. No reasonable Government will tolerate the publication of inaccurate statements or reports within its jurisdiction. I know the Opposition will oppose the Bill, because I remember a Member from Ado-Ekiti, hon. Babatola, is very fond of giving false news and false statements to the press. If I remember rightly, he swore to a statement some months ago saying that members of the NNNDP wanted to do certain things at Ado-Ekiti. However, Mr Speaker, Sir, when the statements were investigated, all were found to be a bundle of lies. It is this sort of inaccurate statement, whether from the Opposition or from members of the press, that all the Governments of the Federation want to check.

The Leader of Opposition said that an accused person may be detained indefinitely. I am not surprised, this is due to his inexperience and to his lack of knowledge of the Law. All members of the Bar on that Side know that an accused person cannot be detained for more than twenty-four hours. If a person is arrested, he will be sent for trial within twenty-four hours, or if the Police are awaiting instruction from the Attorney-General, the Police will definitely grant bail.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I conclude my speech, I would like to refer Opposition Members to the Eastern Nigeria Law on this particular matter. I think many Members on the Government Side have referred to the Eastern Nigeria Law where there is no mercy shown or a defence allowed if a person is arrested for publishing false statements. I would like all the Members of the Opposition to go and read that portion well, I mean Section 14 of the Eastern Nigeria Law; they will know, after careful comparison, that the provisions of this Bill are not harsh at all. Here, if a newspaper editor or proprietor is arrested, he will be allowed to defend himself, that is by giving the source of his information. If he publishes any statement which is false, and he can defend himself by showing that he was not aware of its falsity, he will be allowed to go free. In the Eastern Region, if he publishes any rumour or statement which is false, he will be punished for publishing it. He is not

given the chance to defend himself or to give the source of his information. It is the duty of the members of the public, all our editors and newspapers proprietors, to check the facts that they intend to publish; if they are in doubt they should seek information from the appropriate quarters.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put.

The House divided.

AYES—54; NOES—27

Division List No. 13

AYES—54

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebessin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
9. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon Ayo
14. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
16. Akerere, Mr S. O.
17. Akintola, Chief S. L.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Borokinni, Chief A.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Hon. S. L. A.
26. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
27. Fashola, Mr O.
28. John, Hon. C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lana, Mr R. A.
32. Lawal, Mr J. L.
33. Layonu, Hon. S. A.
34. Ogundiran, Hon. Duro
35. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
36. Oke, Mr E. O.
37. Olaitan, Chief O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
44. Orowole, Mr D. O.
45. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.

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46. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
47. Sanni, Mr S. A.
48. Sobande, Chief O.
49. Somotan, Mr A. S.
50. Tifase, Chief J. L.
51. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
52. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

53. Adekunle, Mr Y.
54. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

NOES—27

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adisa, Mr A.
4. Aina, Mr V. A.
5. Akerele, Mr S. A.
6. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Chief J. E.
10. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
11. Edubededike, Mr F.
12. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
13. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
14. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
15. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
16. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
17. Odotuga, Mr J. A.
18. Okeya, Mr S. A.
19. Olaniyan, Mr B.
20. Olusa, Mr R. A.
21. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
22. Onasanya, Mr S.
23. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
24. Popoola, Mr D. A.
25. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

26. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
27. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in the Committee

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Chief Fadayiro: Much has been said about this Bill, but I wish to move that Section 27 (a) (1) be amended by inserting new sub-section (c) to provide for an option of a fine not exceeding £25.

I think that whoever becomes an offender under this Bill should be given an option of a fine if the allegation that we make from this Side, that this is an attempt to gag the Press, is not true. I think that a law that affects not

only the Press, but every member of the community, should have this option clause included in it.

On question of falsity, a newspaper worker might have to make a scoop or speculation and I think that such an honest mistake, if discovered, should not be taken for an offence. Even on the Government Side, a newspaper may write what it does not believe to be true. I wish them to know that those of us on this Side and some of them who might have the interest of the newspaper men at heart should seek to provide an option of a fine in this Bill.

We all know very well that in Nigeria some of the newspapers are pro-Government and some are anti-Government, and no attempt should be made to rush a newspaper man to jail for committing an honest mistake without giving him any option of a fine. I think we should do this if we are going to live together with ourselves in this Region in unity, according to the Premier's sermon that we should be united. If the Government of this day has something to fear, some of them on that Side have added to it. They have trained a lot of people in *Jankaraism*.

It would be unfair to rush any editor to jail and on the long run come to find out that what has been published is not altogether false. I therefore appeal to this Government to allow an amendment for an option of fine. I am not merely talking politic, for it is not in the interest of anybody to rush newspaper men into jail.

Alhaji Obisesan: I rise to support the Amendment to this Clause and, in doing so, I wish to refer to what the honourable Deputy Premier has said. He said that it is to safeguard the interest of everyone. The Deputy Premier has quoted from the Newspaper Law of Eastern Region. If this is so, why does this Bill omit the option of fine? (*Interruptions*). If they agree to an option of fine, then we can come to decide on what amount should be paid. (*Interruptions*)

I take it that some of these people do not know or understand what we are talking about. I am surprised that a colleague of mine in the same profession does not think it fit to fight for the freedom of the Press. While we try to defend the newspaper editors, it is not that we cherish false statements, but we feel that if this Law is not meant to gag the Press, then the option of fine should be included in the clause. I know that if this Law is passed and this Government does not feel fit to give an option of fine, in less than two months many editors will be clamped to jail. What is happening in the Customary Courts these days gives us cause for alarm.

[ALHADJI OBISESAN]

If we arrive at a compromise that an option of fine be given, then the amount to be charged can come later, and I am speaking with all seriousness when I say I support a £25 fine. I know that the false story being mentioned in this House about market women is sufficient to scare them.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Ositelu*) in an undertone, said that he would not mind if an option of £1,000 fine had been inserted in this Clause. I do not agree with him at all. On the other hand I believe that Members of the Opposition are aware that there is a steady plan of peddling untruths in several newspapers in this Region between now and the election and that in all probability there is an accumulation of money somewhere, maybe from overseas or some other place, with which Members of the Opposition will be willing to pay fines if their followers are found guilty.

May I say, Sir, in a more serious tone, that there is no necessity at all for this Amendment. In any case there are very many sections of the law in our Criminal Code in which the penalty for an offence has been there specifically—imprisonment for two years or imprisonment for three years—and the law does not proceed to say that there should be an option of fine. In this case, Mr Chairman, there is no necessity for us to include an option of fine.

Reference has been made to the Eastern Region Law in which there is an option of £200 fine. May I say, Sir, that the onus of proof is very strict. In our own Law the onus of proof is very small. The accused can come and say, "oh, I have done this, I have done that but I did not know", and he will be freed (*prolonged interruptions*).

A Member of the Opposition referred to the Special Court. I think that any Member of the Bar who refers to the court now sitting in Ibadan in a derogatory manner is not true to his calling. The special court is a court presided over by a qualified lawyer and the Member Opposite me is a qualified lawyer and I do not see that there is any reason for suggesting that because a court is out to deal with criminal cases only, to the exclusion of civil cases, in order to tidy over the wave of lawlessness, there is something unusual in that.

Alhaji Obisesan: On point of correction, I did not refer to the court sitting at Ibadan specifically but to special courts in general.

Chief Olowofoyeku: There is only one special court and it is at Ibadan. The court is not even special, the only difference is that, owing to the wave of lawlessness that is being imported to this Region by some of our Friends Opposite from the Eastern Region, it is necessary to make the court sit continuously to deal with cases of arson and acts of lawlessness that are being perpetrated in this Region.

Finally, Mr Chairman, may I say that we are opposed to this Amendment.

Amendment put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes—25. Noes—54.

DIVISION LIST NO. 14

AYES—25

1. Adegbenro Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adenekan Alhaji A. L.
4. Aina Mr V. A.
5. Akerele Mr S. A.
6. Akinyemi Chief R. A.
7. Atolagbe, Mr D.
8. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
9. Babatola, Chief J. E.
10. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
11. Ebubedike Mr F.
12. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
13. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
14. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
15. Obisesan Alhaji B. O.
16. Okeya, Mr S. A.
17. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
18. Olusa, Mr R. A.
19. Onasanya, Mr S.
20. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
21. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
22. Popoola Mr D. A.
23. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Ayes

24. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
25. Olaniyan, Mr B.

NOES—54

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebisin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
9. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. Ayo

14. Ajuwon, J. A.
15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akintola, Chief S. L.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Borokinni, Chief
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Hon S. L. A.
26. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
28. Fashola, Mr O.
29. John, Hon. C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lana, Mr R. A.
32. Lawal, Mr J. O.
33. Layonu, Chief S. A.
34. Ogundiran, Hon. Duro
35. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
36. Oke, Mr E. O.
37. Olaitan, Chief O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
44. Orowole, Mr D. O.
45. Oshuntokun, Chief J. O.
46. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
47. Sanni, Mr S. A.
48. Sobande, Chief O.
49. Somotan, Mr A. S.
50. Tifase, Chief J. L.
51. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
52. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Noes

53. Adekunle, Mr Y.
54. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

Amendment negatived.

Chief Fadayiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to save the time of hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General by appealing to the House to insert immediately after the word "except" the following words—"with the consent of a Judge of the High Court".

I am suggesting this because I think the Minister of Justice has too much responsibility to carry and if he concentrates the application of this Bill into the hands of a High Court Judge, the general public will no doubt feel relieved of any possible political animosity. The Attorney-General makes the law himself and he is now trying to execute it himself, how then can the general

public have confidence in this type of thing? If the Government really intends to curb the activities of reckless editors, it should have no fear in referring such actions to the High Court Judge. I am appealing in the interest of the general public, Mr Chairman, that Government should instruct the Chief Justice of this Region to appoint a Judge of the High Court to go into this case, such Judge will then have a free hand to investigate such cases in his Chambers and make a case against any newspaper man who contravenes the contents of this Bill.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Sir, I will like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to give this suggestion of mine consideration in the interest of the general public.

Chief R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Amendment (*Prolonged interruptions*). This Government is a bad one (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: On point of information. We will like to know when the hon. Member will deliver his baby?

Chief Akinyemi: Do not worry about that.

I say this Government is a bad one because when I knew that the Government was fishing in troubled waters I resigned my appointment.

Chief Akintola: It is true that I have always been involved in incessant troubles but I have always been surviving such troubles.

Chief Akinyemi: He sent people to me to beg me to join his NNDP.

Chief Akintola: Yes, it is a fact that I sent Obas, Chiefs and elders to him to beg him but he remained adamant. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Chief Akinyemi: I did not come because I believe that his Government will be short-lived. By the Grace of God I know that in three months' time he will go on voluntary exile. (*prolonged laughter*).

Let me make this clear to the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General who had said that the Debate on this Bill should be taken above party politics and the Government in presenting the Bill also made it clear that the question of the Bill is above party politics. When the Attorney-General was speaking, he made it clear that a similar law has just been passed by the Federal Parliament. I agree, but I am saying this with the greatest respect that when he said that such

[CHIEF AKINYEMI]

a thing had been passed in Eastern Nigeria, I do not agree with the hon. Minister. I am respectfully suggesting that this amendment saves the Attorney-General time and trouble, particularly as there had been allegations against him on the *nolle prosequi* which he entered in the case of some NNDP thugs in some parts of the Region. I think that responsibility will be too much on the Attorney-General as there had been allegations against him and if such criminal charge is brought with good intention, it is only necessary that such a power should be concentrated in the hands of a High Court Judge in whom we all have confidence.

Mr Chairman Sir, I can only respect Members on the Government Front Benches because they are men of responsibilities but those of them who are on the Back Benches are just noise makers (*prolonged interruptions*). Mr Chairman, Sir, it is necessary the matter is taken out of party politics and not made a subject of someone being an NCNCer, Action Group, or NNDPer. (*prolonged interruptions*). I will like to appeal to the hon. Premier to please instruct his thugs on the Government Back Benches to stop making noise. (*interruptions*).

The Member for Iwo South-East (*Mr Adedigba*) was my boy when he was on this Side; he was begging for Parliamentary Secretary's appointment.

Our Deputy Premier is well known today. But I know, as a matter of fact, that the answer to the question as to who is leader of Western Nigeria is vested in the electorate and we shall soon know.

I am therefore asking that the Minister of Justice should exercise great care to save the NNDP Government and himself because the final day is at hand when the electorate will decide.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as a gentleman, I say with the greatest respect that the Attorney-General should reconsider the Bill.

Amendment proposed.

Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that the hon. Member does not want to fight constitutionally. Today he is a most respected Member of the Opposition, a Front Bencher, and has made a statement that they will seize the Government, a statement, I believe this Government must take note of and which the Security Forces of this country must take note of. It is certain, Sir, and the Opposition might take note or might not take note of this, but I

know one thing, Sir, that this Government has taken note of this statement of the hon. Member. It is quite clear that apparently the Leader of the Opposition cannot even check those on his own Front Bench not to talk of those on his Back Benches. I can assure him that we are democratic, but by this democracy, I can assure him I will never make such a statement or take such a step outside democratic processes. (*interruptions*).

By this democracy, Sir, and by due process of the Law, I assure you, Mr Chairman, and I assure the Government, of the total elimination of all types of vermin from the Region. Some might be walking with three legs, some on two legs and some even on one leg. I can assure you, Sir, that note has been taken of the statement and all vermin shall be exterminated or brought within the warm embrace of the Law in due course.

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to say one or two words on the contributions made by a Member from Egbado and the Member from Ikeja South. The Member from Egbado did say that it is very difficult to prove falsehood in the court. Why? Why is he then complaining about this particular clause when he says it is difficult for the court to prove?

Before I sit down I have to refer to the speech of the hon. Member from Ikeja South. May I say, Sir, that the removal or, shall I say, the resignation of the Member from Ikeja South from this Side of the House was a very good riddance.

Chief Olowofoyeku: Mr Chairman, Sir, much as I appreciate the spirit of the Mover of this Amendment, I do not find myself able to accept the Amendment. The hon. Member from Egbado has said that we should emulate the Eastern Region in this respect and the hon. Member from Ikeja has also made a strong plea that we should emulate the Eastern Region. But, may I say, Sir, that in this matter, we do not have to imitate any Region slavishly.

Mr Chairman, the Law of the Eastern Region was passed as far back as 1955 when the position of the Attorney-General was not as it is today. Today, the Constitution of this Republic vests in the Attorney-General the function of initiating prosecution; and even in Lagos, where Members of the Opposition are apparently in the Government, the Bill that was recently passed contained precisely this type of provision—a provision whereby the Attorney-General had to give his consent before prosecution can continue.

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

In addition, Mr Chairman, I think this provision is of statutory effect. If the provisions were not contained in the Bill, it means that any policeman can go and arrest a pressman who has published a statement which the Police believe to be false and he can take him to court and initiate prosecution. All we have done in this case is to interpose the decision of the Attorney-General, and the Attorney-General, at least, is supposed to know the law better than the Police, and in addition, he has the constitutional responsibility of initiating prosecution; so the Attorney-General of this Region is not going to abdicate his responsibility and is not going to confer this responsibility on the Police.

Do I see any necessity for conferring such preliminary rights on the Judge of the High Court? A case of this nature could go before a Magistrate, why then should a Judge of the High Court leave all his multifarious assignments and go to hold a preliminary inquiry into whether a statement was false or not before that statement goes back to a Magistrate for trial? Besides, the function of a Judge under the Constitution is strictly judicial, not administrative.

When you ask a Judge to investigate whether a case should be prosecuted and the Judge says the case should be prosecuted, the Magistrate handling the case might feel that the Judge has found that a *prima facie* case had been made and might be reluctant to decide otherwise; and so, Mr Chairman, I think, that those who have advocated that a judge should first inquire have not considered the full merits of this Bill and we on this Side of the House cannot accept the Amendment.

Amendment put.

The Committee divided

Ayes—24; Noes—54

DIVISION LIST NO. 15

AYES—24

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Ebubedike, Mr F.
11. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.

14. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
15. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
16. Okeya, Mr S. A.
17. Olusa, Mr R. A.
18. Onasanya, Mr S.
19. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
20. Popoola, Mr D. A.
21. Sogbein, Chief S. O.
22. Olukoju, Mr I. A.

Tellers for Ayes

23. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
24. Olaniyan, Mr B.

NOES—54

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebessin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
9. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. Ayo
14. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akintola, Chief S. L.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Borokinni, Chief A.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Hon. S. L. A.
26. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
27. Fashola, Mr O.
28. John, Hon. C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lana, Mr R. A.
32. Lawal, Mr J. L.
33. Layonu, Chief S. A.
34. Ogundiran, Mr Duro
35. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
36. Oke, Mr E. O.
37. Olaitan, Chief O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
44. Orowole, Mr D. O.
45. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
46. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
47. Sanni, Mr S. A.

48. Sobande, Chief O.
49. Somotan, Mr A. S.
50. Tifase, Chief J. L.
51. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
52. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Noes

53. Adekunle, Mr Y.
54. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

THIRD READING

Motion made and Question proposed—“That the Bill be read a Third time” (Chief Olowofoyeku).

Alhaji Adegbenro: We of the Opposition are opposed to the Third Reading of this obnoxious Bill. We consider this Bill to be outrageous, and therefore it does not receive our support.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I had made up my mind not to contribute to this Debate because the Bill is in very able hands and I think a lot has been said on this Bill from both Sides of the House, but may I appeal to both sides of the House to view this Bill objectively. I have listened very attentively to the statement made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition when, in spite of explanations that had been made and in spite of the opportunities that had been given to all Members on both Sides of the House to be heard, he still concluded that the Bill is outrageous and therefore would not receive the support of the Opposition.

In the name of everything just, what does this Bill contain that makes it to be obnoxious or outrageous? Newspaper editors should go and do their work and tell the truth, does it contain anything more than that? Are these people in the Opposition opposed to the truth? Is there any party in this country which is prepared to support falsehood, to support malicious propaganda? Is it necessary for the newspapers to have a prerogative which even an angel does not enjoy? In which way are they helping our newspaper men?

Nothing will help the newspaper executive better than what is in the proposed Bill. (*prolonged laughter*). We do not intend to jeopardise the Press, what is intended is that the Press should verify either the truth or falsity of any statement or report. May I

say once more that the proposed Bill is not couched to endanger the Press but there are things however small that money cannot buy. There are adequate provisions in this Bill and there is also a proviso in respect of corporations. Since the formation of the Nigerian National Democratic Party, its policy has always been the pursuance of the unity of all the people of this Region and it is an all-embracing organisation. (*prolonged cheers*).

Question put.

The House divided.

Ayes—54; Noes—24.

DIVISION LIST NO. 16

AYES—54

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebesein, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. G.
8. Adeniya, Hon. S. S. A.
9. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
10. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
11. Adibi, Mr N. A.
12. Adigun, Chief J. O.
13. Ajibola, Hon. Ayo.
14. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
16. Akerele, Mr S. O.
17. Akintola, Chief S. L.
18. Akran, Oba C. D.
19. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
20. Aruwajoye, Chief S. B.
21. Arowojolu, Chief E. B.
22. Borokinni, Chief A.
23. Bello, Hon. A. B.
24. Elushade, Mr T. E.
25. Fajimi, Hon. S. L. A.
26. Fani-Kayode, Chief R. A.
27. Fashola, Mr O.
28. John, Hon. C. O.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Kotoye, Hon. N. A. B.
31. Lana, Mr R. A.
32. Lawal, Mr J. L.
33. Layonu, Chief S. A.
34. Ogundiran Hon. Duro
35. Ogunyele, Alhaji Y.
36. Oke, Mr E. O.
37. Olaitan, Chief O.
38. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
39. Olowofoyeku, Chief B.
40. Olumofin, Hon. D. K.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.

44. Orowole, Mr D. O.
45. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
46. Sanni, Mr S. A.
47. Sobande, Chief O.
48. Somotan, Mr A. S.
49. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
50. Tifase, Chief J. L.
51. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
52. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

53. Adekunle, Mr Y.
54. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

NOES—24

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Aina, Mr V. A.
4. Akerele, Mr S. A.
5. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.
6. Atolagbe, Mr D.
7. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
8. Babatola, Chief J. E.
9. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
10. Ebubedike, Mr F.
11. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
12. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
13. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
14. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
15. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
16. Okeya, Mr S. A.
17. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
18. Olusa, Mr R. A.
19. Onasanya, Mr S.
20. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
21. Popoola, Mr D. A.
22. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

23. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
24. Olaniyan, Mr B.

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

**PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT)
BILL—SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Public Order Law.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Public Order Law, Cap. 107, so as to make provision for the Minister, to whom responsibility for public order is assigned, to regulate the holding of public meetings and public processions whenever he is of the opinion that it is expedient in the interest of good order in the Region.

The Minister is also empowered to prohibit the holding of public meetings and public

processions whenever he is of the opinion that by reason of particular circumstances existing in the areas of a Divisional or District Council or any particular part thereof, the imposition of conditions upon the holding of public meetings or public procession is not sufficient to enable him to prevent serious public disorder or whenever he is of the opinion that the prohibition of the holding of public meetings and public processions is necessary for the purpose of preventing an immediate danger of a breach of the peace. The intention, as you see, is to ensure that public meetings and public processions are held at such places and times and under such conditions that law and order will prevail.

Clause 2 of the Bill gives the Minister the responsibility, which is rightly his, by the assignment to him of the responsibility for public order.

Clause 3 indicates in detail the exercise of the discretion of the Minister or of the person or authority specified to issue a permit.

Paragraph 3 of Clause 4 of the Bill also confers powers on the Minister to prohibit the holding of public meetings in the seat of Government whenever he is of the opinion that by reason of particular circumstances existing in the seat of Government, the imposition of conditions on the holding of public meetings is not sufficient to enable him prevent serious public disorder which might be occasioned by the holding of public meetings.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that it is the duty of everyone here to assist in all the measures that will ensure the maintenance of law and order. This Bill is a measure towards that end. I therefore hope that the hon. Members on either Side of the House will demonstrate their appreciation of that duty by supporting the Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. E. Babatola: I rise to oppose this obnoxious Bill (*Interruptions*). I refer you to the Objects and Reasons of the Bill. It is expressly stated that the Minister is to consider the situation of the Region or any part thereof before banning public meetings or processions. The objects and aims stated are uncalled for there. For instance by enacting the law the implication will be far reaching. When people work or act as a

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

result of expediency, they cannot be motivated by good intentions. . . (*interruptions*). The purpose of this Bill is to curtail the freedom of assembly or freedom of expression. I am entitled to make this statement as a watch-dog of the public. . . (*Interruptions*) I think it is the right of the Opposition to criticise the Government.

Mr Speaker: That motive is improper.

Chief Babatola: I am not saying that it is proper but I am criticising the Government.

Alhaji Adegbenro: If we cannot criticise the acts of the Government, then I do not see the reason for our coming here.

Chief Babatola: May I beg your indulgence to spell out the implications of the Bill which may be the aim of the Government. In practical terms, politicians whose faith is different from the faith of the party in power will be handicapped in holding processions and meetings in this Region and, if they do so, there is every likelihood that they might be arrested for holding unlawful meeting or procession. It has happened in this Federation. I was myself a witness in a place in this Federation where people had been arrested on flimsy excuses. Unfortunately Sir, there are customary courts to try such persons. But these people cannot have the same rights as in the High Court. If they pass this law, what will be Western Region amount to? It will amount to an arm or extension of the Northern Region where the Local Government Police get you arrested on flimsy excuses, simply because you are talking to one or two of your friends, and you will be arrested for holding unlawful assembly or unlawful procession.

Sir, I remember during the last Federal Elections of 1959, I was in Adamawa campaigning. A night before the election thirty-nine members of the Action Group were rounded up at night, each person's house was searched, arrested and brought to the Police Station and what was the charge? Unlawful assembly. I went there to bail them, what happened? The man who was there said he was given instructions not to allow bail. There is nothing barring members of the ruling party, who are virtually members of the NPC, from following the same practice.

And it is a sad thing that in the year of our Lord 1964 the lawyers, the people learned in law who are managing this Region have reverted to the practice of the people who are expected to learn from them. They

now learn from people whom they are in a position to educate, yet they now profess to be democratic. (*interruptions*).

Furthermore, Sir, if they pass this Bill into law, there is nothing preventing the Government tomorrow from appointing the Director of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation or a Director of one of their Corporations to issue (as a person in authority) permits because this Government has not found it necessary to state categorically that members of the Civil Service will be serving on this operation. This Government will appoint members of the NNDP to be constituted into authority for issuing permits and you know justice cannot be done.

I had the same experience in Northern Nigeria in 1959 when a candidate for the Federal Election in Bida was the authority issuing permits to political parties for the purpose of holding campaigns. There is nothing preventing this Government tomorrow from appointing a Director of a Corporation to serve on this operation and when that happens, Sir, if any of us, like hon. Obisesan, applies for a permit, there is nothing preventing a Mr Salami from refusing the granting of the permit. There is nothing preventing an hon. Senator in Ekiti from preventing us to hold campaigns in Efon Alaye.

If we want to be fair and just we will all agree that this Bill has many things to hide and it has many implications which will turn this Region into a non-democratic society.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Bill and commend it to all the members of this House for rejection.

Mr R. A. Olusa (Akoko North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to make things difficult for the Opposition to hold their campaign meetings. With the election time very near, the Government is filled with fear and that is why they are looking for something with which they will mar the facilities of holding meetings while they go on freely with their own campaigns.

It is the same fear that made them initiate the Newspaper (Amendment) Bill. (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is designed to help the ruling Party to do any thing they can so that the Opposition are denied their own opportunity especially during and before the election.

I would rather ask that the power to grant permit for public meetings be given to Civil Servants instead of a Minister or a party man who will use the law against his opponents

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

Leader of Opposition as far back as 1952 has been trying his best to preserve the reputation of the Region. At that time we knew, and even now we still know, those persons who had done their utmost to tarnish the reputation of this Region almost beyond repairs. Investors will come to a peaceful and stable country but investors will not come to any country whose Government is dishonest. It has been proved clearly beyond any doubt that the Government in which he partook and the party which formed that Government was so dishonest that the reputation of the Region was dragged right in the mud and almost tarnished beyond repairs. We, Sir, are helping the Government and the people and we shall do everything progressively in a progressive country. We shall not be progressive to the stage of importing arms but we shall be progressive enough to allow the Opposition and Government parties to go anywhere in this Region and speak freely as those in a peaceful country.

Chief S. L. Akintola: As I said, earlier Mr Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of contributing to this Debate. I still say the same thing but unfortunately the Opposition has tempted me to join in the Debate. Of course they have all the time been trying to distort the history of our nation. It is not easy at all because it is contemporary history.

The Public Order Law of Western Nigeria was passed in 1957. It was assented to in November 1957, and the impression created by the hon. Leader of Opposition and my hon. Friend Member for Egbado North-East (*Chief Odebiyi*) is that even in that Law the Minister had no say at all, it was left completely in the hand of the Superior Police Officer. (*Interruptions*). With humility, I occupy a unique position in this Region, I was in Government before and when in Opposition I was not a Back Bencher and many of them here served under my Administration. I know the history of most of legislative Back Benchers and it is not easy for them to tackle me by trying to read history in a distorted manner. Under the existing law, my old colleague, the Leader of Opposition, functioned as the Minister of Local Government. What power did he not have? He was the Minister of Local Government; all the Local Government Councils were in his hands and under his direction. He was so powerful over the Local Government Police and over Local Government Councils. He was so powerful; they used to refer to him as the Minister of Terror and the Minister of Dissolution. The provisions of this proposed law are not anything different from

those of the existing law but we are only regularising the position by assigning responsibility to the Minister.

I want to refresh their memory by referring to the Law passed in 1957. We all passed the Law, and they were part of us then. Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may be allowed to read section 8 of Cap. 107, it reads thus:

“If the Minister is of the opinion that it is expedient in the interest of good order in the Region or any area within the Region that notice should be given of public meetings or public processions intended to be held in the Region or that area, he may by order published in the *Regional Gazette* direct that not less than twenty-four hours’ notice in writing shall be given to such person or authority as may be specified in the order of every public meeting or public procession, or of any public meeting or public procession of such class as may be specified in the order, which is intended to be held in the Region or that area.

(2) The notice given in pursuance of an order made under this section shall be signed by the person, or one of the persons, organising the public meeting or public processions to which the notice relates or, if the meeting or procession is organised by a body of persons having a director, manager, secretary or other officer, by any such officer, and shall specify—

(a) the name and address of such person or body of persons; and

(b) (i) in the case of a public meeting, the time and place at which the meeting will be held;

(ii) in the case of a public procession the route to be taken by the procession and the time and place at which the procession will start;

and the person by whom the notice is given shall forthwith furnish such further particulars as the person or authority receiving the notice may reasonably deem necessary for the purpose of determining whether any exercise of the powers conferred by section 9 may be expedient.

Now, I want to ask, all these powers are vested in whom? (*Government Benches: In the Minister*). So the Minister is not an onlooker. It is after he has taken his decision that he would authorise the superior police officer to give permission. But there is one defect under this Law which is not taken care of. Under the Law, an Ijebu-Ode Local Government Police Officer may grant permit

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

to hold a meeting. But now, under the proposed law, we want to avoid what is cumbersome in the existing Law, the Minister of Justice can just exercise the power. What do you have to fear in the Minister of Justice then? All that I have read above are some of the powers under the existing Law, but the proposed law is intended to be exercised centrally and it will cover the whole areas.

We are all human beings, we can make mistakes and if this Bill is passed now it will apply to everybody, whether members of the Government or members of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*). If they want to choose their own Minister who can be absolutely objective, who can be absolutely pure, who will be sinless and perfect, the time will soon come and they will come and meet us here, then we shall not be afraid to be on that Side. I do not pretend or say that any Minister here is absolutely perfect in applying the law, we may make mistakes. After all we are all brothers, we are citizens of this Region. Let us face the fact that a Minister will not be a Minister for ever. Our children will be Ministers here and they too will leave the scene for others. When we pass a legislation, it must be done with one mind, and that is what we have done. When we pass any Law we look at the Region as a whole, as a member of one family, but not to favour the present Government. The Law which this Government is passing applies to the whole Region and not to any particular group. Why are they now doubting the Attorney-General? I believe that when an Alhaji gives a certificate to a person we should believe that it is a certificate that is worth something. Why doubting the Attorney-General? The hon. Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Akinyemi*) recommended him to us as a Godly man and we still find him to be so. He has not changed; he is still what they called him, but if he has changed, I do not know. They gave us the benefit of knowing him, the members of the NCNC. So as these powers are vested in him I believe he will use them well.

Even let us say under the existing law you vest the power with Police, are these police officers not human beings? They are human beings like the Attorney-General.

(*Opposition Benches: But the Policemen are not politicians*). Anyway, whether the power is vested with the Nigeria Police or Local Government Police, they are human beings who can make mistakes, and they are not better than the Attorney-General. Even if they say that the power should be given to

the Nigeria Police, these men still come under the Minister.

It is our responsibility to maintain law and order in this Region, and it is the right of the Government to charge every Minister with some responsibilities. As for me I have absolute confidence in the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Home Affairs or any Minister of my Government. So they need not entertain any fear. In the United Kingdom where you have the two-party system, you have Government and Opposition, this type of power which is vested in the Attorney-General is vested in the Secretary for Home Affairs. He is a Minister, too; he may be a member of the Conservative Party for the time being. The Labour party will not say this Law is going to be used against it, so it must be changed. When the Labour Party comes in, that Law will still be used. If they happen to come to this Side by winning an election, which by the power of God they will not, this same Law will be used by them. Even in Lagos similar powers are vested with the Minister for Lagos Affairs, and do they think we cannot operate that type of Law here? But I can assure them that in spite of our political differences we shall give them certificates or permits to hold their meetings. It is not flattery. I do not see the reason why they should doubt the Attorney-General, there are some of them on the Opposition Benches whom I had charged with responsibility and they had not let me down. Hon Akinyemi had been under me for some time, and I did not doubt him whenever I gave him anything to do, so he needs not entertain fears because of our political differences now. I do believe sincerely that there is nothing wrong with the Public Order Bill, so the Gentlemen opposite me should believe in law and order. The hon. Leader of Opposition should believe in law and order, we are all members of the public, why then do they not wish to support the Public Order Bill?

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

Question put.

The House divided.

AYES—54; NOES—22.

DIVISION LIST No. 17

AYES—54

1. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebayo, Hon. O.
3. Adebisin, Hon. K. S.
4. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.

51. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
52. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

53. Adekunle, Mr Y.
54. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.

NOES—22

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Aina, Mr V. A.
3. Akerele, Mr S. A.
4. Akinyemi, Chief R. A.
5. Atolagbe, Mr D.
6. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
7. Babatola, Chief J. E.
8. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
9. Ebubedike, Mr F.
10. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
11. Obisesan, Alhaji B. O.
12. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
13. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
14. Okeya, Mr S. A.
15. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
16. Olusa, Mr R. A.
17. Onasanya, Mr S.
18. Oshitelu, Mr I. A.
19. Popoola, Mr D. A.
20. Sogbein, Chief S. O.

Tellers for Noes

21. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
22. Olaniyan, Mr B.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment.

THIRD READING

Motion made and Question proposed—“That the Bill be read a Third time” (*Chief Olowofoyeku*).

Chief R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I listened attentively to the statement made by the hon. Premier in respect of the contributions to this Bill when it was read the Second time. He has compared and contrasted this Bill with the Law which was passed in 1957. The hon. Premier had given an assurance that in the application of this Bill when it becomes law no political party will be victimised.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: He made no such promise.

Chief Akinyemi: He made it. I have, Mr Speaker, Sir, to sound this note of warning. We all own this Region. This Region belongs to the NNDP as it belongs to the

Action Group and the NCNC, and may I say this, that there is a possibility of the Ministers, some of them, of course, surreptitiously going to the Council area under the guise that they are going to address council meetings and after addressing the councils the Minister responsible for peace, particularly under this law, will go there and prohibit public meetings in that area. I want one assurance from the Premier that Members of the Opposition will not be denied their right to public meeting after the Minister might have addressed an official meeting, that is my first point.

Secondly, I am saying that this Bill is a double-edged sword. If it is meant for the purpose of trying to gag the Opposition, I must assure them that the electorate of this Region will react violently, and if anything happens in this Region, this Government must take the responsibility, I mean if there is any “Congo” in Western Region. (*Government Benches: Are you threatening the Government?*)

I am not threatening the Government. They have their own supporters and we have our own. If they mean that they are going to gag the members of the Action Group or of the NCNC, they are in trouble. There was a wave of lawlessness in this Region, they started that trouble and we retaliated. (*Prolonged interruptions*). If they put this gag on the Opposition and if they succeed in passing this Bill the electorate of Western Nigeria will retaliate.

Thirdly I must say it clearly that the hon. Premier must use his experience and give us the undertaking that these powers will be reasonably delegated by the Minister responsible. Who are those people that the Minister is going to delegate in the Divisions? In the days of the Action Group, when I and the Deputy Premier (*Chief Fani-Kayode*) and even the Attorney-General were in the Opposition, we used to accuse the Ministers of trying to persecute the Members of the Opposition. In the final analysis we found that those people that were responsible in this Region were the councillors, without the knowledge of the Ministers, and that is why I ask for this assurance. It is necessary to make it clear that the Minister should be very cautious in appointing those to whom he will delegate his powers.

I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this is a double-edged sword.

Chief Olowofoyeku: On point of Order. I refer, Mr Speaker, Sir, to Order 78. The hon. Gentleman is an hon. Member of the Bar, otherwise I would not have called him

[CHIEF OLOWOFOYEKU]

to order. This is the Third Reading of the Bill and in this connection may I refer Mr Speaker to page 578 of *Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*.

"Procedure on the Third Reading of the Bill is similar to that described....." So that the more usual method of objection is to move an amendment."

The Debate on the Third Reading should be confined to the content of the Bill and amendment should not be permissible. At this stage the hon. Member can only refer to matters contained specifically in this Bill and cannot go out of this ambit to extraneous matters, which he has had right to do on the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr Speaker: I refer the House to our Standing Order 50 rules (3) and (4).

"(3) On the Third Reading of a Bill similar amendments may be proposed to the question 'That the Bill be now read the Third time and passed' as may be proposed on Second Reading; and a limited debate may arise".

And it goes on to paragraph 4—

"(4) Amendments for the corrections of error or oversight may, with Mr Speaker's permission, be made before the question for the Third Reading of the Bill is put from the Chair but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed, and on this point Mr Speaker's decision shall be final".

Our own Standing Order here is not sufficiently clear on this point and there is no order which stipulates when a limited debate may arise. That gives one an opportunity of raising a debate and as such under the circumstances the hon. Gentleman has not erred much. I advise him strongly to limit his speech. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Chief Akinyemi: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I will say that the hon. Premier should use his superior offices, if, according to him, he believes in Yoruba Unity, which he has been preaching about, to advise his Attorney-General to withdraw this Bill and allow the existing Law to stand.

That is all I have to say, Mr Speaker.

Chief Fani-Kayode: I just want to say something on this particular Standing Order. I am not going to comment on Chief Akinyemi's speech, he has had his say. I see that his Colleagues are standing up to

speak and in anticipation of that I am going to say something about the Standing Order. It says—

"50 (3). On the Third Reading of a Bill similar amendments may be proposed to the question 'That the Bill be now read the Third time and passed' as may be proposed on Second Reading; and a limited debate may arise".

So if our Friends want to speak on this, they have to file an amendment as they should have done on the Second Reading. The Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Akinyemi*) has had his say. If there had been an amendment, it is on that alone that a limited debate may arise.

Chief Akintola: I only rise to give the Opposition the benefit of my unlimited experience. When I was in the Opposition in another Legislature the method, the only method, by which you can debate the Third Reading of a Bill is for someone, on the Chairman leaving the Committee Chair, to rise up and propose—"That the Third Reading of the Bill be deferred" for two months or so from now. On that a Debate may ensue and it will be a limited Debate on the Bill concerned. That was the only way I did it myself.

Mr Speaker: With regard to the Third Reading of a Bill, the provision of our Standing Orders is that an amendment similar to that on the Second Reading could be proposed before a limited Debate could ensue. Our rules are not clear on this point and they need clarification.

Chief Olowofoyeku: With respect to Mr Speaker, I think that in a matter of this nature where our Standing Order is not very clear, the Debate which should have been made on the Third Reading should be limited. That is why I said originally that our Standing Order is not clear in this case and where our Standing Order is ambiguous, we can only refer to the practice of the House of Commons.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree that the views of the hon. Premier are correct, that the Debate on the Third Reading should be limited, and the only way to debate the Third Reading is to move a Motion for deferment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not think it will be doing justice to this Side of the House if you disallow the hon. Member for Ibadan to make a speech on this Third Reading. There were certain things left out in the Second Reading and you will see that we have co-operated particularly when the Bill was in the Committee stage.

[ALHAJI OBISESAN]

I will not prolong the matter. We only say that they are out to see to the liquidation of their opponents. It has been said before that when you are digging a hole for your enemy you may fall inside it yourself. We are asking them that in order to test their popularity they should dissolve these Management Committees. We have been told that the Voters List is in the hands of experts who are constitutional manipulators. If they like they can transfer the names of the people in my Constituency to Egba, I will go and bring them back. We are waiting for the day when they will hint us and we are asking them to consider only administrative officers and teachers as their electoral officers. We hope that they will not use NNDP thugs.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must thank the Leader of Opposition for the way he has spoken on this Bill. (*Interruptions*). I am however surprised at the reference made to Caretaker Committees by Alhaji Obisesan. I can assure him, Sir, that if he has any complaints about the Assessment Committees or about the Management Committees, the best place for me to get these complaints is in my office. It is not fair to me that he should bring these complaints to the Floor of this House. If he wants to clarify any point I assure him of my co-operation. He can even come to my house anytime of the day or night. I will welcome him, accompanied or unaccompanied.

With reference to the accusation that this Government is Government "by radio", that is not correct, because telegrams were sent to Members since last Wednesday and I remember sometime ago, when I was on the Opposition, we accused the then Leader of the House of summoning the Opposition to Meetings of this House by telegrams. So when they talk of digging holes for people they should not forget that they started digging holes.

I regret the statement made by my hon. Friend, Alhaji Obisesan, that we are experts in constitutional manipulation. He should realise that I was not in Government before. I have not been able to have the opportunity of manipulating any election at all. They have had the experience in such matters. But I can assure them that we shall use the Constitution as laid down for all of us and that there will be no "hanky-panky."

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee):

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Clause be deleted entirely.

Amendment put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Public Administration Law.

In moving the Second Reading of the Bill, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the objects and reasons for the Amendments published in the Bill. The Amendments proposed to the Law are desirable for the efficient and proper conduct of the financial business of Government.

The amendment to Section 16 seeks to exclude from the Accountant-General's deposit account, non-government funds which are received and disbursed by Government officers in charge of educational institutions. These funds include equipment fees, caution fees and pupils' account. Equipment fees are collected from students for the purchase of exercise books, stationery, textbooks, uniforms, etc. Caution fees are deposits made by students against breakages and they are normally refunded to the students if no breakages occur. Pupils' accounts are made up of profits from students plays and fines paid by students for leaving their books and clothings, etc., about carelessly. From this fund, poor and needy students are sometimes helped to pay their examination fees.

In the interest of good discipline and morale it is desirable that Principals should keep these non-government funds. In order to reduce, however, the interminable delay which will result from paying such amounts into Government Deposit Fund Account and withdrawing them whenever small items of expenditure are to be made, it is proposed

[OBA AKRAN]

that such school funds should be run entirely by Principals through a separate bank account and not paid into the Accountant-General's deposit account. Necessary accounting instructions for the proper custody and disbursement of the funds will however be prepared for the guidance of the Principals of schools.

Then there is the amendment to Section 33 (5) of the Law which seeks to reconcile the provisions of that section of the Law with the provisions of Section 56 (3) (b) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria. For while Section 33 (5) of the Law prevents expenditure from the Capital Expenditure and Development Fund, in anticipation of appropriation by law, Section 56 (3) (b) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, on the other hand, contemplates the possibility that in respect of any financial year moneys might have been expended for purposes in excess of the amounts appropriated by law or for purposes for which no appropriation has been made by law, but that in order to regularise such a situation any sums so spent should subsequently be covered by supplementary estimates and a supplementary appropriation law. For the practical conduct of the financial business of Government therefore and in order to bring the Law in conformity with our Constitution, it is necessary that a proviso should be added to Section 33 (5) of the Public Administration Law to the effect that where any expenditure falls to be met from the Capital Expenditure and Development Fund and cannot be met conveniently from the Contingencies Fund or be postponed without serious injury to the public interest until a supplementary appropriation law providing for it is enacted, the Minister of Finance may by warrant under his hand authorise the withdrawal of moneys from the Fund to meet such expenditure and that as soon as possible thereafter such expenditure shall be authorised by a supplementary appropriation law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend this Bill for the approval of the House as there is nothing controversial in the Amendments proposed in the Bill.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Public Administration Law (Amendment) Bill.

Whilst there is nothing wrong in clause 2 of the Amendment, there is a lot of mis-

givings about clause 3 of the Bill. Under the provisions of the Public Administration Law, Cap. 101, Volume 5 of the Laws of Western Nigeria, the Minister of Finance is authorised to spend money by Special Warrant for four months until there is financial provisions approved by the Legislature of the Region. There is also, Sir, provisions for a Contingencies vote under which as between the Meetings of the House the Minister can draw money for important items of expenditure which cannot await the Meeting of the Legislature for approval. I am saying, Sir, that it is wrong that under the Capital Expenditure Development Fund the Minister can spend any amount of money and only wait for supplementary provision to be made at the next meeting of the Legislature. All that can be done is for the vote in the Contingencies Vote to be raised. What used to be in the Contingencies Vote is a sum of £250,000. The Minister of Finance can use the normal process to increase that fund of £250,000 to either £500,000 or £750,000 so that if any item of capital expenditure does arise between the Meetings of the Legislature he can dip his hands into the Contingencies Vote and therefore spend this money for any works which arise.

This suggestion whereby the Minister is going to be given a blank cheque to spend money up to, say, £20 million pounds between Meetings of the House seems to me to be very ominous. It is also possible that certain items of expenditure under the Capital Expenditure and Development Fund can be hidden when the Annual Appropriation Bill is being presented to the House of Assembly. As soon as the House has risen, the Minister will then say certain emergency has arisen and certain capital work has therefore to be undertaken and therefore this additional sum of money is necessary. But what happens is that this additional sum of money will be spent without reference to the House of Assembly or to the Regional Legislature. I think that the Minister of Finance ought to take a second look at the provision of this Law and I suggest that what is intended is to increase the Contingencies Vote.

For this reason Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Alhaji B. O. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to say that we are opposing this Bill and the reasons have been given by the Member who has just spoken. All I intend to add is this, by the name of everything that is honest, where is

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 1965

(The House met at 11.05 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(The Clerk to the Regional Legislature in the Chair).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Chairman, as Members are all aware, Prince Adeleke Adedoyin contested the recent election into the Federal House of Representatives and won in Ijebu-Remo Constituency. (*laughter from the Opposition Benches*). His seat in this honourable House has therefore become vacant and he has therefore ceased to be the Speaker of this House.

His Excellency the Governor has given leave to the House to proceed forthwith to the choice of a new Speaker and I stand to propose that this honourable House do give approval to the appointment of Mr Thomas Egbedoja Elushade, of Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, as Speaker of this House.

The Leader of Opposition (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to second this Motion and, in doing so, I wish to express very deep regret that we are missing the excellent services of our "Prince Charming of Shagamu" who will no longer occupy the Chair as Speaker of this honourable House. As the Leader of the House has said, he has won election into the Federal Parliament. Although this is a very debatable point that is a matter for another forum, nevertheless I think we on this Side of the House welcome the news. (*cheers*).

We support the nomination of Mr Thomas Egbedoja Elushade as Speaker of this House but I would like to say, Mr Chairman, Sir, that the Action Group Government of this Region created a precedent when the former Speaker of this House was elected. The precedent is that on that occasion the Deputy Speaker was selected from the Opposition and I humbly ask, Mr Chairman, that the Government should follow that fine example of the Action Group and select the Deputy Speaker from this Side of the House.

Mr Chairman, I beg to second. (*cheers*).

(*There being no other nomination, Mr Thomas Egbedoja Elushade was declared elected as Speaker of the House*).

The Speaker-Elect: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank Members of this honourable House for the high honour they are about to confer on me and I submit myself to the House.

(*The Speaker-Elect was then escorted to the Chair by the Leader of the House and the Leader of Opposition*).

The Speaker-Elect: Once again, I thank you all for the high honour you have deemed it fit to confer on me.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government (Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, today is a very wonderful day in the history of this House when a very able Speaker is being succeeded by somebody of concern and ability. May our ex-Speaker grow from strength to strength and when next I see him, at a higher plane, I hope to see him with a portmanteau (*cheers*). We hope that our ex-Speaker will discharge the responsibilities that will be given to him at the Federal level with the same great ability as he has discharged his duties in this House.

On the other hand, I am certain that all Members know Mr Elushade. He is a gentleman. I have known him for so many years and during all these years on no occasion have I known him to lose his temper. He has always been very unassuming and he is never aggressive. (*cheers*). I am certain that Members of the honourable House will find him most suitable for this very high office to which he has been appointed. I must congratulate him on behalf of this House, and particularly on behalf of those of us from this Side of the House, and I am certain that, by the grace of God, he will discharge the onerous duties with the very great tradition of the Bench and the Bar because today he has been elevated to the Bench.

Concerning our ex-Speaker, I am certain that although we shall see a lot of him, we shall not hear him any more in this House and I know that by the grace of God and also by the grace of Oduduwa, because we are all descendants of Oduduwa he shall come here again and preside over all of us. (*cheers*). I must thank the ex-Speaker once more for his performances in this House. (*cheers*). He has presided over this House in its various moods: in its sober and solemn moments, like we are now having, and also in its turbulent moments. He has proved himself a

[CHIEF FANI-KAYODE]

man of great ability and, even sometimes, of great mobility. (*prolonged laughter*). He showed his mobility when on that turbulent and memorable occasion it was not left in doubt that the Mace was the symbol of authority in this House, and the Mace having disappeared from its hanger, Mr Speaker himself disappeared from this House with equal speed. I am sure I have the support of the hon. Member for Badagry East (*Mr Ebubedike*) in congratulating him. (*laughter*) I am also sure that the honourable the Leader of Opposition and Chief Akinyemi and those who are with them will also thank the Speaker for his valuable services to this honourable House.

But, Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking seriously, although we all know that the former Speaker is being elevated and is leaving us, I can assure him that his spirit shall always be with us in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of the Government and Members of this Side of the House, wish the former Speaker a prosperous tenure of office in his new assignment and I pray that he may not let us down. I am, however, certain that he will work towards the growth of our Nation and of Western Nigeria in particular.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi (Egbado North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I will like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Local Government and Deputy Premier on your elevation to the Speakership of this honourable House and also to thank the erstwhile Speaker of the House, the "Prince Charming", Prince Adeleke Adedoyin, for the contributions which he made by his wit and humour which pervaded through this honourable House during his tenure of office. Both in and out of this House the former Speaker is a very nice man to meet. He is extremely intelligent and very personal. On many occasions on the Floor of this House when tricky points of Debate had arisen, he had done his best by adjudicating impartially, and sometimes it was difficult to say whether he was supporting the Government or the Opposition. All of us on this Side of the House wish him God's speed.

To Mr Speaker, I would humbly say, Sir, that the tradition which has been laid for you by your predecessor has been a very noble tradition and we on this Side of the House have no doubt in our minds that you will keep to the same tradition in presiding over the Business of this House.

We wish you success in your new assignment.

The Speaker-Elect: The Hon. Premier, the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Local Government, the Leader of the House, hon. Ministers, hon. Leader of the Opposition and all honourable Members on both Sides of the House, I thank you very much for considering me worthy of the post of Speaker of this august Assembly. I hereby offer my thanks to everybody and I assure you that I will discharge my duties faithfully and with the utmost impartiality worthy of your confidence.

(*Cheers from all sides of the House*).

Stranger: Leave to address the House

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I on behalf of this Side of the House make one special request. With the leave of this House any Stranger can address this august Assembly and since our former Speaker has vacated his seat and has ceased to be a Member of the House he has become a Stranger in this House. He is a Stranger of a very special category and I hope this House will like to hear a word or two from our former Speaker.

The Speaker-Elect: I intend to ask for the indulgence of this honourable House to allow the former Speaker to address the House.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, since the former Speaker is a Stranger of a special category in this House, I agree, on behalf of the Opposition, that the special Stranger should be allowed to address this House.

May I respectfully ask you, Mr Speaker, to see that you act with the utmost impartiality and see that copies of the *Hansard*, the proceedings of this Meeting, are circulated. In the past the *Hansard* of this House had not been circulated on a number of occasions, which is the fault of your predecessor and which is the only blot on the otherwise reputable tenure of office of the former Speaker. One of the most important *Hansards* of the proceedings of this House has not yet seen the light of day.

May I ask, Mr Speaker, Sir, that when you become familiar with the proceedings of this House you will see to it that the *Hansard* of 27th May, 1963 is made available to Members of this House.

The Speaker-Elect: Is it the wish of the hon. Members of this House of Assembly to allow hon. Adeleke Adedoyin, who is a Stranger in this House, to make a Speech?

(*Leave accordingly granted*).

Prince Adeleke Adedoyin: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Premier and hon. Gentlemen of the Western Nigeria House of Assembly, it is my pleasure to stand before you this day to address you.

I do know that the word "Speaker" is a misnomer because the person who does not speak is the one who is called the Speaker. On an occasion like this, one is always overwhelmed, and I am leaving with mixed feelings. I will be going to another House of Legislature and I shall be missing some Friends with whom I have been associated for a very long time.

I thank you all that during my tenure of office here I received co-operation from all Members of the House and from the officials of this House and I thank everybody immeasurably well. And I would like to say this: that the co-operation which you gave me during my tenure of office will, I am sure, be extended to my successor in the person of hon. Elushade.

May I remind you, hon. Members, that during my tenure of office there might have been some short-comings, they may be a lot, but from what you said here this morning, they have been overlooked. I thank you all for that (*Cheers from both sides of the House*).

We should also remember that during my tenure of office so many waters passed under the bridge of this House to some other local streams. Our Governor emanated from this House, the former President of the Senate also emanated from this House, the Premier of another Region also came from this House, the Speaker of the new Mid-western Legislature was a Member of this House and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria emanated from this House. (*Applause*).

Chief R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): The Leader of the Opposition became Deputy Premier! (*laughter from both sides of the House*).

Prince Adedoyin: There are some other happenings in this House, especially when one sits at the head of an august Assembly like this, seeing changes when Opposition becomes Government and when Government becomes Opposition. That is the vicissitude of life; but we still sit together, talk together, and laugh together, without bitterness. I would like to maintain that in the Western House the motto as from now should be "Politics without bitterness".

I can assure you, hon. Gentlemen, that wherever I may be, wherever I may go, the

interest of this Region and the welfare of the people in particular and those of the Federation of Nigeria in general will always be first and foremost in my thoughts, in my speeches, and in my activities.

I thank you all.

The Stranger quits! (*Applause*).

(*Prince Adedoyin then withdrew from the House*).

Approbation of Speaker-Elect

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say to the hon. Members in this House that His Excellency has expressed a wish that our new Speaker should appear before the House of Chiefs for approbation.

The House went, and having returned.....

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to report that your choice of me as your Speaker has received the approbation of His Excellency and I, on my part, hereby acknowledge your choice of me and I promise to carry out my duties as Speaker of this honourable House faithfully and without partiality. (*Cheers*)

(*Sitting suspended at 11.47 a.m.*)

(*Sitting resumed at 12.40 p.m.*)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 41 (1)

Oba Akran: I beg to move that Standing Order 41 (1) be suspended this day to allow the House to take all the stages of "The Constitution of Western Nigeria (First Amendment) Bill" and "The Building Lines Regulation (Amendment) Bill" today.

Chief Fani-Kayode: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment Sine Die

Oba Akran: I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn *sine die*.

Chief Fani-Kayode: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

1. By the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

Constitution—A Bill for a Law to amend the Constitution of Western Nigeria Law—No. 26 of 1963 read the First; *by leave withdrawn on Second Reading.*

2. By the Minister of Finance

Building Lines—A Bill for a Law to amend the Building Lines Regulation Law—Cap. 14: read the First time; *to be read a Second time immediately.*

ORDER OF THE DAY

BUILDING LINES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL —SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Building Lines Regulation Law. The issue is non-controversial, and I do not propose, therefore, to take much time in presenting the Bill.

Experience has shown that the provisions of the existing Building Lines Regulation Law do not operate to give the Highway Authority adequate control over obstructions of a "temporary nature" at railway level crossings. I here refer to structures such as boundary walls, publicity boards and private signs, petrol pumps, temporary sheds and shacks.

Although these structures could not correctly be construed as "buildings", within the provisions of the existing Law, they do, in fact, create obstructions. Furthermore, the structures are licensed by the Local Government Authorities, and my Ministry has virtually no control over them once they have been so licensed.

Consequently, at a recent meeting of the Level Crossings Safety Committee, the attention of my Ministry was invited to the increasing necessity for introducing a legislation to prohibit these obstructions. Accordingly, this Bill is presented to the House to

amend the Building Lines Regulation Law to ensure adequate and satisfactory vision at the railway crossings.

The purpose of the Bill, therefore, is two fold. Primarily, we seek to prohibit, at railway crossings, the creation of visual obstructions of any form, be it by way of temporary or permanent structure. The peril to life which might result from obstructed area of vision at the level crossings of railway and road traffic cannot be exaggerated. Secondly, this amending legislation seeks to give the Superintending and District Engineers the authority to remove obstructions created in contravention of the Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Adigun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree entirely that this Bill is not controversial and on behalf of the Opposition I would like to say that we have no objection to the Bill being passed.

I would, however, appeal to the Minister of Works and Transport not to use the Bill to the detriment of the members of the Opposition. In clause 5 of the Bill, in the new sub-section (2) of the Law, it is stated that

"the provisions of section 5A, 6 and 7 shall not apply in respect of any buildings, or structure, of a permanent nature, erected in a clear area of vision on either side of any railway level crossing....."

I hope the Minister will not now turn round and say that my house at Lafenwa constitutes an obstruction and that it should be demolished. I want an assurance from the Minister in that regard, because he might even say that the house is of a temporary nature and therefore it should be pulled down.

I hope also that the Local Government Councils concerned will not take undue advantage of this Bill to molest and harass hawkers who put up temporary structures to sell their wares. These people should be granted their licences as long as these temporary structures do not create any obstruction and I hope that the traders and hawkers at I.afenwa, Omi-Adio, Ilugun and all other such level crossings will be allowed to pursue their trades in peace and free from molestation and harassment.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Thursday, 16th April, 1964

HEALTH

Hospital (Eruwa and Lanlate)

8/13. **Mr B. Olaniyan** asked the Minister of Health when it is contemplated to build an up-to-date hospital in Eruwa and Lanlate, an area of about forty-five miles from Ibadan, which cannot be expected to benefit adequately from hospital facilities in Ibadan.

The Minister of Health (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): It is not contemplated to build an up-to-date Hospital in the Eruwa-Lanlate area in the immediate future as Ibadan Administrative Division, to which the area in question belongs, has already been provided with hospital facilities such as: Adeoyo Hospital, Jericho Nursing Home, Government Chest Clinic and Jericho General Hospital.

Besides, the nearest hospital to Eruwa-Lanlate area is at Abeokuta which is about thirty-three miles away and this area is also forty-five miles from Ibadan. In addition, Eruwa and Lanlate are fifteen and eighteen miles distant from Igboora respectively.

The services at present available are in the Rural Health Centre, Igboora; the Maternity Centres located at Eruwa, Temidire, Igboora, Lanlate and Tapa; the dispensaries located at Eruwa, Lanlate, Maya, Igboora, Idere, Tapa, Igangan and Okolo.

The Rural Health Centre at Igboora is run by the following staff:—several Visiting Doctors from the University College Hospital, one Resident Doctor to be provided by the University College Hospital this week under an agreement with this Ministry, one Resident Health Sister, four Midwives, four Community Nurses, one Ambulance Driver, Clerical Assistant and Office Staff, Labourers, one Dispensing Assistant, and one Public Health Inspector.

Each of the five Maternity Centres is run by the following staff: One or two Midwives (Grade II) and a Labourer.

Each of the eight dispensaries is run by the following:—One Dispensary Attendant and a Labourer.

The population of Eruwa-Lanlate is served with Medical and Health facilities provided in these Institutions.

The number of attendances for 1962 in the five Maternity Centres and in the Rural Health Centre was 7,474. The number of attendances for 1962 in all the eight dispensaries was 31,088.

Although it is not contemplated to build an up-to-date Hospital in that area in the near future, as pointed out earlier in this reply, one feels, however, that this is a reasonable request from the Representative of the area and if funds are made available for this project this Ministry will willingly undertake the provision of the Hospital.

Tuesday, 21st April, 1964

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Water Supply (Owo Division)

14/13. **Mr I. A. Olukoju** asked the Minister of Works and Transport why the Water Supply Project for Ifon and Ikaro of Ekamarun District in Owo Division started about four years ago is uncompleted up till now.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr L. A. Ajimobi): The Contract for the construction of this scheme was awarded on 14th March, 1963, *i.e.*, a year ago. Constructional works are still progressing and it is hoped that the scheme will be completed this year. The estimated total cost of the Project is £34,000.

15/13. **Mr I. A. Olukoju** asked the Minister of Works and Transport, what steps are being taken to commence actual work of Water Supply for the other parts of Ekamarun, Irekari and Oka Districts, the preliminary general survey of which had been conducted in 1961 by the then Government.

Mr L. A. Ajimobi: The Water Supply planned for these Districts is a gigantic

scheme which will cater for many important towns and villages. Some of these towns are Akungba, Supare, Oba, Oka, Ikun, Ishua and Ido-ani. The estimated cost of implementing the scheme is £742,000. The Consultants who carried out the preliminary investigation have been requested to carry out additional investigations. This is now being carried out. The Construction of the scheme can only be undertaken when the investigations and designs are completed.

Electricity (Oka)

16/13. **Mr I. A. Olukoju** asked the Minister of Works and Transport to show cause why Oka, of an average size with Ikare in Owo Division, has not been supplied with electricity like all other towns of the same size, whereas towns smaller in size are already supplied in other parts of the Region.

Mr L. A. Ajimobi: The whole question of electrification, both urban and rural, is under review by my Government. It is only after a comprehensive survey of the Region from the point of view of power that Government will be in a position to decide on a programme of electrification in those areas where they are most economically justifiable.

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