



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SENATE

Session 1961-62

Comprising Period
29th—30th March ; 4th, 25th
and 26th April, 1961

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29 MARCH 1961

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

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

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IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE
FEDERATION OF NIGERIA WHICH
OPENED THIRD OCTOBER, 1960

Wednesday, 29th March, 1961

Parliament met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the Governor-General in the Official Gazette Extraordinary of 24th March, 1961, as followeth :—

A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Right Honourable Doctor NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria.



NNAMDI AZIKIWE,
Governor-General

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 62 of the Constitution of the Federation the Governor-General is empowered to appoint a place and time for each session of Parliament :

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me HEREBY PROCLAIM that Parliament shall be convened in Lagos: AND I do appoint the National Hall as the place of assembly for the purposes only of the State Opening of Parliament which shall thereafter meet as in accordance with established usage: AND I do further appoint the time for assembly as the 29th day of March, 1961, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon :

The attendance of Honourable Senators and Members is accordingly requested for the transaction of such business as may be prescribed or offered during the assembly and thereafter as from time to time required.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Federation of Nigeria at Lagos this 22nd day of March, 1961.

PRAYERS

(The President of the Senate in the Chair)

His Excellency, the Governor-General entered the Chamber in procession and took his seat.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

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

I consider it a great privilege to address you to-day, this being the first occasion that a Nigerian will deliver the Speech from the Throne as Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria.

The past twelve months have been epoch-making in the history of our great country. It was during the last session of Parliament that Nigeria came to the end of a long arduous road to Independence, and became a Sovereign State. Since Independence my Ministers have addressed themselves with courage and determination to the great responsibility which rests on our shoulders as an independent Nation.

Throughout the coming session my Government will continue to give resolute support to the work of the United Nations and will exert all their influence to give effect to the spirit of the purpose for which that organisation was formed. My Ministers are proud that Nigeria should have been associated so conspicuously with the work of the Congo conciliation committee and with the efforts to restore law and order in the Congo, during which units of the Royal Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force have distinguished themselves by their devotion to duty in most difficult circumstances. (Applause).

The improvement of the situation in Africa will be one of the main objectives of my Ministers and they intend to continue to pursue the Government's declared aims of not identifying itself with any bloc or group, but of being at all times guided by a sense of realism and support for the truth, and of maintaining and fostering good relations with all countries which recognise and respect Nigeria's sovereignty and wish to maintain friendly relations with us. Nigeria will continue to be opposed to all forms of aggression and coercion and will continue to respect the territorial integrity of all countries large or small. My Government will give all possible moral support to the legitimate aspirations of dependent peoples seeking their freedom from colonial status and will continue to oppose most strenuously apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination and human indignities.

My Government intends to continue to build, for the country, a defence system which will not only ensure internal security but will also serve as a deterrent to any would-be aggressor. Proposals will be laid before you for meeting the cost

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of our defence forces so that they may discharge adequately the responsibilities of an independent Nigeria. Foremost among them is our contribution to the United Nations force in the Congo where, I am informed, our troops have, by their conduct and courage, brought honour both to themselves and to our Nation. Provision will also be made for the second phase of the Army's reorganisation and re-equipment programme and for the start of a major programme involving the construction of new barracks for the soldiers. My Government proposes, with regard to the Navy, to provide for bringing into commission later this year a seaward defence boat now being built in the United Kingdom, and for constructional work on shore facilities and accommodation at Apapa and Calabar where an Eastern Base is planned.

In the modern world, no country can consider its defence complete without an air force. In this regard, my Government intends to seek expert advice on how to establish a Nigerian Air Force.

In the field of internal security, legislation will be presented to you for an Emergency Powers Act to take the place of the former United Kingdom Emergency Powers Order in Council, which ceases to have effect as part of the laws of Nigeria as from the end of this month.

The expansion of the Nigeria Police Force will continue at the maximum speed consistent with our financial resources, and particular attention will be paid to the establishment of a chain of police posts to guard the Eastern frontier. Additional facilities will be provided for the training of Nigerian officers for the higher command of the Force.

My Ministers propose to lay before you, during the course of the session, comprehensive proposals for improving and modernising our transport system. Now that Nigeria is an independent maritime Nation with a merchant navy of its own, it is essential that its ships should be controlled and protected by appropriate merchant shipping legislation more comprehensive than the existing Shipping and Navigation and the Wrecks and Salvage Ordinances. My Government proposes to place such legislation before you during the coming year. The Marine Division of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation will be expanded and, as qualified staff become available, offices will be opened outside Lagos.

My Government's policy of improving port and harbour facilities will be vigorously pursued as

will be the programme of the improvement of navigation of the Niger and Benue Rivers. Work on the Escravos Bar Training Works is proceeding. A study will be carried out of the ports facilities that will be required in the Western Delta after the Escravos Bar has been cleared. My Government proposes to undertake further improvements to the Port of Koko and the Port Harcourt Wharf Extension will be completed and vested in the Nigerian Ports Authority. A survey of the Port of Baro will be carried out with a view to its development, and the completion of the Nedeco survey of the Eastern Delta will enable planning to go ahead for the development of ports of inland waterways in the Eastern Region.

Legislation will be introduced to amend the Ports Ordinance, and one of its main provisions will be to allow a Nigerian to be appointed Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Work on the Bornu Railway Extension is making satisfactory progress and it is expected that the one hundred and six mile stretch of line between Kuru and Bauchi will be opened to traffic by the middle of the year. The re-laying of the line between Lagos and Ibadan and between Enugu and Makurdi will be continued.

My Government will take urgent steps to implement the recommendations in the Report of the Elias Commission of Enquiry, instituted last year, into the Railway administration. Legislation will be introduced to amend the Nigerian Railway Corporation Ordinance.

My Government will give every encouragement to the Flying Training School and measures will be introduced for the training of Nigerians in all branches of aviation. It is proposed to make further improvements to the aerodromes at Kaduna, Enugu and Ibadan and designs will be drawn up for major improvements at Lagos Airport.

My Government will press on vigorously with the work on the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road and work is expected to start shortly upon the Niger Bridge project. (Hear, hear.)

My Government will lay before you, in the course of the current year, proposals for a review of the organisation of the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications. The Posts and Telegraphs Division will continue to expand and improve its postal and telecommunication services throughout the Federation in accordance with its approved programme under the Development Plan for 1955-1962.

Ten new Post Offices will replace existing buildings and five new Post Offices will be constructed in place of Postal agencies.

A Bill will be introduced to provide for the many developments in the field of wireless telecommunications that have taken place since the existing law was enacted.

The first anniversary of Independence will be commemorated by a special issue of stamps.

Automatic telephone exchanges will replace manually operated exchanges in fourteen important centres. The number of telephone trunk circuits will be increased, and their efficiency improved, by the provision of direct dialling facilities at automatic exchanges.

My Government will seek to develop to the maximum the international telephone and telegraph services and, in particular, the international Telex system will be developed in order that the Federation may participate to the full in world trade.

My Government attaches great importance to the exploitation of the mineral resources of the country and, to this end, it proposes to carry out a minerals survey before the end of the next five-year Economic Programme.

Impressive results have been gained in the exploration of the underground water resources in the Chad Basin. About one hundred Artesian Boreholes have been completed and drilling will continue there during the coming year, as also will the investigation of underground water resources in other parts of the country.

The most encouraging feature of mineral production is the increasing quantity of oil which is exported from Nigeria. The facilities for the loading of tankers have been considerably improved and it is expected that export will not be less than 12 million barrels during 1961, which is nearly double last year's production.

My Government intends to encourage those companies which are prospecting for oil.

Now that agreement has been reached between my Government and the B.P. Shell Refinery Company, plans will go forward for an erection of a refinery near Port Harcourt, with financial participation by my Government and such of the Regional Governments as so desire.

The preliminary investigations into the establishment of the proposed hydro-electric project on the Niger River will be carried out as soon as

possible so that a final feasibility report can be produced to form a basis for considering methods of financing the project.

My Government proposes to utilise the natural gas going to waste in the Afam/Bomu fields for generating electricity in a new E.C.N. Power Station at Afam.

My Ministers are determined to expedite the reorganising and expansion of our educational facilities. To this end a White Paper, setting out the policy of my Government on the recommendations of the Ashby Commission and their plans for a long term re-organisation of our educational system, will be laid before you during this session.

The improvement of the health conditions of our people has been a genuine concern of my Ministers. The first hospital in Lagos to be entirely devoted to the care of children will be opened in June this year. The paramount importance of the care of children will be emphasised by the establishment of an Institute of Child Health at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, to carry out research in this field.

The first phase of the building of the new Mainland General Hospital will be completed in June and it is hoped that the new hospital will be ready to admit its first patients in October. (Hear, hear.)

My Government will endeavour to strengthen the judiciary and improve the administration of Justice. A programme for revising the laws of the Federation will be instituted. Special Committees will be appointed to examine and make recommendations for the enactment of a new Companies' Act, for the promulgation of legislation pertaining to partnership and sale of goods, and the revision of the Criminal Law of the Federation.

Legislation will be introduced to enable persons who have claims against the Federal Government to sue that Government in the same way as any subject.

A Bill will be introduced to enable representatives of a deceased person, whose death was caused by the wrongful act of any person, to institute proceedings against the wrong-doer in order to claim such damages as may have been maintained against the wrong-doer by the deceased. Another Bill will be introduced to provide for the survival of certain claims which might be expected to lapse with the death of the wrong-doer after the institution of a civil action

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against him; legislation will be introduced to enable appeals to lie to the Federal Supreme Court in cases of Habeas Corpus.

A Bill will be introduced to provide legal aid to persons who would normally be unable to pursue their rights in a Court of Law because of their inability to meet the high cost of litigation.

In its endeavour to strengthen the Judiciary, my Government will appoint two additional High Court Judges and two Chief Magistrates and erect more Magistrate Courts in Lagos. My Government will appoint a full-time Deputy Sheriff for Lagos, and will improve conditions of service of Baliffs so as to increase efficiency. Better library facilities will be provided for the various Magistrates' Courts in Lagos.

In keeping with the provisions of the Constitution, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has been created, the holder of the Office will be responsible for the initiating, continuance and dis-continuance of criminal prosecutions.

My Government will continue to pursue its policy of advancing the social and industrial welfare of our people.

Having regard to the concurrent nature of labour, my Government will continue to place the greatest emphasis on the effective co-operation with the Regional Governments for the purpose of inserting uniformity of labour policies and practice throughout the Federation.

Legislation will be introduced to enable workers throughout the Federation to provide for their old age. In the field of social welfare, it is proposed to develop an adult probation service in the Federal territory of Lagos. Additional remand homes will be built, community centres, in the new residential districts will be developed and provision will be made for increasing camping facilities for the welfare of youth.

My Government will continue to give financial assistance to the encouragement of sports and recreation and a grant will be made towards the further development of the National Stadium.

A Bill will be introduced to increase the pensions of those Government Officers who retired before the 1st of September, 1959, that is to say, before the effective date of the Mbanefo revision of Salaries.

Legislation will be introduced to provide for an electoral law which will replace the existing Electoral Regulations. Legislation will also be proposed to make comprehensive provision for the

operations of the Niger Delta Development Board. Proposals have been included in the Capital Estimates to make sufficient funds available to that Board in the coming year to enable their work to get under way on a broad front. My Government has every confidence that the Board will make a significant contribution to the physical and economic development of the Delta area.

In order to give proper publicity to the activities of the Federal Government it is proposed to establish an External Broadcasting Service as well as a Federal Television Service. In addition, my Government proposes to establish a Printing Organisation to produce daily and weekly popular newspapers, giving full coverage to the views and policies of the Government, and a series of periodicals aimed at projecting Nigeria abroad. (Applause).

My Ministers believe that our political Independence will have no meaning unless it is firmly based on a vigorous expanding economy which will ensure a steadily rising living standard to all our people. Therefore my Government will continue to attach first priority to the task of increasing the pace of the economic development of the country and, to this end, the Ministry of Economic Development will be strengthened so as to enable additional surveys to be made and to ensure even closer co-operation in planning between all Governments in Nigeria. The investigation of the proposed multi-purpose dam on the River Niger will be carried to the stage when it will be possible to make a definite decision on the future of this major project of development. Every effort will be made, in consultation and co-operation with the other Governments of the Federation, to co-ordinate and increase the research activities in the agricultural sector of the economy. In regard to research in its wider aspect, my Government will continue to give its full support to the activities of the various inter-territorial research institutes which provide such an excellent example of practical co-operation between the four West African countries concerned.

In the field of international trade, my Government will continue to seek to mitigate the effects of the tariffs of the Common Market countries of Europe, and will examine the possibility of closer economic co-operation with African States and association between Nigeria and the European Economic Community. New selling arrangements for Nigeria's produce are being considered and the possibility of establishing a terminal market

in Nigeria is being examined. In addition, it is the intention of my Government to seek to negotiate bilateral trading agreements in those cases where it is in our interest to do so.

Legislation is being prepared to regulate the activities of Insurance Companies, including their activities in connection with marine Insurance. A Bill seeking to replace the existing legislation for the regulation and the registration of business names will also be presented to you in due course.

My Government has no plans for the nationalisation of industry to any greater extent than the public utilities of this country are already nationalised.

Mr Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, your principal business at the present meeting will be to consider the Appropriation Bill with its supporting estimates for the public services. In addition, the final Supplementary Bill for 1959-1960 and a Supplementary Bill for the financial year, 1960-1961, covering a few urgent items of inescapable expenditure, will be submitted for your approval.

My Government proposes to implement, in concert with the Governments of the Regions, the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission regarding the assessment for taxation of Africans and non-Africans in the Federation. To this end, my Government will introduce a new Income Tax Management Bill.

A Bill will be introduced to replace the Exchange Control Ordinance of 1950. Legislation will also be laid before you to regulate the activities of the Discount Companies which, in their issue of Letters of Credit to overseas firms, have sometimes brought into ill-repute the otherwise good name of Nigeria in international trade.

My Government proposes to accelerate the mobilization of all possible financial resources, both internal and external for the completion of the current Economic Programme and for the achievement of the impressive development which is being planned for the next five years. My Government attaches the greatest importance to the success of the forthcoming Federal-wide Economic Mission which it is hoped will quicken the rate of foreign investment in Nigeria.

My Government intends to encourage the development of a call market in stocks and shares and, to this end, it will introduce legislation

to regulate dealings in stocks and shares and other securities quoted on the new Lagos Stock Exchange.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, I pray that Almighty God may grant you wisdom in your deliberations. (Loud applause)

His Excellency retired from the Chamber.

PAPERS—(ADJOURNMENT)

Papers distributed to Members and deemed to have been laid on the Table, pursuant to Standing Order 11 (3) :—

(1) Fourth Annual Report of the Nigeria Central Marketing Board, 1958.

(2) Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1957-58.

(3) University College Hospital, Ibadan Annual Report and Financial Accounts for the year ended March 31st, 1960.

(4) Nigerian Coal Corporation—Tenth Annual Report for the year 1959-60 [by Ordinance].

(5) Minutes of Evidence of the Public Accounts Committee, House of Representatives, Session 1960-61.

(6) Report of the Director of Federal Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st March, 1960.

(7) Annual Report of the National Archives of Nigeria, 1958-59.

(8) Annual Report of the National Archives of Nigeria, 1959-60.

(9) Annual Report of the Department of Forest Research, 1959-60.

(10) Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1959-60.

(11) Annual Report of the Federal Department of Labour for the year, 1958-59.

(12) Nigerian Railway Corporation—Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1960 [by Ordinance].

(13) Electricity Corporation of Nigeria—Annual Report, 1959-60 [by Ordinance].

(14) Draft Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1961-62 (Recurrent) [by Ordinance].

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[Adjournment]

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Parliamentary Papers (Recess),—Papers distributed to Members after Prorogation of Parliament on 22nd March, 1961, and deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) Report of the Accountant-General of the Federation with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1960.

(2) Draft Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1961-62 (Capital) [by Ordinance].

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-nine minutes past ten o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
NIGERIA

Thursday, 30th March, 1961

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

EMERGENCY POWERS BILL

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): *Second Reading*—This day.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I move, That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn till Tuesday next.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi: Mr President, Sir, before supporting this Motion, I am wondering why the Government wants the House to adjourn until Tuesday. Friday will be a holiday and Monday will also be a holiday. I take it that Saturday is a working day. Why should the House not adjourn until Saturday instead of Tuesday? I want the Minister, Mr President, to tell us what the Government has in mind in proposing an adjournment till Tuesday, because it seems to me that since we have come to work, Saturday could be very usefully employed. I believe the House of Representatives will work on Saturday.

I wish to put forward an Amendment that the House do adjourn until Saturday next instead of Tuesday next, unless we can get a satisfactory explanation from the Minister for deferring work until Tuesday.

Senator Abubakar Bale: Mr President, Sir, I second.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, there is definitely a reason why the Government suggested that the Senate should adjourn until Tuesday. Hon. Members are probably fully appreciative of the fact that this is a Budget Session of the Parliament and that most of the Bills which will be coming before us are

money bills which cannot be initiated in this House, and we have presented the programme of the House in such a way as to make the fullest use of hon. Senators' presence here in Lagos. That is why we are starting the debate on the Motion of Thanks for the Address from the Throne to-day.

The most urgent Bill before us will be the Emergency Powers Bill which is also coming up to-day, and for the first few days of this sitting, we shall be debating the Motion of Thanks for the Address from the Throne, and it will not be possible for us to have any Bill which has passed the Lower House to be placed before the Senate. That is why we consider that it will be wrong to bring Senators back on Saturday, when they probably have the whole of next week free in which to debate the Motion of Thanks before Bills will come from the Lower House.

Members may know that it is the constitutional position which has necessitated this arrangement, and I have no doubt that after this explanation, hon. Members will wish to agree to the adjournment.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi: From what I understand from the hon. Minister this House is being required to depart from the arrangement already made. The Minister said that after debating the Speech from the Throne, it will adjourn until Tuesday or a fortnight or three weeks, in fact until such time that the House of Representatives has accumulated work for us to do.

In the past what we did was only to listen to the Speech from the Throne and then adjourn to wait for work to accumulate, but now we are starting the work straightaway. However, I do not know the intention of the Government about our duty. The Government will find something for us to do for one day, and then adjourn sitting for three days, and on the fourth day the Government will find other work for us, and then again, the Senate will adjourn for another ten days or two weeks and so on; and so, it goes on until the end of the sitting of the House of Representatives.

If this is the intention of the Government, then I have to disapprove of it for two reasons. Firstly, it will waste a lot of our time, and secondly, we ought to have been informed that the procedure has again been changed.

Senator Chief A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Mr President, Sir, I think I am in sympathy with the last Speaker on this point, but all the same, the hon. Senator Dr Majekodunmi has explained to us why we could not meet on Saturday. I feel, on our part, we really welcome the new arrangement made by the Government, that we shall be meeting *pari-passu* with the House of Representatives, so that instead of the usual thing we used to do, whereby Members came here, listened to the Speech from the Throne and adjourned the Senate for two or three weeks, and Members either had to go back to their various constituencies or keep on loitering in Lagos, that position is now avoided. I do not know the intention behind the Government's plan. We in this House have raised several objections to this situation which, we say, is not conducive to our convenience. If Government has taken cognizance of our observations and arranged for us to be meeting simultaneously with the Lower House, I think it will be to our advantage.

The only controversial point is the Saturday adjournment. The hon. Senators want us to meet on Saturday. According to present arrangements, we shall start the debate on the Speech from the Throne to-day and take one other Bill. The other House, however, will be meeting on Saturday and Government must have adjusted its programme to provide sufficient work for us to keep us busy throughout the week and from Tuesday onwards, so that there will be no question of adjourning to-day, coming tomorrow, adjourning the next day and so on. That is the assurance we want, we want our work in this House to be continuous, and once we can secure that assurance, I think Members will really know where they are going.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Mr President, Sir, I raise strong objection to this arrangement whereby the Senate, after listening to the Speech from the Throne, adjourns for two or three days and comes back. This arrangement causes great inconvenience to Members and I think the Government could have informed us beforehand that the new arrangement has been changed and that the old procedure will continue.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Mr President, Sir, I think the main objection is that we should not waste Saturday. We now want an assurance that after Saturday, the Senate will not

adjourn to allow the Lower House to have something ready for us. I do not support the idea of coming to debate a Bill for one day, and then moving about for two or three days. I want some kind of explanation from the Minister that after debating the Motion of Thanks there will be a definite day for the Senate to come back, say a week or two, as the case may be, for the rest of the work to be done continuously.

Senator M. Sanni O. B. Okin : Mr President, Sir, I raise no objection to what the Minister has said, but one thing is this: is it possible that the Lower House will be adjourned when we are having our meeting here because we seriously need the attendance of the Ministers. May I know whether our Ministers here, are to represent all the Ministers in the Federal Government? There are some questions we have to put before other Ministers, and these questions require appropriate answers. If we are meeting during the session of the Lower House, it will again be embarrassing to us if the Ministers over there are not present to answer our questions. We need the presence of the Ministers and I therefore suggest that the old system be resuscitated.

Senator Dr A. A. Nwafor Orizu : Mr President, Sir, I am very much in sympathy with the statement of the Minister about this matter. There are however, two factors to be reckoned with; one is the habit we have cultivated in this matter. A good many of us have businesses which, according to the previous arrangement have been originally planned. Now, we come here, we debate and do a little bit of talking on the Speech from the Throne, and then go back. At times, you think you are coming here for two days and then you find you are staying for two weeks. Such a situation is not helping the Senate.

Secondly, it is not possible for us to sit simultaneously with the Lower House because, in that case, we shall be cheated eventually. If we sit simultaneously, a time will come when they will have to go and we shall continue sitting, because we cannot finish up until they have finished. We start with them, they finish and go and we are still sitting, and we are older people in age. Most of them in the other House are bachelors, we are married, we are old, and they are young!

Apart from this fact, if we are going to be serious about our work here, we should like to have with us Ministers who are responsible for certain Bills to come here and answer questions, otherwise, we shall make nothing of this Senate—I do not know whether my fellow Senators really follow this point. If we sit simultaneously with the Lower House, there will be no time for the Press to know what we have said, and there will be no time for the country to know our views on certain issues. We are the people to be cheated.

Therefore, I am suggesting that whatever may be the cause, if there be any particular reason why we have to return this particular time, because Government does not do anything for nothing, let us do return—that is my own point. But that return on Tuesday will only mean that we have to do important business. We will then go on Tuesday and come back at the end of the meeting of the Lower House.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : Mr President, Sir, I think there is one thing many people are forgetting. There will come a time when the Lower House will go into the Committee of Supply and they will be in the Committee for about a week or two. What are we going to be doing during that period? I think it is very desirable that the Senate should adjourn and give us about two weeks to go home.

What we are complaining about is that a break of one week is insufficient for Senators to go home and come back. If we adjourn for about two or three weeks and then come back there will be a lot of work accumulated from the Lower House. I think it is degrading for us to wait for the Lower House to pass a Bill, we deal with it and then wait again. It will dislocate completely our plans.

We have to prepare at home, take a number of suits or clothes, and take food to last us for a specific period; and we do not like to come here to change the timing abruptly.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Mr President, Sir, the work of the Senate is an important one and we regard it as such: important people doing important work. But it is not wise to treat important people in this way. We have been saying this thing over and over again in this House, but unfortunately without result. We never know whether we are going to spend a day or weeks.

Each and everyone of us has got some business, other important business, we should not hide this. I have decided that I will be leaving Lagos this evening because I have got an important financial business at home to attend to on Saturday. Now, if I am to wait until Tuesday you know what that means. I did not know we are going to spend the Easter holidays here, if I had known I could have arranged the financial business for another day, or appointed some body to do it for me. We want to know from the hon. Minister whether we are going to adjourn after Tuesday's meeting.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Mr President, Sir, one thing I want to make clear in this House is that we are prepared to remain in Lagos for any number of days provided we have something to do. Now, Saturday is free. We will not feel happy to just come here and loiter about Lagos doing practically nothing. We know that Friday is a holiday, but on Saturday we have to sit down at home doing nothing; only to read the papers and listen to other people's speeches. We consider it too much of a sacrifice because we can use this time to do something else in our homes instead of leaving our homes and coming to Lagos just to have a holiday.

I am saying seriously that if the Government knows that they have the material to keep us for a month or months we are prepared to stay to do our work properly. (*Hear, hear*). But we are not prepared to sit down in Lagos folding our arms and driving from place to place doing nothing. I think this is too much sacrifice to expect from us.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : Mr President, Sir, I think this argument should not be prolonged. Everyone of us knows that the purpose of our meeting in the House of Representatives yesterday was to hear the Speech from the Throne, which is very important. You will agree with me that during the August Session the Senate did not meet simultaneously with the House of Representatives simply because there was no Speech from the Throne. Again, since we cannot initiate any financial Bill, I think, there is no reason for us to sit down in Lagos doing nothing.

Mr President, Sir, I am in support that the Senate do adjourn after the debate of the Speech from the Throne until further notice.

Senator M. G. Ejaife : Mr President, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by Senator Asemota. First of all, I would like us to be assured as a matter of principle that in future, before we come out here, we shall have an idea of what the programme is going to be. We want to know whether we are going to adjourn after a day or two or we are going to sit for two to three weeks continuously.

From experience, I think we have in the past adjourned after hearing the Speech from the Throne, and, when coming this time we based our plans on this. Personally, I thought we were going to adjourn yesterday but after yesterday, I was hoping that this morning after debating the Speech from the Throne we will adjourn and then come back in about two to three weeks' time to deal with matters already dealt with by the Lower House. I think that, also from experience, in two days we can get through a Bill which generally takes the Lower House sometimes a week or two. That is in the nature of things, for where in the Lower House there are 312 Members, here we are only 40, and no matter how long any Member here speaks, I think we are able to get through in a very short time, unless we are going to be encouraged to be unduly dilatory and wordy.

I do not think it would be particularly wise for us to sit side by side with the Lower House because we shall have more to say than actually is relevant and I dare say we shall have nothing to deal with here. So, I personally would like Government to reconsider its stand in this matter so that we adjourn to-day and come back in two or three weeks to get through matters already dealt with by the Lower House.

The President : Order, order. What I would like to point out to the House is that what we are debating is the Motion moved by Senator Dr Majekodunmi. We cannot debate or allow amendments for the simple reason that under your Standing Orders any amendment to a Motion standing in the name of a Member of the Council of Ministers must have one day's notice. It must be written and it must be signed. I have the Standing Orders before me. But that is not to say that you should not make the same point you are making on Senator

Majekodunmi's Motion. You can vote against it or vote for it, but I regret that the amendment cannot be moved because it is against the Standing Orders.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi : The Members were not aware of the Motion and they think it is important that the Motion should not pass.

The President : The position will be for the Members to vote the original Motion out.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : I am wondering what ought to be done. We shall not know whether the Minister has any amendment to make and we wish to avoid any amendment to the Motion. That might be better, in my own opinion.

Minister of State, Senator Dr the hon. Majekodunmi : Mr President, Sir, I would like to inform the Senators that the Government is most sympathetic with their predicament in this respect, in that they did not have a prior indication of the programme of the House. But I may say, without any disrespect, that this uncertainty is really the occupational risk of being a Senator in a democratic society, because very often, even here in this Upper House, Senators have complained that Government have not allowed them to debate certain measures sufficiently. But on this occasion we felt that we should allow Senators to take every opportunity of having a full say and giving constructive criticism of the measures which the Government has proposed in the address from the Throne.

However, I was very surprised to notice that Senators would rather debate this Motion of thanks to the Throne tomorrow and complete the debate. The reason why we have kept tomorrow free is to give Senators time to study the opening speeches which have been made to-day. It is the very opposite of what Senators have expressed this morning. We would like Senators to have every opportunity of speaking on this Motion and that is why we suggested that the Senate should convene on Tuesday and continue the debate.

Senators have complained that they have not got enough to do, but I may assure you that you will be inundated with legislative measures in this session. We have a very heavy legislative programme which will come before you but, as I have said earlier, some of the measures

are money Bills which cannot be initiated in this Senate. We do not think it is desirable that the Senate should meet on Tuesday and then go home for a week and come back and meet for a few days and go home for another few weeks; but we will certainly give every consideration to the views which have been expressed this morning in planning our future programmes and ensure that the minimum inconvenience is caused to Senators when the Senate meets.

We appeal to hon. Senators to appreciate Government's difficulties in a democratic society. The measures which we have to take may not come before us at a time we expect them, depending on the length of time they are prepared to spend on these measures in the Lower House, but we are doing everything possible to arrange the business of both Houses so that the Ministers responsible for Bills to be debated will answer for them to you, and that you will have the views of some of these Ministers on these Bills and on the programme which we have made for this session. You will see yourself, as the programme unfolds, that it is intended to ensure that we have the fullest benefit of your wisdom and your suggestions which the Government is very happy to have had in the past, and we would appeal to you please to bear with us on this occasion for the slight inconvenience that our not sitting on Saturday will cause you.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Mr President, Sir, there is no reason why we should press that we should sit on Saturday and we have no intention of throwing out the Minister's Motion. What we want to know now is what will happen to us after meeting on Tuesday. Are we continuing to have our hands full throughout the rest of the time? That will be all right. We do not have to bother at all, even if it continues for two months, but if we are to have a Motion debated on Tuesday and not on Wednesday and Thursday and have to come back here again on Friday and have another holiday on Saturday and Monday, that is exactly where we want an explanation. If the Minister is not sure, please let him consult his colleagues and let us know on Tuesday what is going to happen.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : Since we have left our homes for this place we are prepared to stay here as long as we have something really to do. The point is this,

why give us a holiday on Saturday? Is there any reason for pinning us down on Saturday; doing practically nothing? Instead of adjourning until Tuesday, Mr President Sir, I am seriously suggesting to the Minister to kindly arrange that we meet on Saturday because we shall be sitting down in Lagos doing practically nothing.

Senator Dr A. A. N. Orizu : Mr President, it is not really important whether we sit on Saturday or not. The House has already expressed its opinion on this matter. We are pressing that we must be here on Saturday. The reason for that is this. Sitting on Saturday does not cure the evil we are fighting. We cannot finish on Saturday; it is impossible. So since we cannot finish on Saturday, it is better for us to adjourn now and come back on Tuesday. It really does not matter what one does. If one wants to go home one can go home; or else one may stay here. But if one really wants to go home during the holidays the best thing is for one to go. But I am sure the Government does not do things for nothing.

Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff : It is most unfortunate that we have to go against a decision of the Government, but as one of the hon. Senators pointed out, when the sitting continues like this, we will not be able to get some of the Ministers to give us an explanation when we feel it is necessary to approach any of the Ministers. So I think that as many Ministers sit in the Lower House this House should be adjourned for three weeks. By then the Ministers will have cleared everything in the Lower House and they will be present with us, giving us explanations which will help us.

Without the Ministers, who will introduce all the various Bills and when are we likely to get explanations? Who will be here to give us explanations? I am sure that Senator the hon. Majekodunmi is an able man but we would like his other colleagues to be present when various Bills are to be discussed.

Therefore there is a great advantage in adjourning the House for a further period of, say, three weeks, because we shall get everyone available introducing the Bills to the House. I am very sorry to make such a conclusion but I support the Motion of Adjournment.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin): Mr President, before I move, That the Question be now put, I would like to assure the House that the issue will be put before the Government. There is bound to be a Cabinet Meeting between now and Tuesday and we will come back again with the right answer as to whether we are asked to come back in a few weeks or not. I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Sir, I beg to second.

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

Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn till Tuesday next.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that the following Senators be elected members of the Committee of Selection:—

Senator O. Somolu,
Senator Chief Z. C. Obi,
Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale.

I do not need to speak at great length about the merits of these Senators. Senator Somolu, as all of you know, has given us very great service here in the Senate and we have often referred to him as the Attorney-General for the Senate. (*Applause*). He has always been very critical of the Bills which we put forward here, particularly of the legal implications, and we have every confidence that he will be a very useful and efficient member of the Committee of Selection.

Senator Obi we all respect as the father of the Senate and we all enjoy his wisdom, and we feel that by electing him to be a member of the Committee of Selection we have chosen a right man. Senator Bale has always been very fair to the Government, although he does not always see eye to eye with us, but we have no doubt whatsoever that he will be most useful to the Senate as a Member of the Selection Committee.

The Oba of Lagos: Mr President, Sir, I beg to ask for the Motion to be amended in order to allow a Senator from Lagos to be included as one of those Senators who should form the Selection Committee.

The President: Order, order. I regret to call Your Highness to order. Under the Standing Order which I quoted a while ago, if a Motion stands in the name of a Member of the Council of Ministers, if you want to amend it, you require one day's notice. The ordinary period for a notice is five days but in this case it is one day. Unfortunately, the Order Paper is only one hour old. (*Laughter*).

The Oba of Lagos: Mr President, Sir, I am sorry to have to rise again to speak. I think it is necessary to revise such a Standing Order because when we come here we do not know exactly what is going to happen. The Order Paper was given to us a while ago and we did not know exactly whether this Motion was being brought to us by the Council of Ministers.

I think that if this is passed the North will be represented, the East will be represented, the West will be represented, but Lagos will have no member on the Committee. It is not an amendment that I am moving but an addition. If I say that it is an amendment it will be against Standing Orders. I am appealing to the Council of Ministers to include a representative of Lagos among the members of the Committee of Selection.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. Majekodunmi): Mr President, I do not think it is possible to enlarge the number of Senators who will serve on the Committee of Selection beyond three because it would be contrary to Standing Orders. But I assure His Highness that his point will be looked into and that it is not the intention of the Government to disregard the interest of Lagos. I am sure also that His Highness will appreciate that in the interest of the unity of the Federation it will not be wise for any of us to harbour sectional interests. We will certainly not do anything to go against the interests of the Federal Territory of Lagos.

Senator E. A. Lagunju: Mr President, Sir, the hon. Minister has just spoken about this question of Standing Orders. I wonder

whether there is any Standing Order for the Senate. We have stressed this time and time again but we continue to use the Standing Orders for the House of Representatives in the Senate and there are many clauses there not applicable to the Senate. I think it is high time the Senate got something of its own in the way of Standing Orders, otherwise we shall always be misguided.

Senator Mrs Wuraola Esan : Mr President, Sir, I would like to point out that when the Standing Orders were being compiled no woman was on the Committee, and I think we have to drive this point home. However I have seen that the men fight for the women also, otherwise I too shall stand up and ask for a woman Senator to be included. *(Applause)*.

Senator H. Udoh : Mr President, Sir, in connection with the Standing Orders, I remember sometime last year hon. Senators asked that Standing Orders of their own should be printed. As usual, they were given an assurance that their own Standing Orders would be published, and that this should be discontinued. But up till now, according to what the former speaker has said, nothing has been done. But we must have these Standing Orders which—

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. Majekodunmi) : On a point of explanation, Sir.

The President : Since this is not a point of order, the Minister can only have the Floor if the hon. Senator yields. Does the hon. Senator yield ?

Senator Udoh : As usual, let him defend the Government. *(Laughter)*.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, we fully appreciate hon. Senators' views about getting Standing Orders for the Senate, but this is one of the preliminary stages of getting Standing Orders for the Senate properly promulgated. I may tell you that Standing Orders for the Senate are ready in draft form but they cannot be the official Standing Orders for the Senate until they have gone through all the processes. We have to appoint a Committee of Selection and the Committee of Selection will then appoint a Standing Orders Committee which will go through this draft and then present it formally to the Senate.

I assure hon. Senators that we are not being tardy at all about this question of Standing Orders and I would appeal to hon. Senators not to prolong the debate on this formal Motion and let us get on with the business of the House.

Whereupon, Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin, Minister of State, rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved : That Senator O. Somolu, Senator Chief Z. C. Obi and Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale be members of the Committee of Selection.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS

Motion made and Question proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, as follows :—

“Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the Senate of the Federation of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.”

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows :—

“Your Excellency, We, the Members of the Senate of the Federation of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament”.

Mr President, Sir, I call yesterday another great day, as the honourable, Alhaji Sir, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa said in his speech on Independence Day ; he said, “This is a great day”. It is really a great day because it is a day on which an indigenous son of Nigeria made a maiden speech from the Throne as Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria after the attainment of independence.

[SENATOR ABUBAKAR BALE]

Sir, I call the Speech from the Throne the golden path to Nigeria's development, as it is very remarkable and it has broadly explained to the world the sources of Nigeria's future development, and has plunged other countries into deep thoughts, realising that Nigeria has produced able leaders who are undoubtedly ripe to manage their own affairs. Our Governor-General is one of these able leaders.

I am highly impressed with the Government's activities and development plans outlined in the speech. This explains to the outside world the position of Nigeria among other African countries. The Building up of a Defence Force is indispensable especially at this critical moment when the cold war wind is blowing from all directions and disagreement between the nations is raging. France is one example. The French people left their country and crossed over to Africa to test their dangerous weapon. What will be the result of this unfriendly attitude in the long run ?

We are proud to learn that the conduct of our troops and Police Force in the Congo is highly admirable and that they are in that country mainly to restore law and order. I see no reason why Nigeria, being the largest country in Africa, will not at this stage intervene while our sister country is in such a calamity.

The establishment of an Air Force is welcome, but Nigerians should be trained to be able to take part in all its aspects as it is unwise to entrust this responsibility to any other nation.

The improvement of navigation on the Niger and Benue rivers is to be speeded up, as it is a long time since it was being planned and people are eager to see this project in operation. Communications in this country need more attention, because if one visits any firms especially during Parliamentary meetings one will be surprised to see the number of cars stocked at the service garages waiting for repairs, mainly due to the bad condition of our roads.

The appointment of a Nigerian to be Chairman of Ports Authority is what we have been longing to see as it is hoped that all key posts will be held by Nigerians. The extension of railways is appreciated, but it is now time that double tracks should be considered to speed up the movement of passengers and

goods and thereby reduce the congestion which is still prevailing and the complaints of passengers about discomfort in trains. The implementation of the recommendations of the Elias Commission of Enquiry is now awaited.

Our air services are far backward and should be improved and made available to Nigerian traders. It is understood that Government proposes to review the organisation of the Posts and Telegraphs division of the Ministry of Communications, but more attention should be paid to minimising the tremendous delays caused to telephone calls. The provision of direct dialing facilities at automatic exchanges does not solve the problem.

I hope the issue of special stamps to mark the first anniversary of independence will not result in any special increase of stamp duty as this will discourage easy communication among the community.

The economic development of a country forms the base of its resources and this needs closer investigation, and the achievements so far made by Government are commendable.

The determination of the Government to expedite the reorganisation and expansion of the educational system is very essential, as it forms the key of all development. The development of a country is after all judged by its educational background.

The care of children, which Government has emphasised and is prepared to carry out research on, is of vital importance because without children there can be no adults and hence no community. However what are the Government's plans to combat the fatal disease which spreads yearly in the far north of Northern Nigeria, that is *cerebro spinal meningitis* ?

The improvement and strengthening of the Judiciary are assets to the development of this country; this will form the basis of the confidence of other people from abroad in our institutions. They will thus feel safe to bring in tremendous amounts of wealth for trading purposes, and, once they are assured that there are laws designed for the security of their lives and property in the country, they will apply to come in.

It is very important to improve our National Stadium to suit the status of our country for the encouragement of sports and recreation clubs among the Youths of our growing nation. The eyes of all the world are turned towards us in this respect, especially when I think of our recent soccer victory over Egypt.

I congratulate the Government for sympathising with those old folks who devoted their lives to the services of the country until they attained ages where they could no longer discharge their duties satisfactorily and retired on pension. For years nobody cared to review the situation of these people, yet they remained on fixed pensions as stagnant water despite rising costs of living. These people suffered greatly for no reason, and I hope the present situation of costs of living will be taken into consideration in determining the proposed increases.

It is a pity that Government relies on private papers for the publicity of its official activities. This is a mistake, as most papers are of a political nature and are bound to criticise the different governments in many ways. The proposed establishment of a National Press provides a solution to these problems.

Economic development and agricultural research should by all means have first priority in the Government's development plans. This is now the time to start considering selling markets for Nigeria's produce abroad. Take rice as an example. Over 200 varieties of rice seeds are now being developed at the Rice Research Station at Badeggi in the Niger Province for distribution of the best developed seeds to farmers for planting all over the country. At the moment the rice produced in this country is much greater than what is needed for local consumption. What will happen in a few years' time if selling markets abroad are not now being considered? It will surely mean discouragement of the farmers and loss of effort and money on the part of the Government.

It is the duty of the Government to fight against anything that will bring or create a bad reputation for our dear country, and any legislation to this effect will be highly welcome and will be given consideration. Evil communications corrupt good manners.

It is our wish to see that local markets in stocks and shares are developed in this country. This will give a chance to those who have a desire to sell their stocks, and those who wish to participate in the transaction will also have the chance of buying them.

Mr President, Sir, with these remarks I beg to move.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :
Mr President, Sir, I beg to second the Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Alhaji Abubakar Bale. In the first instance, Sir, it gave Nigeria the greatest joy when yesterday, for the first time in history, a true son of Nigeria occupied the Throne and delivered the Speech from the Throne. It was a speech from the Throne delivered by a Nigerian to a Nigerian Parliament.

But one thing struck me, Sir—before I proceed to the real speech—the personality of the Governor-General yesterday was a great deal enhanced by the uniform he wore. (*Hear, hear.*) Our Governor-General is one of the most unpredictable characters as to what he is going to do next. When he is determined to pursue something, he pursues it in a manner no one can forecast. When we saw him yesterday in his official uniform, most of us never knew it was he.

But there was one thing absent. It appeared that the uniform was not complete, and since yesterday I started to think. It would appear that at the time we were thinking of our independence we were not thinking of honours, awards and orders. The other time when the President of Senegal, M. Senghor, came here, he decorated our President and our Governor-General and our Prime Minister. I feel the time has come—because our own Governor-General will soon be going out and he too, on behalf of Nigeria, should be able to make awards to people—when we should think of Nigerian honours.

And again, Sir, we are not tempted to accept foreign awards, foreign medals and foreign honours again. In fact, those of us who are nationalists have refused it for a long time, otherwise the present Governor-General should have been a Knight by now, the hon.

[SENATOR FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

the Leader of the Opposition should have been a Knight by now. It was quite possible to substitute these foreign honours with Nigerian honours. We must have to show that there are fighters in this country—people who joined in the vanguard of nationalism to bring about the freedom of the country. It should be discussed, it should be noted and it should go down in history for the children of recipients to see. There should be orders, and I feel that the time has come when we should think about this so that the next time our Governor-General appears in any uniform, the uniform should be adorned with honours conferred upon him by the people of Nigeria.

Mr President, Sir, on the question of the United Nations, we are very happy that Nigeria to-day can stand among the nations of the world and project what we call Nigerian ideas, and we are very happy that Nigeria can command to-day a very enviable position among the nations of the world. That is what has happened by the appointment of a Nigerian as the leader of the Congo Peace Delegation, and we are proud of the very fine work that that Nigerian has done and of the way he has been trying to carry the world with him in the United Nations.

I feel, therefore, that our Government was quite right when it decided that we shall continue to support the principle behind the United Nations which says that we are following the policy of the original United Nations—the preservation of peace, respect for human dignity and the bringing about of a situation in the world which will guarantee peace and tranquility. As far as Nigeria is concerned, we shall play our part to see that the world knows peace once more.

The situation in the Congo is very, very unfortunate, but we are happy that tension is now going down gradually. They are our brothers and we are interested in whatever befalls them, and I feel, Sir, that when everything shall have subsided, we still have an obligation to the people of the Congo to help them both morally and materially. In that respect, we do appreciate the secondment of one of Nigeria's greatest sons, Mr Francis Nwokedi to service in the United Nations on matters connected with the Congo. It shows that our independence has come quite in time.

Mr President, Sir, in the question of our intention to see that we improve our present Police system by providing more police posts to guard our frontiers, I have to say that it is a very good thing. But at the same time, we should look into the policy of the Government on the Police Force at this time. I do not think it is right that year in year out we come to this Chamber and the Members of Parliament in the House of Representatives go to their own Chamber and start criticising the Police without trying to look for what is wrong. I feel the time has come—now that we are free—when we must try to find out what is wrong with the Force. It is no use having flats and building blocks of houses without really looking into their conditions.

Is there stagnation in the Police Force? Is there, in one way or another, opportunity for specialisation in the Police? The man who is in the secret service should be left to pursue the secret service; the man who is connected with the traffic should be left to go on with the traffic and become a specialist in that line. We must look into these things. Is there no opportunity for progress? Is there opportunity for a recruit to become a corporal or a sergent? We must have to look into all these things with a view to removing that thing that makes for discontent.

In this connection, I want to remind you that during our Independence Celebrations we had acrobatic displays by the Police. As far as I knew, somebody was hired from somewhere else to come and train our men for that display, and as soon as it was over it would appear that that was the end of it. Could we not afford to get one or two of our own men trained in that form of acrobatic display so that next time we do not have to pay some thousands of pounds to hire somebody to come and put us through.

I congratulate the Government on taking over the Airways completely as from the 1st of April, as was announced by the hon. Minister of Transport. This is nationalisation in its real form. At the same time, Sir, if we make a bold move to take over the Airways, we should equally take the bold move to take over the shipping industry. Our economy in this country is a hundred per cent tied down to and interwoven with shipping, and as soon as other

foreign powers continue to hold shares and interests in our shipping, I do not think the economy of the country is properly safeguarded. I would submit that Government should equally think of taking over the Nigerian Shipping Line completely and making it something of a Nigerian venture exclusively.

We do appreciate what has been done by the Government in the medical field, but at the same time, Sir, we know very well that Nigeria is a large area with a large population, and we know very well, Sir, that we are still very short of doctors and we do appreciate what Government has been doing by way of awarding scholarships. I feel that the time has come when Government should be able to do more by the award of scholarships for the medical field, more scholarships.

At least I should think it would be something which would yield good dividends for this country if this country worked for the next 5 years by awarding 100 medical scholarships every year, because the *ratio* of a doctor to any section of the population now is still very very low. My honourable friend the mover of the motion referred to a certain scourge in the Northern Region. I should think that by now we should be able to send somebody out either to England or America, Russia, or Germany to study the characteristics of this scourge which is killing our people in the North and that we must be able to have at least 12 to 15 of these experts by now. I would recommend that for the consideration of the Government.

At the same time, Sir, I want us to be able to speak as a free people. The Government should now be able to set up a real Pharmaceutical Corporation and, apart from anything else, this Pharmaceutical Corporation should be able to exploit the potentialities of our herbs, of our trees, of our crops, our minerals with a view to producing drugs and chemicals necessary for the survival of human beings. God has given us everything, we only need to improve upon them and I think that if these resources are properly improved Nigerians will have no need to order drugs or pharmaceutical products from anywhere—with apologies to my hon. Friend Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu! I commend that to the consideration of Government.

Our judiciary, we know, has been working very well, but you will allow me to make some observations, Sir. I see that when in 1954 or thereabouts we concluded our constitution and allowed for the regionalisation of the judiciary, we thought we had established several Governments and that we had given to each of these Governments some sort of power that would make it necessary for them to display authority; but I feel that our laws, not being the laws of the Medes and Persians, are subject to consideration for alteration as a result of practical experience.

Many of us in this country, Sir, feel that regionalisation of the judiciary is not in the best interests of this country, and I feel that the time has come when our Government should start to give consideration to building up the judiciary and the judicial machine under the Federal Government. All should come under the Federal Government. The Federal Government should be able to take over and then there will be no question of a Magistrate or a Judge in the Northern Region trying to play up the law in order to satisfy the North, in the East trying to play to the satisfaction of the East, in the West trying to play to the satisfaction of the West.

You know very well, Sir, that these things have become really disturbing to us as critics and, if you will allow me, I want to go back into some history and I would quote: When in 1949 we were anticipating a change in our Constitution, well one of the greatest organs, one of the greatest Movements and one of the greatest political parties in this country then—The Nigerian Youth Movement—had a Representative Council. The Nigerian Youth Movement, I would say, is the foster father if not the God father of what we now have as the Action Group, because most of the policies of the Nigerian Youth Movement are what have been adopted by the Action Group. Apart from Representative Council, special advisers were invited into the country and when the papers were being concluded on the question of the judiciary it was recorded eventually as follows—I beg to quote from the constitutional reform proposed by the Representative Council of the Nigerian Youth Movement held in 1949:

“Judiciary: The Nigerian Youth Movement approve of the present unitary judicial system of the Magistrates and Supreme

[CHIEF BEYIOKU]

Courts of Nigeria and approve of its continuation, regionalisation notwithstanding." That has been our mind and it has been the mind of the people, and I beg to quote from page 4 of the *Freedom Charter* published by the N.C.N.C. which to-day is part of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria:

"BATTLE FOR UNITY AND FREEDOM PAGE 9:

The judiciary: The N.C.N.C. take note of the fact that the regionalisation of the judiciary has not met with general approval. The Judges and the Lawyers have opposed it and some members of the general public have also criticised it. We must have to react to public opinion and the general feeling of the people."

I feel the time has come when we must have to reconsider our stand and our opinion on the judicial set-up of this country with a view to ensuring for every citizen of Nigeria one common form of application of justice.

Mr President, Sir, I come to the question of labour. I am happy that the Government proposes to introduce a Welfare Scheme whereby people will be able to contribute towards old-age pension and some form of old-age security; that is very good, Sir, but at the same time, I have on several occasions in this House been sounding the note. It is not only the old-age pension which will satisfy the worker. What happens if when you are in youth you have nothing to sustain you and then you say you are putting something aside for your old-age? Do you not know that when you become old you are just as a weakling, as a child born to-day? The trouble is that the cankerworm has eaten deep into the existence of the workers from the early days and we must have to provide or safeguard the manhood of our own people right from the time when they are young.

I have said it Sir, the wages which are earned in this country do not favour any reasonable standard of living. I ask you, Mr President, before I stop, how can you expect a man, let us say a man in the Federal Territory of Lagos, who earns 5s a day, how can we expect him to keep body and soul together where in this very same territory of Lagos you have people earning £10,000, you have people earning £5,000, you have people earning £8,000, you have people who earn

£6,000 and we all have one common line, one common economy, and then you have a poor man on 5s per day as wages, and say to him, "Look, when you are old I am going to make you well" but out of his 5s per day you want to take another 1s-6d leaving him with only 3s-6d and then you want him to be able to compete with the very people who are earing about £7,000 and then you want him to maintain a reasonable standard of living? You want him to be able to compete with people who are earning about £7,000 per annum in the same locality, and you also want him to be able to maintain a reasonable standard of living. I think, Sir, that we are somehow committed to some sort of International Labour Organisation Convention as regards the raising of the standard of living of our country and its people.

We are not in a communist state where they try to be hypocritical by saying that everybody earns the same salary. We want a cost of living index. What the Government accepts as its own cost of living index is not our cost of living index. Since we have achieved independence, and we feel that the man at the top needs something to keep him together, we must also think of the poor people who need our attention. There should be a proper Commission of Enquiry, and whoever is interested should come out and testify.

Let us find out what is going to be the minimum standard wage below which nobody should earn in this country. If we agree that based on our economy, the standard minimum wage should be five shillings, and our conscience justifies us, let us set it out; and if on the other hand we are convinced that the minimum wage should be £20, let us set it out. I feel that is the best way to make the workers happy.

I think that in this Parliament, we, as politicians—we are not supposed to be politicians in this House—but whether you are Government or politicians or statesmen, you are committed to one great obligation, and that is to satisfy the masses of our people. Any Government will be judged by the extent to which it has satisfied the masses of the people and those who constitute the masses of the people of Nigeria, are the poor workers, not only in industry, but also the poor labourers in agriculture.

Take the case of a man who owns a farmland, employs labourers to work for him, and pays the labourers six pence a day; we have to look into these things with a view to bringing about a better society in this country.

Mr President, Sir, we have to congratulate our Prime Minister, Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for the stand he took at the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference (*Hear, hear*). I think the name of Nigeria has gone down into history as one of the nations of the world working to stamp out discrimination between man and man. The *apartheid* policy of South Africa must be resisted, and it is not enough for us to go to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and say we resist it. Since we have registered our objection there, it is now incumbent upon us here as a Government to decide what is going to be our future policy towards South Africa. I will suggest that right from now, all white South Africans in Nigeria must be asked to go, because the reason why they quit the Commonwealth is because they do not want to see the so called *Blacks*, and if they do not want to see the *blacks*, or do not want to move in line with the *blacks*, then they have no right to be in our society.

I will suggest also that all goods of South African origin must be banned from this country. There should be no room for South African ships or aircraft to land in our country. I think that should be our first step. We must not wait for Ghana or Guinea to snatch the initiative, we must not allow the Youth Congress or other organisations to bring pressure on our Government by way of banners or streamer headlines in the papers. We must be able to take firm steps ourselves, and that brings me to the question of Pan African Movement.

I think as Nigerians, we all believe in this movement, but at the same time we must be cautious. I do believe that there should be a Central State of Africa, but the dream may take some years to come true. In the past, we have been divided even though we are all brothers. Some of us have gone to the Belgians, some to the French, some to the Germans and the English, and our ideas have been set wide apart from one another. Now that we are just coming together, we must in the first instance promote an atmosphere for mutual friendship and understanding, that atmosphere must be

allowed to pervade for some time and, quite necessarily and compulsorily, the question of our coming together as a gigantic state of Africa will take care of itself.

While still on this question, we are also committed to endorse the policy of neutrality adopted by our Government. I am very glad that in his speech, the Governor-General said we shall continue to face realism and truth. Now that we shall be having several diplomatic connections with several powers of the world, I think it is going to throw more responsibility upon us, and I feel that our special section of the Nigeria Police should be properly taken care of. As these embassies get themselves established in Nigeria, we must make sure that they do treat with us at the governmental level, and we must keep our eyes open and not allow them to intrude into the ordinary day to day activities of this country by trying to influence in one way or the other a section of our people against others.

Mr President, Sir, I am very happy at the reference by the Governor-General to the question of our Economic Development Programme. Nigeria must not continue to starve in the midst of plenty. The time has arrived when Nigeria must be able to produce on a mass production level consumer goods which are used in Nigeria, and in producing these goods we must make sure, as far as possible, that the materials are available. We know very well that when it comes to the matter of food and clothing, we must have to use as much wool as we can spare in producing them. We must not place the excise duty on them too high in order to safeguard those imported from abroad because one of the advantages gained, if we produce here, is that industries will be established, and there will be more work for our men. Again, there will be money in our hands and with money our buying propensity will be improved; but when we continue to import the people who get the advantage will be the people at the source of the imports because we thereby create more work for their own people and place more money in the hands of their people.

In drawing up a real economic programme, I feel that the Government must have to pay greater attention to industrialisation which will lead to mass production of consumer goods and, of course, develop our agriculture.

[CHIEF BEYIOKU]

Mr President, Sir, with these few observations I have to second the Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale.

Sitting suspended : 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Mr President, Sir, the most interesting part of the Independence Celebrations was the historic installation of the Rt. Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe as the first Nigerian Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the independent Federation of Nigeria. To-day, we have a very different story to tell, the story of yet another ever-to-be-remembered occasion on which the newly installed Nigerian Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, uniformed like a Field Marshal, delivered for the first time a Speech from the Throne. I therefore support that we should thank His Excellency not only to satisfy democratic practice and convention but to express our satisfaction for His Excellency's occupying the most important office of state.

The Speech itself, as presented, is remarkable by showing that although the Federal Government has done quite well yet, because there is still so much to be done, the Government has no room now for complacency. Indeed, the Speech seems to emphasise that the Government realises that political freedom thus won cannot be regarded as an end, rather it should be regarded as a means to the end of making Nigeria a great nation which we and generations yet unborn can justifiably call a promised land. As a realisation of this as a means to an end, I feel like saying a few words on some of the remaining important points covered by His Excellency in his Speech from the Throne.

But I should like first to offer my personal congratulations to Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister, on the role he played firstly at the meeting of the United Nations in New York, and secondly at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' recent conference in London, where he was firm and vigorous in conveying Nigeria's feeling of abhorrence for South Africa's racial policy, notoriously called *apartheid*.

Next, I congratulate the hon. Jaja Wachuku whose contributions in the United Nations for a solution to the troubles in the Congo have earned a lot of praise for his country. We owe

also a world of gratitude to our Soldiers and our Police now serving in the Congo for the great honour and praise they have brought to Nigeria in their behaviour and the way in which they discharge all their duties in that foreign land. Had we not won our political freedom there would have been no opportunity of demonstrating to the world that Nigeria possessed all those illustrious citizens who we can say, with pride, are equal to the best anywhere. That is what I mean when I say that the political freedom we have won is only a means to an end and not an end in itself.

Now, Mr President, I would like to touch on some of the points which interest me most. The first is internal security. Now, while seeking the rule of order, the Federal Government owes the nation the great responsibility of internal security. There is so much fuss made every day about fundamental human rights being entrenched in the Constitution of this country. Let not the Government treat with levity the activities of certain individuals—unscrupulous individuals—and in fact certain newspapers who seem to see nothing wrong in flouting the internal security of the country.

Next, I come to the expansion of the Police Force. I feel to ask whether the Federal Government has any plans to ensure that the next Inspector-General will be a Nigerian. It is my own opinion, and the general opinion of the people of this country, that the next Inspector-General of Police should be a Nigerian.

Still on the Police Force, Mr President, there is another point I would like to refer to; this one concerns those of our people who prosecute accused persons in the Magistrates' Courts. During prosecution these officers present their cases to the Magistrates and their chief difficulty is in framing the charges they have against these accused. If an accused person has a lawyer, his lawyer can easily find faults with the charges framed by these officers because they are not legal men.

I think that it is high time that the Government made an effort to see that every investigation branch of the Police endeavours to maintain law and order, in other words the Government investigation Branch of the Police should be equipped so that when a complaint is made to the Investigation Branch, a Police

Officer can go in and make their investigation. When they come back to the office they can make the charges according to the law. Even when the charges are made by the Police themselves, because of the lack of figures, the Police Force does not find it possible to effect proper charges. And if you watch the proceedings of the Magistrate courts you find that because of these lack of figures many accused persons go unpunished and this appears to give the impression that the Court is weak in dealing with criminals according to the law. So I think that the Government should think seriously about making a law to ensure that every investigation branch of the Police, get the charges against accused persons within the precincts and provisions of the law.

Next, Mr President, I go on to the laying of railway tracks. Here again I have to commend the efforts of the Railway Corporation, but I would like to point out that it is one thing to lay the track and it is another to make use of these tracks. In the Eastern Regional district of the Railway, you find that most of the passenger coaches used are not worthwhile at all. I have my own warning here that if the people were to make an economical use of the Railway tracks the Government ought to advise the Railway Corporation to think immediately of providing suitable coaches that will actually benefit human dignity and convert the existing passenger coaches into coaches for cattle.

If anybody has ever travelled along the Eastern Region he will agree with me that the appropriate use for these coaches is not for human beings but for cattle, and because of that no decent people use them; on the other hand they prefer to travel by any other means.

Mr President, I go on to the Government's plans for expansion to the existing research facilities. This is very commendable, but we think that the Government should indicate provision for expansion of the farm industry. I think that a serious thought must have been given to the making of provision for the use of fertilizers, particularly in the Eastern Region.

Mr President, I would now like to say a word or two which are very important. The little point I wish to make is that the time has really come, especially in the Eastern Region, when the Eastern Government should put things in such a state so that the Prime Minister can have a say, can be consulted in the appointment of Puisne Judges. At present it is

exclusively the job of the Judicial Section. I think the Prime Minister should be consulted before anything is done.

Going on next to my other point I come to the social and industrial welfare of our people. The programme indicates something very highly encouraging. But I have a suggestion in this regard. I wish to appeal to the Federal Government that the time has really come for some kind of vigorous joint action with the Regional Governments for the establishment of and running a technical, agricultural and industrial institutions for primary school leavers.

It is becoming increasingly important to find a place for these children to learn more and take to various professions so that the problems of unemployment could be reasonably solved. We require to live a practical life and emphasis should be placed on their training.

My next point, Mr President, is the re-organisation and expansion of our educational facilities. Now on this the Government proposes to have a White Paper. I have a suggestion to offer, and that suggestion is exclusively with the Inspectorate division of the Ministry of Education. We find that we have many young graduate teachers employed and they are expected to carry out inspection of educational institutions. Now we are all educated men. Those of you who have been teachers will agree with me that much is left to be done in this aspect. I suggest that the Government should think seriously of making use of experienced and trained School Masters and make sure that they are provided.

They are the people who will carry out the sort of inspection that will mean anything to us, the people who will carry out the school inspection that will make for maximum efficiency, that will make for improved teaching standards, because they have the experience they know where the shoe pinches. This will further have the advantage of relieving the graduate teachers and leaving them available for real work in our teacher-training institutions and in our secondary grammar schools, and they will be in a position to create incentive in teachers since they will have something to put their eyes upon. If a teacher is made an Education Officer, and Inspector of Primary Schools and he is put on what is called the graduate scale for teachers, certainly, many others will hanker after that. It will

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

make for efficiency and better production, if they will have to be promoted to the post of primary school inspectors.

I call the attention of the Government to this because it will help to minimise the discontent being felt among teachers. If you have to recruit 100 graduate teachers, it may well be that you will be able to get some two, three, four, five, six, seven or ten Nigerians to be promoted.

Mr President, Sir, I think I should give other Members time to speak. But for the sake of emphasis, I have to repeat that I give this Motion my wholehearted support.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi :
Mr President, Sir, I am glad that I was the first speaker to support a Motion to-day, and on this Motion I am the second. Hon. Senators will realise that most of the things that should be said have already been said by the honourable Mover and the honourable Seconder of the Motion. But still I shall endeavour to say something.

On behalf of the entire honourable Senators of this House, I wish to congratulate His Excellency on being the first Nigerian to deliver a Speech from the Throne at a combined meeting of the Federal Parliament. Mr President Nigeria has emerged as a new sovereign state, with two of its most prominent sons at the head of that State : two sons who fought for the liberation of this nation from the yoke of the foreigners. I am sure, Mr President, that every Nigerian is now feeling great comfort and joy that the Right Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe is the Governor-General of this state and that Sir Abubakar is the Prime Minister of the state. I pray that the Almighty God may, during their tenure of office, grant them strength, health and wisdom to enable them carry on their duties satisfactorily.

Mr President, Sir, I am happy to learn that His Excellency in his speech said that Nigeria has emerged as an independent state. He said that his Ministers are well aware of their responsibilities, and I am quite happy that Nigeria is still opposed to all forms of oppression and will respect the territorial integrity of all countries and oppose strongly all forms of racial discrimination and human indignities. I am glad, that our Prime Minister has boldly and successfully put this idea across in the

Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. I am sure all hon. Members of the Senate will give their fullest support to this act of the Federal Prime Minister and will join me in congratulating him on this bold deed.

As regards defence, I do not wish to say anything more than this. The Government should do everything possible to see that no discrimination is allowed in recruiting soldiers to the army.

I am happy that the Government is mindful of the necessity for improving all communications—land, water, air and telecommunications. On land communication, I wish to inform the Government that it is high time that we should have a properly tarred road linking the Regions of the Federation—the West, the East and the North. I am taking only four points in the North—Sokoto, Daura, Maiduguri and Adamawa. It is, I am sorry to say, ridiculous that at this present stage of development we have not got a single tarred road which links the Regions ; we have not got a single tarred road linking Lagos with Kaduna, headquarters of the Northern Region, or even with Kano, the chief commercial centre of the Northern Region. I am sorry that I have to tell the Government that an urgent and rapid plan is required to meet this demand.

I know that a lot of improvement has been made in regard to road construction and I hope there is a lot more to be done properly and promptly. I am glad that the Government is pressing on with the work of road construction between Shagamu and Benin and the construction from Maiduguri as well. I do hope that the Government will find it suitable to advise the Railway Authorities to give the necessary priority to the construction of railway lines between Mokwa and Sokoto and also between Gusau and Sokoto, this will hasten the evacuation of our raw material which is plentiful in this area, and the industrialisation of the area.

I am glad to hear that a Nigerian is to be appointed as the Chairman of the Ports Authority, this is also welcomed and it is an excellent idea.

Unless a definite improvement is planned in the Posts and Telegraphs, communications from one station to another will continue to be slow. At the moment it is very slow and very unsatisfactory especially in more rural areas.

In the field of industrialisation, I am glad that Government has taken a definite plan. The Government should aim to absorb, as much as possible our raw materials instead of sending them outside to foreign factories. I will advise the Government to have them a little more spread out rather than concentrating them in one or two central places. This will lead to satisfaction and will relieve unemployment. Finally it will be of great satisfaction to the members of the community.

Sir, as many things have already been said, I have only tried just to contribute towards this Motion and I do not think there is anything now I can say. With these few comments I beg to support the Motion.

Senator Professor Eni Njoku : Mr President, Sir, I would like to begin my speech on this Motion by congratulating you, very warmly on your assumption of the high office of President of this House. I would beg you not to rule me out of order because I shall show in a moment that my doing so is not irrelevant to this Motion. I was unavoidably absent at the meeting of the House at which you were elected, and I have had no previous opportunity of saying how very happy I am at this appointment. I shall not embarrass you by repeating all the deserved tributes which have already been paid to you both in this House and elsewhere; but suffice it to say, Sir, that I regard your appointment as further evidence of that mature good sense which has characterised Nigeria on the attainment of independence. (*Hear, hear*).

We have shown a political stability which a few years ago nobody would have expected in this country, and it is a matter for great pleasure that there is every hope that we shall continue to enjoy this stability.

To-day we are debating a Motion of a humble address to His Excellency, who was your predecessor in this high office. I am no historian, but I venture to say that when future historians will have chronicled all the great contributions which His Excellency has made to the building of this nation, they will probably rank as his greatest contribution what he has done to give stability to this country on our attainment of independence, first, by accepting office as your predecessor as President of this House, and now by becoming the first Nigerian Governor-General of this country. As we all listened to him yesterday,

I know that our hearts were in deed full of pride.

In order to achieve the development which we re-outlined in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, it is important that we must have peace and internal security in this country. However much we may disagree as Government or as Opposition, so long as we arouse no violent passions and indulge in no destructive activities, then we shall be doing our country every good.

In this regard, I would like to pay tribute to both the present Government and the Opposition for the good sense which has up till now characterised the conduct of public business in this country. We all pray that this will continue to prevail for it will be basic evidence of the fact that our country has come of age.

We still have many difficulties to contend with, the ugly monster of tribalism still raises its ugly head throughout many aspects of life in the country, and it should be our first duty from now on to do all we can to destroy it once and for all. One thing which I admire about Ghana, whether we disagree with the methods of Dr Nkrumah or not, is the fact that there tribalism and sectionalism appear to have been banished completely. We have recognised our differences in this country, by adopting a Federal constitution, but I believe that, even so, it is possible for us to arrive at an attitude of mind which will enable us to appreciate a Nigerian, no matter where he comes from, and to accord the same respect and the same rights throughout the Federation. I believe, Sir, that that is the next greatest important task facing us in our task of nation building in this country.

With regard to the specific development projects which His Excellency has mentioned in his Speech from the Throne, there is time for me to refer very briefly to only two. The two projects I have in mind are both major projects which will affect the future welfare of this country to a very great extent. They are also projects for which we shall certainly need some form of external aid, and for which, therefore, the stability about which I spoke earlier is very important.

One project which I have in mind, and I hope you will excuse me for stressing its importance, is the Niger Dam Project to which His Excellency referred. This proposal to build a

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multi-purpose dam on the Niger River, to be supplemented later by a dam at Shiroro on the Kaduna River, is one which will make a very great impact on the economy of this country. Apart from benefiting the cheaper production of electricity, hon. Senators will probably know that it will also benefit navigation far beyond the borders of our country. It will also benefit irrigation with fruitful results to our agriculture and our food production.

I hope, as His Excellency said, that the Government will do all they can to pursue this scheme as vigorously as possible and do all they can to attract the aid of the International Bank which has already shown very great interest in the project.

Finally, Sir, the only other scheme which I would like at present to refer to is the proposal mentioned in the Speech from the Throne to present a White Paper on the report of the Ashby Commission. I look forward to seeing this Government White Paper because the Report has been published for sometime now and everybody has been wondering what really the Government intends to do about it.

It is unnecessary for anybody in Nigeria to stress the importance of education. The report itself shows adequately and very clearly the great need for improving and expanding tremendously the present educational facilities in this country. The Commission has been bold in its proposal and I hope that the Government will be equally bold in its plan for the implementation of the recommendations of this Commission.

There is a great need for more Universities in this country and both the Federal Government and the Regional Governments, as we know, are making very commendable efforts to satisfy these needs. I would only add one word of warning, and that is, that in thinking of new Universities which have to be created, the Government should not forget that the existing University at Ibadan can act as the senior brother to the new Universities and can benefit them in very many ways. Therefore, it is essential that the existing one should continue to be expanded and supported so that it can be in a strong position to help the new ones in the many ways in which I believe it can help them.

As I said, I look forward very eagerly to seeing what the Government is proposing in its White Paper. With these few words, I would

like most heartily to support the Motion for a humble address.

Senator Dr Nwafor Orizu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for an Address to His Excellency. As you all know the very existence of colonialism was a result of a long process not necessarily caused by man, man being a bad animal or a wicked person or a wicked thing, but they are a combination of economic, social and psychological factors of centuries. When a country gets out of a colonial power and starts a very slow process, again it gets completely into a quagmire.

I think that Nigerians, while we are happy about the Governor-General having made a speech in the Federal Parliament, must first of all congratulate ourselves for having been able to learn in a manner which made it possible for us to follow the process of coming back to ourselves gradually. Even though independence was won many months ago, we are still winning it to-day; otherwise we would not be talking about what happened yesterday. That process has not finished and that is why we are here. We shall continue to point out where a vestige that colonial tentacle still remains.

We shall begin to remove them one by one until they are completely finished. To think that they are finished would mean that we are raising a false alarm. Before saying anything about that, I must have to praise what the Governor-General himself first of all praised, that is what I have chosen to call the *Abubakarian* regime, the regime of our Prime Minister called Sir, Abubakar. I saw when reading a paper not long ago a news item in which this man was referred to as a gentleman of dignity. I also would have to add that this gentleman is a gentleman who has an ideal mind which I call pragmatic conservatism, that is, he is prepared to conserve all that we have, but he is not prepared in that conservatism to remain where he is. He wants to move on.

While conserving what we have, he does not fear any opposition, he is courageous to go on but at the same time he keeps on conserving what Nigeria has. I think that is the sum total of his conservatism. I want to say this because I was an eye witness of how this gentleman conducted himself—which he has not told you as Members of the Senate—when he went to the U.N.O. I was an eye witness of

how this gentleman conducted himself when he left this country to go and represent Nigeria for the first time among the nations of the world. You want to hear the sonorous voice of this man, you want to see how this man stood among the nations of the world and I was looking at him with all the pride that I commanded. In a country that is big you never know a really big man until you get out of your country. Go out of Nigeria and see how this man carries himself throughout the world, and you will know that Nigerians should be proud to have him as their Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*). His speech there was one of the best ever heard because after he spoke, Nigeria's name conspicuously came out with many interpretations and many words as the most constructive country so far in Africa, and I say this without any apologies, even though we are a young country.

Let us consider again the part played by our Prime Minister on the question of the Congo. He was able, without any hesitation, to move on to co-operate with the U.N.O. by sending our Forces there. Then again, he has sent Jaja Wachuku there, and you can see also in the U.N.O. the type of people Nigerians are. Jaja Wachuku is a young man in the U.N.O. but you would like to see the day he stood up to speak or the day he met Khrushchev. In the midst of us all, Khrushchev rushed out, embraced Jaja and carried him up in the midst of the whole world.

An hon. Senator : But that is a general embrace.

Senator Dr Orizu : Whatever embrace it is, the fact is that Russia constitutes one-fifth of the world, and the fact that somebody from there recognises Nigeria—when you come to think of it, and whether you like the man or not—means that we ought to be proud of ourselves. You want to see also the recognition given to us by other parts of the world. Besides Russia, we have England for example. The first dinner we had there was planned by the Ambassador from England.

The attitude of our Prime Minister to the *apartheid* question of South Africa is one of unabashed frankness. He presented his own case there with originality, and as I have earlier said, he is a pragmatic conservative person. Among the African countries, he has also initiated a programme of having a meeting which is now going to take place in Nigeria.

I think that all these things show clearly well what my hon. friend, the hon. Professor Njoku, said in a passing mention—I do not know whether we all understand it clearly—when he referred to one of the greatest contributions the Governor-General made to this country, probably the greatest. I am not an historian myself, but I think we all work within the periphery of the territory enough to know and to project what could form the basis of history of the future. I know that, of all the things that the Governor-General has done for this country, the greatest of all is his ability to stabilise this Government; but he could not have done this without the co-operation of others and that again is an achievement.

Before speaking on other items in the Speech from the Throne, I have to mention again the question of the uniform of the Governor-General. We have been praising the uniform of the Governor-General, but I would like to say something about it because the more you repeat something the more it is in the hearts of the people. I have always said John Styler once told me that it is very easy to remove a man from slavery, but the most difficult thing to do is to remove slavery from a man. If a man had been a slave for a long time and he wants to leave his master, he will refuse to go because when you liberate him you have not removed slavery from his mind.

I must say this with all seriousness that one of the things that will indicate our maturity, absolute maturity, is our ability to do things our own way. It is quite true the Governor-General was wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal; I like it very much, the Commander-in-Chief of Nigeria. What worried me was that I looked and looked to see whether that uniform was of Nigerian design or of Nigerian origin. It does not look Nigerian. Wherever you see the uniform you cannot say—"This is Nigeria." It is one of the things that I have just said, that some of the items of colonialism are not miles back. The thing is not off yet, we are just in it a little bit more, and the more we know it, and know it with clear understanding without bitterness, we must do something to change it.

I am not saying it with bitterness, but I am saying it so that we can realise that we have to sit down and design our own uniform on these lines. Let the Governor-General be a Field

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Marshal, but let his dress have a Nigerian outlook, even let it have a sword by his side or with two feathers, because I must say, frankly, I did not know it was Dr Azikiwe.

Another point which I want to make is what the Governor-General said about the Police. He said that the expansion of the Nigeria Police would continue with maximum speed consistent with our financial resources. I think the time for complacency is gone. As I said, we have to go on from point to point to know whether colonialism is still with us. I will urge every Member of the Senate to go to the Inspector-General of Police's Office after we dismiss. Ask for what they call—*Quarters' List*. I am very serious about this. Go to the Inspector-General of Police and ask for this *Quarters' List* and see whether we are really having our internal security or whether we are still in the hands of white people.

There is no post in the place that is not in the hands of the white people. We have only one Deputy Commissioner—Mr Edet—who has just gone to the Congo. It is only one. The Inspector-General, the Commissioners in the Regions, the Deputy Commissioners, the S.S.P.s are all white. Internal security in Nigeria is yet absent, the nation must know. Go to the Inspector-General's Office and get the *Quarters' List* and find out. I shall go into this in detail during the debate on the Budget.

I have to praise the Government for making arrangements to appoint a Nigerian Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority. That is how we are going to appoint our Inspector-General. As I have said, I need not belabour this point as I will definitely speak on it during the debate on the Budget.

The Governor-General spoke about the Flying Training School. That is a very essential aspect of this nation's defence. If you say you have a home and in that home you cannot prevent anybody from taking your wife, your son, or your property, you have no home. People in the world are no more thinking of the earth. The earth happens to be only one small planet. These people called Europeans have stopped thinking about the earth. They have left it, they are thinking about something else we do not know anything about. As a matter of fact, I think that was why they hurried to grant us independence because, after all, we really have no inde-

pendence. When we are still struggling on the little earth the Europeans have gone to the moon and are making plans to do something else. You can live on the earth, when he needs you he can take you from the earth.

I think we all know the relationship between the small earth in which we live and the other planets. Therefore, the question of an Air-Force should not be confined to any particular country. I am suggesting that this Government should try to nationalise education, I have been saying it all the time. If you are going to train people, send some to England, some to America some to Russia, I repeat, Russia and others to Japan. Send them there to learn about what is going on in those countries. We are not now married to anybody and we must look ahead.

I now come to oil. It is very good to prospect for oil, but is it not necessary for us to realise that it is high time we got our own Geologists and also oil prospectors who are Nigerians? Shall we leave the *Shell B.P.* or whatever you call them to award them scholarships? Are we so naive as to believe that such a person will work in a manner that will be of benefit to this country after a short time? I want to hear that the Federal Government is awarding scholarships to people who will learn how to prospect for oil and other minerals. Let them specialise, let them be told what should be done and let them be trained for that. We are in a world of planned economy. You do not get anything now without planning. So far, our economy is not planned and our education is not planned.

I praise the Minister of Health for his care of children. I heard that a hospital is going to be built in Lagos exclusively for the care of children and in the Mainland, a general hospital. I think this is good.

I now come to judicial reform. What we heard in the Speech from the Throne about judicial reform has shown an innovation of democracy and individual freedom in Nigeria, when you think of the references to *Habeas Corpus*, to the idea of seeing the Federal Government as a person to the Companies Act Reform, which I hope will include, among other things, the protection of indigenous companies. There are three types of independence; political independence, economic independence, and what I will call psychological independence or social independence.

We have got the first one, two are still remaining. We have not got economic independence and we do not know anything about economy.

Let Senators know that ; the law can make a Nigerian company ; the law can make a small Company into a big Company ; the law can make a small Contractor to be able to build a bridge across the Niger, and the way to do it is to start now. We should begin to speak about these things as we did about twenty years ago. People think we are crazy and mad. People begin to look at us with wonder. "What is he talking about"? That is not the question. The question is that those other Companies are owned by human beings and we are all human beings. What they do with the Companies is at their own discretion.

It is quite possible to discourage foreign firms from controlling the Nigerian economy. The trend now is to call every Company a *Nigerian Company*. That is, somebody is appointed a director from outside, a Nigerian, one foolish man who is usually given a big appointment, and a big salary so that they can call the Company Nigeria. He has nothing to do with the Company ; he does not know the beginning of it, and he does not know the end of it. And such Companies having made these appointments, go on taking money from Nigeria. We must not let that happen here.

Now, further, if we are not afraid of ourselves, let us know that we can create millionaires from within us in a short time from now. Let me tell you this. If we do not do something soon we shall go to war because Government cannot raise the money. We have to go to America or England and to Canada. It is big men who have to think for the Government. It is not the men who command them to use their money. Therefore I am emphasising that whatever Companies' Act is finally going to come about, we must remember now to distinguish between companies—*Nigerian Companies* and Companies owned by indigenous citizens. That thing is a trick and it has got to go.

I am very happy about this provision of legal aid to the litigant. It is a wonderful thing, and I am also happy about the encouragement which the Government wants to give by reforming labour policy throughout the Federation. That is wonderful indeed.

Then I come to education. I think that one of the things which the Nigerian Government will have to plan—it is a long-term process again—is for a common language through educational assistance. Nobody will dare to make a joke of this area of the economy and it is impossible to predict what might happen tomorrow. We can become gods but I do believe that the languages in Nigeria are good. I know, for one, that *Hausa* is a beautiful language and also it is more comprehensive than most other languages in Nigeria because it is one of the few international languages in West Africa. It contains in it certain descriptive facts, for example numerals that go up to millions.

I know very well that in Ibo, I must confess, we have no million. Let me tell you now, we do not have it ; that is one fact. Therefore we have a language that is ahead of us already from the point of view of a national language and also certain ideal in the *Hausa* language. It has no abstract words as in *Ibo* and in other languages I know, but in *Hausa* you have ideal words, not words of abstract meaning. For that reason I think it is about time we began to think about a language for this country, one of the Nigerian languages.

Then there has to be a general standard of education, not superimposed upon the Regions. Through discussion and consultation the standard of education in this country can be raised. Then there has to be planned education. I continue to say that this country has never planned its education at all. I was told some time ago by the Minister of Education, and, also I have seen it myself every day, I have seen Italian people who give Nigerians scholarships—thirty here and forty there. Very good. I have never seen a planned economy. And we had better stop all these Commissions—*Ashby* or *Motobi*. It is high time we have a Commission here.

We have brains in this country who know what we want. After all, it is all about education. Education is nothing but the capacity to bring an individual to the knowledge of his environment and how to utilise it. That is what it boils down to. They know the water ; they know the air ; they know their home ; they know the trees ; they know the animals ; they know their houses and they know how to use them and that is all. So

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going round and round and round about it with all these Commissions is only showing immaturity again of the man. But it is not easy for me. Now, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : Mr President, Sir, I am rising to support the vote of thanks to the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne. I have a few comments to make and the first is that I think it cannot be overstressed that we are all very satisfied and we have to congratulate ourselves for the Speech from the Throne. It is the first time our new Governor-General has made the Speech.

In the second place we already realise that in the world of to-day we are all inter-dependent. Furthermore, we realise the need to co-operate with the United Nations in all aspects of our business but, Mr President, Sir, in matters of major national decisions I feel it would not be out of place if Parliament were to be summoned and a debate carried out before any important step was taken. I am making a special reference to this Congo crisis.

Personally, I thought it would not be too much for the Government to summon the Parliament before our soldiers and police were sent to the Congo. We could then have debated it quite all right and, of course, Government would have been in a position to inform every member that it was a necessary and desirable step. I feel that at another time we might be called upon to take similar steps and to help the United Nations to form a Police Force. If it is proposed we have Nigerian contingents serving in the Police Force then, of course, the command of that Police Force would be the entire duty of the United Nations but when the decision has to be taken by the nation—and we are representatives of the people—we must know what is likely to happen. I think it is very necessary.

Then about the Nigerian Police Force. A lot has been said about this and it is indeed very complimentary that Government is prepared to train personnel for the command of the Police Force, but it is one thing to train, and another thing to give the trainees the necessary promotions when

they are back. I think there is a lot of moral depression in the Police Force.

It is alleged that promotions in many cases are not based on merit and it is equally alleged that at times you get expatriates coming out and some of these expatriates were in subordinate positions in their own places. Some of them were merely second class police constables, coming out to become A.S.P's and what-not, whereas their Nigerian counterparts are still far behind, and these expatriates are inclined to boss their Nigerian counterparts. We realise the need to recruit or to bring expatriates along if the need arises, but while we are doing this, we should do all we can to encourage indigenous Nigerians in the Police Force and, as somebody has said, it is high time we did something about this, otherwise our internal security is far from secure.

The President : Order, order. The sitting is suspended until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : Mr President, Sir, I feel I have said a lot about the Police Force and we all know the importance of the Police as an arm of the law. I sincerely hope that we will do all we can to raise their morale. If we train them, somebody who left this country in the post of an Inspector of Police should hope to come back and be A.S.P. or something higher, and for him to come back and then fall into his old post, whereas his standard of living has been raised, will be really very distressing.

Mr President, Sir, I am very happy some Senators spoke about this question of Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin road last year when we were here at the time of the Appropriation Bill which was discussed at large, and one would have thought that by now a lot of work ought to have been done on this road. It cannot be denied that we need as efficient means of transport between this place and Benin and, as somebody has mentioned this morning, not only do we need this but between this place and the North as well as between this place and the East, we also need efficient transport facilities. But this one should be given priority because it has been mentioned time and time again and at least some miles

of the road ought to have been covered by now. So, I sincerely hope we are not merely putting programmes on paper without implementation.

Mr President, about the question of education, it appears to me as if we are laying too much emphasis on University education as if it were the panacea for all our social, political and economic ills. I do not want to be misunderstood. I do not cast aspersion on university education. I realise that university education is necessary, but all the same, most of the leading figures of the world to-day are people who never entered any universities at all and the most important thing is not to concentrate on university education alone. We should do all we can to encourage technical education and when I say "technical" I do not mean the sense wherein a boy who is supposed to study carpentry in a Trade Centre comes out and his knowledge of joinery is as poor as that of the ordinary carpenter in the street. I mean people who are really trained and competent in their job and that Government should set up technical schools and trade centres and that these should be properly looked after and that adequate provisions should be made for the men trained there to be absorbed into our industries. Then, of course, we are doing something to provide jobs for hungry ones.

Side by side with this is the question which has been raised by the Government last year about inter-regional Secondary Grammar Schools. One would have thought that by now some of these schools should have been set up. I sincerely hope that as soon as possible Government will do something to implement this laudable scheme.

Then a lot was said in the Speech from the Throne about improvement in tele-communication and postal facilities. This sounds well on paper and, as I have said before, there are Federal postal agencies which ought to have been raised to the status of sub-post offices and there are several places, as a matter of fact, what I call large towns, which have no telephones or rural post offices. I think while we are trying to project Nigeria abroad by developing our *Radio Nigeria* and better means of communication, we must try to emphasise the need for "charity beginning at home" and this is very important.

I sincerely hope that in our postal facilities and the extension of our telephone communications we will do all we can not to be sectional: in other words, concentrate on different parts and give each section of the country its due share.

On the whole, Mr President, Sir, most of the programmes sound well on paper but the question is: how soon will they be implemented? Sir, that is an important question and I know the answer the Government will give. They may say, "as soon as funds are available" or something like that, but I sincerely hope that when we are raising loans and what not, we are thinking of the implementation of these programmes, and I am sure we will do all we can to concentrate on their development.

And Mr President, finally, Sir, I join with others in congratulating the Prime Minister for the important role he played at the Prime Ministers' Conference in London. He has done very well to project Nigeria in that community and we hope really that economic sanctions and other methods should be used to bring pressure to bear on the Government of South Africa.

But, Sir, I personally disagree with the sentiments expressed by one hon. Senator that we should expel all South Africans from this country. We must realise that amongst them there are some well-meaning South Africans and I am taking, for instance, Allan Paton, the Author of *Cry, The Beloved Country* and Dr Rees and others. All these are well-meaning South Africans who have suffered because of their personal convictions as regards racial equality and it would be unfair to penalise all for the sins of some or many. And we must realise, of course, that in this country we have black South Africans. If we expel them it means that we are expelling all and we should be very wary in the way we carry out this idea of sanctions.

With these few comments, Mr President, Sir, I support the Motion.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That the debate on the Motion be now adjourned until Tuesday, the 4th April.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the debate on the Speech from the Throne be adjourned until Tuesday next.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The President : Hon. Senators, a message has been brought from the Honourable House of Representatives that they have passed a Bill entitled the Emergency Powers Act 1961 and that they desire the concurrence of the Senate in the same Bill.

The Clerk will now proceed to read the order for the second reading of the Bill.

EMERGENCY POWERS BILL

Order for second reading read.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act for the maintenance and security of peace, order and good Government during periods of emergency, be read a second time.

The 1958 Constitution Conference agreed that the Federal Government, after independence, must possess adequate powers to ensure the safety of the nation against internal and external pressure ; and recommended that the old Emergency Powers Order in Council of the United Kingdom should cease to have effect in Nigeria within six months after independence. Provision was made accordingly in Section 6 of the Independence Constitution. Section 55 of the Constitution gives special powers to Parliament to make laws for the purpose of maintaining or securing peace, order and good government during any period of emergency. A period of Emergency is defined as any period during which :

(a) The Federation is at war.

(b) There is in force, a regulation passed by each House of Parliament declaring that a state of public emergency exists.

(c) There is in force a resolution by each House of Parliament supported by votes of not less than two thirds of all members of the House declaring that democratic institutions in Nigeria are threatened by subversion.

The present Bill is therefore, designed to replace the old Emergency Powers, Order in Council of the United Kingdom, and to replace them in a form suitable for an Independent and democratic nation. It will be noted that after setting out in clauses 3 to 4 the scope of regulations which may be made, the Bill goes on to provide in Clause 5 for what is done under the Bill to be subject, within a period of

two months, to Resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament and also secures for Parliament the powers to amend or revoke anything so done by means of Resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament. By this means the Bill seeks to preserve the sovereignty of the parliament so that in an emergency declared as such by Parliament the power given by Parliament to the Executive remains subject to the will of the people as manifested by Resolutions passed by both Houses.

The need for emergency powers to be available in this time is inescapable. During the process of preparing the Bill, it was circulated to the Regional Governments in draft and the present form incorporates most of the suggestions made by them. The Bill is not contentious and has passed through all the stages in the Lower House, and I have no doubt that it will commend itself to the Members of the Senate and that it will not need a long debate

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State : Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : I support this Bill whole-heartedly for the main reason that it has been circulated to the Regional Governments, and from what the hon. Minister has just said their views have been incorporated in the drafting of the Bill. I have no reason to say anything against it. I support the Bill whole-heartedly.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : Mr President, Sir, There is no doubt that this is a very necessary piece of legislation. An independent country like Nigeria must be able to preserve itself from subversion and anybody who has the welfare of this country at heart will support this Bill. As a matter of fact, I had thought that the Government should have introduced this Bill at the last sitting of Parliament. There is nothing I see in it that is likely to offend even the most *doubting Thomases*, and I therefore, support it without any reservation.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : Mr President, Sir, the Bill is nothing controversial. Our Government should make sure that the full content of the Bill is made known because we in the provinces a few months ago were so much

affected by what was happening in Lagos. There was sentimental demonstration over the Congo issue which would have ruined the reputation of Nigeria abroad. For that sake I support this Bill whole heartedly.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Mr President, Sir, The heading of the Bill "Emergency Powers: Bill for the maintenance and securing of peace, order and good government during periods of emergency" is very clear. It therefore, needs not be kept long. I beg to support.

Senator L. T. Olamijulo : Mr President, Sir, I have to appeal to the Government, whenever this Bill has to be used to see that it is applied properly. Many a time you have good intentions but abuse of office is all that is involved. That is the other point to be considered. I think that it is very desirable that a good government should maintain peace and try to carry on with it. But at the same time it is not always what people say that they do. At times, with flimsy excuses one finds that things that are not expected are done.

At the same time, I do not think it is good that we should impute motives. I feel that it is right that we should pass this Bill; but to be forewarned is to be forearmed. I feel that the Government is right in doing this, and as such, I only want us to be cautious whenever we have an emergency act; whenever we are going to put this into force, we should hasten slowly and do whatever we are going to do as we have put it down.

I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

Senator Sani O. B. Okin : Mr President, according to the Minister, the Bill is non-contentious. What we want to do is this—it is just a question of the man who has put up a very fine building but at the same time failed to put doors and windows, and a friend of his comes to him and says, "If you have to protect your house and property the first thing now for you to do is to fit in doors and windows". Government is just like a hunter: I think the best thing for him to do is to have a double-barrelled gun because of wild animals. Nigeria should be properly protected. Therefore, I see nothing in this Bill to raise any controversy.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : Mr President, Sir, in supporting this Bill, I have to thank the Government for bringing it in good time. Where there is no peace, where there is no order, such a country is bound to degenerate

into chaos—and no country would like to have any form of disorder. I really endorse and support this Bill.

Senator M. G. Ejaife : Mr President, Sir, I would like to support the Bill. I think every sovereign nation must provide for preservation such as every human being regards it as a cardinal duty to devise ways of preserving his or her life. And so, I think it is a very good thing that the Federation, which has attained autonomy, should make laws whereby it ensures that it is not annihilated or that there should not be disorder within its own territory.

One feature of this legislation is the fact that the matter has been carefully reviewed and debated in both Houses of Parliament and a two-thirds majority has been secured.

But let us examine the three conditions in the definition. The first is any period during which the Federation is at war. If a country is at war, a state of emergency must be declared by any self-respecting government. Secondly, if there is in force a resolution passed by each House of Parliament declaring that a state of public emergency exists. Where I have doubt is about declaring that democratic institutions are threatened by subversion. Those words appear to be quite sweet but capable of one interpretation after another.

When we come back to the Memorandum you find, "In particular regulations may be made for the detention and deportation of persons, the requisition of property or undertakings, the entering and search of premises, the amending or suspension of any law and the punishment of persons offending against the regulations". These appear to me to be very, very apprehensive laws, especially as they are applied in countries like Ghana. I think it is a wise thing that the Government has thought of enacting these laws, but we should not emulate any country.

The Government should not give a blank cheque, and a law which is made for its preservation should not be turned into an instrument of oppression. Nigeria has won a good name abroad and other countries are referring to Nigeria as worthy of emulation in her policy of making haste slowly. We do hope that in allowing this Bill to pass no temptation should arise, and even if it does arise, this country should not succumb to the temptation of twisting this law.

With this, I lend the Bill my wholehearted support.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this Bill as other Senators have just done, and I would appeal to the Government that it is one thing to pass a law and it is another thing to carry it out successfully. There are cases at times where a law is passed and there may be times to execute that particular law : it requires some consideration.

Some months ago the Congo crisis began. We all know what it is. The crisis in the Congo never started in one week. In order to safeguard the interests of Nigeria and peace and harmony in the country, I feel that is why our Government has considered it fit to enact this emergency Bill. It has been passed in the Lower House and it is left for us here, as fathers, to consider and reconsider it.

As one speaker has said, it is not everything that we read in the papers that should be put into practical operation. There are lots of things one reads theoretically but when it comes to actual practice, one applies one's commonsense. It is good to pass any degree in any university and come out to put it into practice. That is why it is said that experience is the best teacher.

We must not consider our great nation as others. Nigeria, as we all know, is a very big nation. We cannot compare Nigeria with Ghana. We know the size of Ghana—it is one-fourth of Nigeria—and so such laws as are enacted in Ghana about which we have all been reading—deportation of this and deportation of that in Ghana—I pray that that should not happen in Nigeria. According to an hon. Senator who spoke a few minutes ago, we must go on slowly. It is true that we must safeguard our country and must see that our house is put in proper order. If there is no need for that, there might not have been any insurance company to-day. Some people insure their lives, their homes, their property and their own business. It is in the same way that we are enacting this Bill.

Mr President, Sir, I am asking the Government to consider and reconsider should the need arise to apply this Emergency Powers Bill. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to congratulate His Excellency on his speech from the Throne—(Interruptions).

The President : Order. Will the hon. Senator proceed.

Senator Chief Ndu :—more especially on the question of introducing a Bill to enable workers throughout the.....

The President : Order, order. I thought the hon. Senator was having a preamble.

Senator Chief Ndu : I have just been in, I never knew another Bill had been on. If you would allow me, to continue on what I thought I should have to say before the House adjourns—

The President : Order, order. The House is now debating the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Emergency Powers Act, 1961, not the Speech from the Throne. Senator Somolu.

Senator O. Somolu : Mr President, Sir, I join the hon. Senators in supporting this Bill. But there are one or two things which I wish to point out to this House and on which I am asking for the assurance of the Government.

There is no country where there are no emergency powers vested in the government of the day. And it is always left to the good sense of that government to make use of such powers with wisdom and with moderation.

Now, this Emergency Powers Act which is laid before us and which is the subject of this debate, contains a few paragraphs which are the highlights of a tyrant, and which can work a lot of havoc, and it is my intention to call the attention of this House and of the Government to these paragraphs which, to me, contain very, very wide powers that are capable of being misused, and I do hope this government, or any government of this Federation, will not give cause for complaint in the operation of these clauses.

One hon. Senator has called attention to section 3 (a), and I intend also to call the attention of the hon. House to section 6 of this Bill, which I intend to read with your permission. Section 3 (a) of the Bill says "During a period of emergency, the Governor-General in Council may make such regulations as appear to him to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of maintaining and securing peace, order and good government in Nigeria or any part thereof." Section 6 says "Every regulation made under section 3 and every order or rule made in pursuance of such a regulation

shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any law; and any provision of a law which is consistent with any such regulation, order or rule shall, whether that provision has or has not been amended, modified or suspended in its operation under this Act, to the extent of such inconsistency, have no effect so long as such regulation, order or rule remains in force."

Mr President, Sir, these are very wide powers. Our Constitution provides that no Nigerian shall be deported from this country. It is a paramount legislation, but this Emergency Powers Bill, Section 3 (a), makes provision that a Nigerian shall be deported from Nigeria. It says during any period of emergency, the Governor-General in Council may make such regulations as appear to him to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of maintaining and securing peace, order and good government in Nigeria or any part thereof, without prejudice to the generality of powers conferred by subsection (1), the regulations may, so far as appears to the Governor-General in Council to be necessary or expedient for any of the purposes mentioned in that subsection—

"(a) make provision for the detention of persons and the deportation and exclusion of persons from Nigeria or any part thereof;" and so on.

It is all persons, including Nigerians. To that extent that provision contradicts the provision of our Constitution.

It goes further in Section 6 to say that even where the law is inconsistent with the provision, that law will be void. Now, we have just heard it in the Speech from the Throne, and with your permission, I quote, that we are during this session, going to pass legislation for the introduction of appeals to the Federal Supreme Court in cases of *Habeas Corpus*. When a man is detained and he has reasons to believe that the grounds for his detention are controversial, he could fight his case to Court on a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, but this law, as we have it, clearly shows that if a man is detained or deported from Nigeria, under this Act, he cannot seek *Habeas Corpus*. These provisions are flatly contradictory to the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution.

I call the attention of this House, I call the attention of this Government to this, and it is

for the Government to satisfy the hon. Senators that my fears are unjustified, and that the word "persons" here does not include Nigerians. If the word "persons" include Nigeirans, my submission to this House and to the Government is that this Emergency Powers Act makes it possible for any Nigerian to be detained without any remedy, it makes provision for a Nigerian to be deported from Nigeria without any remedy. That, Sir, is my observation.

So far as the generality of the law itself is concerned, it is non-controversial. These points call for very great fear and I hope that the Government will satisfy hon. Senators that these fears are unjustifiable.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Mr President, Sir, I am not a lawyer myself and so I cannot talk on the legal aspects of the Bill, but from the layman's point of view, I think whoever will have to implement the regulation during the period of emergency, should have a sort of reliable adviser to advise him in drafting the regulation. I think it is in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution.

As has been mentioned by the last speaker one thing I would like to say is that this Bill is a welcome Bill because it is an instrument in the hands of Government to curb irresponsibility in this country. For this reason, I think the scope of the Emergency Powers Act, as defined in this Bill is not wide enough to include civil wars, riots, etc.

Speaking of riots, I want to mention in particular, the riots which occurred in 1958 when somebody died in Ibadan, the riots at Orlu, Awka, Onitsha, and the last one in Tiv Division. The riots in Tiv Division and that at Onitsha were timed. The one in Tiv Division was timed to coincide with the eve of independence and therefore the people who planned for the riot at that time were very irresponsible. It is regretted that the legislation was not in existence during that period, otherwise the people who definitely wanted to mar the independence of Nigeria should have been punished.

The riot at Onitsha was timed just on the eve of the installation of the Governor-General. The people who wanted to mar this august occasion are really irresponsible. I think the Bill is a welcome one and I have no quarrel with it.

The Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I think perhaps it will shorten the debate if you allow me to say a few words at this stage. I feel very grateful to hon. Members who have accepted this Bill and have congratulated the Government for introducing it. It is a very necessary Bill and we do not think it is controversial at all.

In any society, you need an instrument of this sort to deal with any emergency that might arise, and I think hon. Members who have watched this Government for more than fifteen months now, will concede that the Government does not just pay lip-service to democratic principles, but in fact, wholeheartedly embraces the ideals of democracy which are entrenched in our Constitution. The Government is led by a God-fearing Prime Minister, who is highly respected both here and abroad, and is known for his integrity and tolerance. Therefore, I think it is groundless to suggest that the Government might possibly mis-use the powers which we in the Government are now seeking. The power is necessary to be granted to any Government in a democracy.

My hon. Friend Senator Somolu has raised a fundamental point, that there is a part of this Bill which is inconsistent with the Constitution. I respect Senator Somolu's abilities as a lawyer, but I wish to assure him that we do not share his opinion that there is any part of this Bill which is not in keeping with the Constitution, and we know—and you all know—that any law which is inconsistent with the Constitution will be void.

This Bill has been debated in the Lower House, and has been welcomed by all sections of the House. It passed through the Lower House in only ten minutes when it was debated this morning, and we are all quite satisfied that there is no provision of this Bill which could possibly be construed to deprive a Nigerian of his right of citizenship, or anything which any good Government could use to deport any Nigerian from Nigeria. The law definitely says that "any person or persons to be deported" but it does not say Nigerian. If you want to deport a Nigerian, to where will you deport him? You will have to negotiate, or seek permission, to deport him to Congo or Fernando Po or perhaps to Siberia.

So, I think it is ridiculous to stress that aspect of the clause which gives power to the Governor-General in Council to deport a person or to require the exclusion of persons from Nigeria or any part thereof. Obviously, there are powers given to this Government by this Bill, if a person who happens to be a Nigerian, is undesirable. He could be detained; and what is more important, I should like hon. Members to appreciate that whatever Regulations are made under this Bill, it will be subject to the affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament, within two months of the making of these regulations. This, no doubt, is a necessary check on the executive. No matter how good they are, their actions must be subject to examination by Parliament.

We do not just give powers to Government to declare a state of emergency, and then go to make regulations to clamp down upon any evil doer, but within two months, we must come back to have an affirmative resolution of both Houses to what we are doing; so that if the Government mis-use its power, you will have the opportunity either to remove that power or remove the Government from office.

Mr President, Sir, I think that with this explanation hon. Senators will allow us to make progress and accept this second stage of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-7 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(The Minister of State, Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes to four o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 4th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, it is proposed that at the conclusion of the debate on the Motion of thanks for the Address from the Throne, the Senate will adjourn until Tuesday the 25th April, 1961 (*Cheers*). I wish to add that it is not intended to rush the debate on the Motion. Hon. Senators will have every opportunity of having their say on the measures presented by Government in the Address.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS

Adjourned Debate on question (30th March).

Question again proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, as follows:

"Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the Senate of the Federation of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament".

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, Wednesday the 29th March, 1961 opened a new chapter in the history and political evolution of this country. On that day in the National Hall, we had the unique privilege of listening to the first Speech from the Throne of that illustrious and distinguished son of Nigeria, the Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General and Commander in Chief of the Federation of Nigeria.

One significant fact about this is that it is well known and accepted by the teeming millions of this country that both friends and foes admit that he is the greatest living architect of this country. No greater tribute can be paid to

this great man. I am not going to dwell at length on the merits of this speech which has been paid deserving tribute in this and the Lower Houses, and the public press of the whole Federation. Suffice it for me to say that I fully associate myself with the views of the Members expressed by former speakers. The glorious speech rejoiced the hearts not only of those in the Hall and gallery, but in the country as a whole. Well may we exclaim: "Our independence indeed has become a reality!"

One cannot commend too highly the Government's foresight in the legislative, social and industrial programmes outlined in the speech. To name only a few of the most important and outstanding ones, we have the Shell/BP Oil Refinery near Port Harcourt, the proposed utilisation of natural gas in the Afam/Bomu oil-field for generating electricity, the Government's praiseworthy gesture in giving retrospective effect to the *Mbanefo* award in respect of Government Officers who retired prior to September 1959; the welcome news of the introduction of old age pension, the proposed legislation to regulate the activities of Nigerian Insurance Companies; a Bill for legal aid to indigent persons to meet the cost of essential legislation, the Niger bridge project. These and many others are pointers to the fact that the Government is endeavouring to make Nigeria a welfare state.

The clear cut programme of the Government is a positive proof that it is determined at all costs to shoulder the heavy responsibility of independence and thus give political and economical stability to Nigeria. To carry through successfully the various stages and the formidable programme the Government needs the support of this House. It is evident that a great deal will fall on the mind and body of those who hold the reins of Government. They deserve the unflinching support and loyalty of all of us.

There are, however, Mr President, a few matters which the speech did not deal with fully or left out altogether. One would have expected to hear what plans Government has for a survey for railway extension from Aba to Owerri, to Onitsha and then to the Western Region to connect the Lagos-Kano railway.

[SENATOR NZEREM]

Then there is the much talked of Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin road. I am disappointed, Sir, and no doubt many hon. Senators are, that the Government was unable to tell us when the road is likely to be completed and opened, nor was any mention made of any plan to start one of the inter-Regional secondary schools this year. The value of such schools to Nigerian unity has been recognised by all. It is hoped that the Government will make a statement about this before the Senate rises.

I do not agree, Sir, with a previous speaker who praised the Governor-General's dress of a British Field Marshal. The question of uniforms for our Heads of State and Government Officials generally calls for serious attention. Whatever uniform is finally decided upon should reflect the dignity and custom of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). We must definitely be less British here. A Nigerian dress designer should be commissioned to plan the uniforms.

Mr President, Sir, Government will be well advised to tighten up security measures in Nigeria, particularly in the Federal Capital. One recalls with horror what happened here late last year when some mis-informed and misguided young people invaded Lagos and almost succeeded in forcing entry into Parliament Buildings but for the timely intervention of the Police. I refer to the unfortunate commotion following the passing into law by Parliament of the Bill for a Defence Pact with Britain. It is true that this is a democratic country where peaceful demonstrations cannot be banned, but when people in the name of liberty and fundamental rights disturb the peace and liberty of other people, then they must be made to face the full consequences of their act.

I congratulate the Government on its bold and imaginative programme and beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General.

Senator L. C. Daldry : Mr President, Sir, I have attended quite a number of openings of Parliament in Lagos—because I have been a Member of Parliament now for more than five years. I must say that the ceremony that we witnessed last week was most impressive and dignified, beautifully arranged and would do credit to any country in the world. (*Applause*).

I am sorry that some people did not like the Governor-General's uniform of a Field Marshal. I do not think it is strictly correct to call it a British one—after all, he is Field Marshal of the Royal Nigerian Army. In any case, I thought it was rather a nice compliment to our Queen.

Speeches from the Throne usually contain a long list of legislation to come, and this was no exception. It seems to me that we have coming before us a wide list of legislation ranging through economic, social and financial fields, and the first session of Nigeria's independent Parliament is obviously going to be a very full one.

I have few comments to make, but I was very glad to hear that there are to be major improvements to the airport at Lagos. Lagos is, after all, the Capital City of the Federation, and when we go there either to meet important people or to take them to the airport on their return, and we want them to get a favourable impression of Nigeria, we often feel that Lagos airport is not really worthy of such an important place. I hope, therefore, that something will be done about the rather ugly buildings there and that priority will be given to this matter.

It was interesting to hear that Government will implement the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission in regard to the assessing for tax of Africans and non-Africans. I hope that when the Government implements this recommendation, it will also remember that the Fiscal Commission made another recommendation, which was that differences in the various Regions between the rates of tax and allowances should be kept to a minimum.

I would like to go further than this and hope that somehow the Federal Government and the Regional Governments will be able to agree that the rates will be uniform throughout the country. One reason for this is that people move from one Region to another during the course of the year either on transfer or on their own business, and if they are to be faced with different rates of tax and different rates of allowances in every Region, it is going to be very difficult for them and very difficult for employers. Employers will find it difficult to transfer a man from one Region to another Region where the tax is higher.

There is still another reason for my hope in this connection, and that is the question of P.A.Y.E. Employers in future will be deducting income tax from the wages of their employees each month. That is going to mean a good deal of accounting, and if employees are transferred from one Region to the other during the course of a month or a year, the burden of accounting thrown on the employers will be very heavy indeed.

Government has indicated its wish for a vigorous expanding economy, steadily rising living standards and a quickening rate of foreign investment. I think, Sir, that those three things depend very much upon one another and that the first two—a vigorous expanding economy and steadily rising living conditions—may well depend on a quickening rate of foreign investment. I know there are qualms about foreign investment, but what Nigeria needs is not so much foreign Government grants as commercial and industrial investment by business people, preferably, in my view, in partnership with Nigerians. Nigeria, I think, does not want the charity of foreign governments. It wants the confidence of real investors.

And that brings me to the reference in the Speech from the Throne to internal security and the expansion of the Police Force. I want to underline the remarks made by my hon. Friend who spoke immediately before me. Since Nigeria became independent, there have been two unfortunate incidents in Lagos which should be a source of food for thought. The first was the demonstration of the 28th of November where, as my hon. Friend has said, rioters actually entered into this Building, although they did not enter this august Chamber. The second unfortunate circumstance was the demonstration on the 16th of February which developed into an anti-White riot.

Those of us who know and care for Nigeria know quite well that that anti-white demonstration did not reflect the general feelings of the bulk of Nigerians, but such demonstrations lead to lack of confidence abroad. Such a riot can also lead to deterioration in race relations. It brings the country towards the rule of mob law which is something that no Government of any country can possibly afford to allow to happen.

Before he left for London, the Prime Minister spoke of the need for stronger police action, and I hope that the reference in the Speech from the Throne to the expansion of the Police Force means that anything of that nature will be dealt with in future very strongly.

Finally, Sir, I wish to refer to what may be perhaps the most important point mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. The speech said "The improvement of the situation in Africa will be one of the main objectives of my Ministers". Mr President, the situation in Africa is delicate and it is explosive and it is not an exaggeration to say that our future and the future of much of the free world depends upon an improvement in that situation. It is vital that law and order should be restored in the Congo. It is vital that all races should work together for the good of mankind and it is vital, Sir, that the word "mankind" should not be defined as the white race nor as the black race but as the human race, which includes us all.

In my view the two Organisations most likely to solve these difficult problems are the British Commonwealth and the United Nations. The Prime Minister has just returned from the Conference of the Commonwealth and whatever people may say about what happened there, there is no doubt that for the African and Asian members the Commonwealth is now a greater reality.

As regards the United Nations, in the Speech from the Throne it was stated that the Government will continue to give resolute support to the United Nations. Already two prominent Nigerians are playing a conspicuous part there—Mr Jaja Wachuku and Mr Nwokedi. The problems of Africa in my view will not be solved by excessive emotion; I think they will be solved by calmness, logic, patience, understanding and goodwill. Nigeria has a very important part to play. I think that, perhaps, her most important task may well be to act as a steadying influence, leading others to move towards these solutions with coolness and not with chaos.

Sir, in supporting this Motion for an humble address, I feel confident that Nigeria will live up to what is expected of her now that she is, in my view, by far the most important of the newly emergent independent countries (*Hear, hear*).

Senator D. Asemota : I would like to take this opportunity to deal with the various remarks made by Senators about the Speech from the Throne. The policy according to the Speech is wide and it covers a lot of ground. I will not dwell at this stage on the various points raised by His Excellency, but what I would like to refer to is the remark made by some Senators with regard to the dress of the Governor-General on the opening day.

I feel that like many others who have spoken before me, the Governor-General should wear a dress which is dignifying and compatible with his high office (*Hear, hear*). The Governor-General has been led to accept an appointment of a Privy Councillor and since that appointment was made known, everything that was said about His Excellency you always precede it with the phrase "The Right Honourable". But that is not a Nigerian phrase at all, and many other things that are done are associated with the British policy. I do not see why His Excellency should not be allowed to continue to wear the uniform compatible with his office and allowed to accept foreign honours which will add more dignity to his exalted position. We shall all be delighted to hear Sir Nnamdi Azikiwe, or Lord Azikiwe for that matter, but to allow him to accept foreign appointments and not foreign honours is like telling a man to forbid eating chicken but allowing him to drink fowl soup (*Laughter*)—that is how it looks to me.

Well I think the time has come when I would like to comment on the way and manner the Prime Minister has comported and conducted himself as the Prime Minister of Nigeria since his appointment. When Abubakar was first appointed, there was mixed feeling about his success. There were people who thought that this was the end of the country, but no sooner did he go to Mecca and return than things changed considerably. Everybody is surprised to see Sir Abubakar in the position he holds to-day. In the eyes of the world, Nigeria is regarded as one of the most important countries and I am happy indeed that this man has been able to put Nigeria on the map. I do hope he will make another trip to Mecca which will probably do more good to Nigeria. (*Loud laughter*).

Going back to the Speech from the Throne, I must express my deep disappointment that

throughout the Speech from the Throne there was no mention of the creation of more States. However, I am very happy to hear over the radio yesterday and to read in the papers that it is being discussed in the Lower House; this is very good indeed. What I want to make clear to Members of this House is that the states issue should not have been regarded as a political issue, it is a major development, major improvement in this country. It is not a political issue at all, it is something that will benefit this country. Before regionalisation the budget for the whole of Nigeria, at that time when we had only one Governor, was £21,931 (*Interruption*). I mean £41,931,000. The Northern Region budgeted for almost £4,000,000 and in 1956-57 the whole of Nigeria budgeted for £103,000,000. In 1957-58 the amount rose to £104,000,000, and in 1958-59, it increased to £117,000,000. This year, we are now budgeting for about £135,000,000. That is development in the real sense. A country that budgeted for £29,000,000 in 1948-49 is now budgeting for over £130,000,000 in 1961-62 due to regionalisation. This, no doubt, is a major development. Therefore if the country is split into states, which many people have been clamouring for, it will certainly be a great step forward, it will surely enhance the position of this great country of ours, it will accelerate our development, and what is more, it will make people become more interested in anything they do in the country.

If you look at the Regions to-day, you will notice a great development. Every Regional Government is working very hard to develop its particular Region. Take for example, the Western Regional Government first started the Free Primary Education. When the Eastern Government saw it, and did not want to be left behind, it embarked upon it. The Federal Government too has embarked upon it. Again, we have the case of the University; the whole of Nigeria had one University at Ibadan for all the children of Nigeria, but the East thought that it would not do. They thought they should have one and they started the University of Nigeria. The North too, did not want to be left behind and they started the University of Sir Ahmadu Bello. The West said that although it has one for the whole of Nigeria at Ibadan, it is insufficient. It is now planning to have another one. This is progress.

I read last week in the papers that the Premier of the Eastern Region will shortly open a Pepsi Cola factory because the West has done so. There is also the Cement Factory at Nkalagu in the Eastern Region. This is a major development, so Sir, there is nothing wrong with dividing the country into states. I do not see any political issue in it. It is an important development which I think we should look at from a non-sectarian point of view and not from a party political point of view. The more we divide the country into states the better things will be for us, and the more developed the country is going to be.

Look at the number of scholarships that is given out every year by each region in the Federation. How many scholarships were given before regionalization? I say, none comparatively and all the students that we have now abroad are coming back into this country. We are going to make good use of them in their different spheres of influence, and the only way by which this can be made effective is by dividing the country into states. As I have said, Sir, we Senators should not look at this matter as a political issue, but rather as a means of developing our country.

Another point I should like to refer to is the question of roads. Many Senators have already spoken about the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. I am very happy that His Excellency has remarked that efforts will be made to see that this road is pursued vigorously but, Sir, this is very good on paper. As Senator Nzerem has said, we would certainly like the Minister to make a definite pronouncement on this matter because during the last session, I raised the point and tried to get the Minister to say when it would be completed but the Minister evaded it by saying that it would be completed as soon as possible. But now that His Excellency has stepped into it, I think it will be well for us to know how long the Government will take to complete the road. This is very important and it will at least relieve the minds of many people.

Many of us come from places very far away from Lagos and we know what we suffer on the road any time we come here. Apart from that fact, we know that Government pays expensively for the mileage covered by officers.

The completion of this road will save the Government a considerable amount of money. I hope that the matter will not be left in abeyance because it has been recorded on paper.

While still on this question of roads, I think that the time has come for Government to create a separate Ministry for Roads, or create a separate Division that will take full charge of nothing else but the development, maintenance and everything connected with roads. As we all know, it is part of our economic development in this country but as it is now, the question of roads is mixed up with some other kind of work. A sort of division is very necessary. Some of the legislators come from far away places, and in doing so traverse roads known as tracts, or bush roads. The towns located around these bush roads have really produced men of importance. I say, Sir, that these roads should be developed and if the Federal Government could take over some Trunk "B" roads from the Regional Governments and turn them into Trunk "A" roads, the Regional Governments would be in a position also to take over some provincial roads from the Divisional Councils and so on, right up to a stage when the tracts and bicycle roads can be really well developed.

I will deal more with that when we come to the Estimates, but I think that it is time that the hon. Minister of State should communicate to the Ministries of Transport and Surveys, the necessity of speeding up these things, and of getting a separate item for roads.

Another point I would like to refer to is the anniversary of our independence. In His Excellency's speech, it is said that anniversary will be commemorated by the issue of special stamps. I think we should have something more, we should have some sort of celebrations to commemorate independence.

The Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Only one of them !

Senator Aserota : Thank you very much, I am glad but I think it is only one of those things the Governor-General has elaborated upon. Sir, I support the Motion wholeheartedly.

Senator M. B. C. Chukubike : Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks for his Excellency's most gracious speech from the Throne. It is a landmark in the history of this country that the first Speech from the Throne in an independent Nigeria was delivered by the first African Governor-General in the person of His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, P.C., a person who has done much to project the African personality. The speech is gratifying for it carries with it many historic and spectacular features. It is unique and the best ever delivered in this Chamber.

In general, I would like to place on record my appreciation of the progressive legislation outlined in the Speech from the Throne. It is an eye-opener, it shows that the Federal Government is out to develop this country. Permit me, Sir, to join other hon. Senators in paying deserving tributes to our hon. Ministers for their wonderful performances both at home and abroad. I would like to mention a few of these achievements.

The position the hon. the Minister of Economic Development occupies in the Congo affairs is unique and it is to the glory of this country that the Minister has proved himself a great hero and one who is worthy of representing this country in the outside world. The stand, also, of our most respectable Prime Minister at the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London was a laudable one. The success of the Second Development Loan Fund launched by the hon. Minister of Finance is a sign of good government.

In praising the Government for its efforts I must warn that the security of this coveted newly independent country should be strictly preserved. Independence and fundamental human rights should not be a licence for lawlessness. All irresponsible acts by persons and newspaper publications calculated to ridicule the country should be strictly dealt with. The Members of this hon. House will bear me out that most of our newspapers misrepresent this country to the outside world. The Government should take serious views about these newspaper publications.

At this juncture, I am appealing to the Government to review the Newspaper Ordinance with a view to saving this country from further ridicule.

I would like to say something about the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. The proposal to introduce television and an external broadcasting system is welcome. With bitterness to none I am suggesting the dissolution of the present Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Board and the formation of a new one with a view to better and satisfactory service.

I also praise the Federal Government for appointing Nigerians to posts of responsibility in our Departments. While wishing the Federal Government more grease to its elbows, I am suggesting that the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission should also be a Nigerian. The nationalisation of the Nigerian Airways is also very good and praiseworthy on the part of the responsible Minister; but permit me to emphasise the need for training our own men to hold responsible posts in this Corporation. The Federal Government should also not forget the old promise of the proposed aerodrome for Onitsha.

Sir, I support the Motion.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : Mr Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, P.C., the first Nigerian born Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria, for his gracious maiden Speech from the Throne delivered to the joint meeting of the present Session of the Federal Parliament on the 29th March, 1961.

As is characteristic of the person of our Governor-General, the Speech which covers the gamut of our Government's policy is a masterpiece and has left no room for any adverse comment. I congratulate the Governor-General.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Prime Minister, Sir Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa not only for his historic international speech at the opening of the last Session of the United Nations Assembly in New York but also for his recent

world acclaimed performance at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference in London on the issue of South Africa's membership of the Commonwealth.

The recent official tour of Eastern Nigeria by the Prime Minister has fulfilled a long-felt want. On the whole, the tour was a tremendous success. At Port Harcourt, my station, the Prime Minister with his suite, was given a welcome such as was never before accorded to any colonial government official.

The Eastern Nigeria tour of His Excellency the Governor-General which is now a matter of a few weeks is awaited eagerly.

From the performance of our representatives at the United Nations Assembly in New York led by the hon. Jaja Anucha Wachuku, Minister of Economic Development, I am convinced that this country has sons of whom the nation can justifiably be proud. In particular, we are very proud of hon. Jaja Anucha Wachuku for his achievements both at the United Nations Assembly and as Chairman of the United Nations Congo Conciliation Commission. Equal praise goes to Mr Francis Nwokedi of Nigeria, a member of the United Nations Committee of two now engaged in a sort of giving soothing or rather finishing touches to the affairs of the strife-torn Congo. The standard of loyalty and the enduring spirit of both the Nigerian Military men and members of our Police Force in the Congo cannot be surpassed anywhere in the world and should not be allowed to go unnoticed.

The declared policy of the Government not to identify itself with any power block or group and to respect the territorial integrity of all countries large or small, is praiseworthy and has the support of all the well-meaning people and sections of this country. Equally gratifying and praiseworthy is the knowledge that our Government has chosen the right path to give resolute support to the United Nations and to exert all its influence to give effect to the spirit of the purpose for which that Organisation was formed. By this declared policy our Government has already demonstrated its stand in the Congo problem in spite of all sentimental outbursts, shouts, and attempts to force the hands of Government.

Mr Deputy President, Sir, I am convinced that the greatest legacy that the present Government, the first Government of Independent Nigeria, will leave for our children

is a stable Government with firm principles and prosperity. On the whole, I congratulate the Government for all that it has been able to achieve and accomplish for this country since the attainment of Independence barely six months ago. The proposed legislation for an Emergency Powers Act for the country's internal security is very welcomed and I seize this opportunity to praise the stand of the Government in banning processions in Lagos a few weeks ago. For order and good government, Government should legislate for the instant banning of any untoward procession or demonstration anywhere in the country as and when occasion demands.

The Army, the Police and the Navy are the mainstay of any state or Government. The provision for the reorganisation of the Army and the construction of new barracks for the soldiers is welcomed. Although it served the purpose and convenience of the colonial power in Nigeria to concentrate the Army Training and Depot in the northern part of Nigeria, I think it will serve the interests of an independent Nigeria better to have Army Training Schools and Depots for our Forces located in several parts of the country—the North, the East, the West and Lagos.

The Government's intention to continue the expansion of the Nigeria Police Force is also welcomed. It is a desideratum that as the country develops, police posts should be established in important centres in the rural areas. It is a household knowledge that, in the past, the work of the policeman was an unwanted job and Government owes a lot to the people of those sections of Nigeria who came forward or volunteered to do it. Now, however, that the going may be said to be good in the Police Force, I hope no discriminatory measures directly or indirectly would be employed in the recruitment and promotion of police officers.

Sir, the Federal Government should be praised for having put the work of the construction of the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road in hand and for having now awarded the Niger Toll Bridge Project contract to the Nigeria based French Engineering firm of Dumez Nigeria Limited. The completion of both projects will accrue a tremendous economic advantage to Nigeria and we hope that work on both projects will proceed with maximum speed.

[SENATOR CHIEF OBI]

The work of expansion and improvement of telecommunications services throughout the Federation has received a tremendous fillip and drive in the hands of the present Minister of Communications, the hon. Olu Akinfosile, and it is gratifying to note that Government intends to erect ten new post offices to replace existing buildings and five new post offices in place of postal agencies under the approved programme ending 1963.

I cannot help mentioning however, Sir, that our telephone system and service in this country, particularly in the provinces, still leave much to be desired. In this, I have in mind the incivility and sullen disposition of some telephone operators.

Frequent nasty delays are also still experienced in the despatch and delivery of telegrams.

It is gratifying to note that the Government intends to encourage those Companies which are prospecting for oil in this country.

There is no doubt that the economic history of Nigeria will be re-written by the advent of the Shell/B.P. in Nigeria (the friends that we yet know) and both the Government and the Shell/B.P. are to be congratulated for their luck insofar as mineral oil or petroleum has been found in commercial quantities in Nigeria.

Particularly gratifying is the news that the Refinery is going to be sited near Port Harcourt.

At the expense of the Shell/B.P. the first batch of eight members of the Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce, of which the speaker was one, were recently taken out to inspect their oil wells around Bomu by road and, later the same day, by aeroplane to Bonny. Apart from what should be described as a staggering engineering feat displayed in the laying of an oil pipe-line from Bomu across land and creeks to Bonny Bar, they had constructed several mighty tanks at Bonny from which extra capacity tankers will soon start to take their loads.

The advent of the Shell/B.P. in Nigeria is, indeed, a blessing for, apart from the economic advantage that will accrue to the Community, the financial contributions they make for the educational and other benefits of the people of Nigeria and the medical and hospital facilities they provide in certain localities, they also run technical and other schools where many Nigerian students receive training with no strings attached.

The Shell/B.P. employs the greatest number of Africans as senior staff and pays the highest salary ever, but if it is true that these Africans, in most cases, are not allowed to exercise initiative and responsibility attached to the jobs for which they are trained, employed and so highly paid, the Shell/B.P. should be asked to do away with such anachronism typical of colonial days.

It is gratifying to observe that a children's hospital is soon to open in Lagos. The problem of the care of children in Port Harcourt is already what it used to be in Lagos and it is prayed that Government will also look into the possibility of providing such a hospital there. Port Harcourt is the second largest port in Nigeria and being the largest oil city in Nigeria the reason for the daily growth in its population is not far to seek.

The proposed legislation to make comprehensive provision for the economic development of the Delta Area is welcome news and hardly needs any comment at the moment, except that the issue of the development of the Delta Area should be given more sympathetic, more urgent and more realistic approach by the Government than hitherto.

The Ministry of Justice is to be congratulated for creating the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and for appointing a stable person to the important post.

Finally, Sir, I congratulate the Government for its magnanimity in granting an increase in the pensions of Government officers who retired before 1st September, 1959 and although no mention is made of pensioners in commercial firms, it is to be assumed that increase in their pensions will similarly follow.

With that, Sir, I beg to support.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : Mr President, on point of Order, Sir. In our Standing Order page 25 Order No. 25 the Members are not allowed to read a speech but may read short extracts from books or papers. It applies to many Members this morning and I was not prepared to interrupt. I think it is high time I pointed this out.

The President : Order, order. Thank you, Senator Lagunju, I was just going to point this out to the hon. Senator. When Senators

read from books or their notes they take more than five minutes to finish and I hope Senators who speak later will keep the particular Order in mind. I will now call upon Senator Ogundipe.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : Mr President, Sir, I do support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for the Speech he delivered from the Throne, from the very bottom of my heart. I was very proud of such a speech from our first President and at the same time the first indigenous African to hold the post of Governor-General in this country of Nigeria. I have a few comments I would like to make.

In the Speech from the Throne, under Defence, the speech read that "my Government will continue always to build for the country a defence system which will not only ensure internal security but will also serve as a deterrent to any would-be aggressor." It is very important that there should be a very strong internal defence. But from what the Government has done so far it appears that not much encouragement is being given both for recruitment into the Army as well as to the Police Force.

I would suggest that Government should do more to advertise both the Army and the Police Force to would-be school leavers especially when thousands of our school leavers are going about, roaming about the country and besieging the Federal Capital of Nigeria looking for employment. For this reason I would suggest that the Government should be ready to build military schools as well as schools for the Police for primary school leavers, particularly those who have passed the standard six grade as well as those who have left secondary modern schools where the military part of their education may be greatly attended to.

In such schools English, Arithmetic, Civics and other instructions about military education as well as education that will fit these school leavers for Police work may be greatly emphasised. It is not sufficient to have just a military school in Ibadan or at Ikeja or at Kaduna in the North or one or two other places, but I would suggest that there should be at least two or three such schools for primary school leavers in the Regions, and at the present I should suggest that books and pictures and

other sorts of literature that will advertise military as well as the Police Force should be distributed to schools; also as not many of our boys could have seen the kind of parade and all such shows that we were able to see during the Independence Celebrations or during the inauguration of the Governor-General, I suggest that arrangements should be made so that detachments of the Army should occasionally parade the important parts of the country so as to advertise both the Force and the Army.

In this connection, I should remember to suggest that this House should pass a resolution of confidence in the work of hon. Jaja Wachuku, the Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission at the Congo, for the way he has ably projected this country abroad. Every utterance of his, every step he takes shows that he is a very able representative of this country of whom we should be proud. (*Applause*).

I should also take this opportunity to suggest that it is time our Police as well as our Soldiers are withdrawn from the Congo since the United Nations seems to have failed in its duty of retaining or maintaining the constitutional Government of that Republic which has now been overthrown. The continued presence of our Soldiers as well as our Police men there appears to me, and to many people of this country, as a waste of both time and labour.

I want to say a few things on the transport system of the country: I am just concerned with internal transport. Many hon. Senators have spoken many a time, and even during this session, about the internal transport system which is not very adequate, as well as that many of the roads that are at present left entirely in the hands of the Regional Governments should be taken over by the Federal Government. Many have stated that internal communication or internal means of transport cannot be fully regionalised. It is even a pity, I should say, that it has been regionalised to a great extent at all, but probably that may be allowed because it allows for a spirit of competition among the Regions. But I share the view of those who maintain that many of these Trunk 'B' roads which are badly maintained or managed by the Regional Governments because probably they have too much to manage should be taken over by the Federal Government.

[SENATOR OGUNDIPE]

I now go to the part of the Speech that refers to communication, but I shall confine myself to posts and telegraphs and telephone communication only. With reference to the Government policy on communication the section says "the Posts and Telegraphs Division will continue to expand and improve its postal and telecommunication services throughout the Federation in accordance with its approved programme under the Development Plan for 1955-62. Ten new post offices will replace existing buildings and five new post offices will be constructed in place of postal agencies." I strongly feel that the policy of the Government in this particular case is very parsimonious and unprogressive.

I have nothing to say about the ten new Post Offices to replace the existing ones, but on the point that only five new Post Offices will be built in place of Postal Agencies. I feel if the Government should actually realise the educative value of this postal communication it would have had a very broader plan for improving the postal system of this country.

In many parts of the country—and I hope that hon. Senators who are from the rural areas of the country will bear me out—there are villages and even secondary schools which are forty or fifty miles away from what you can call a post office at all. I will restrict myself to places I know for example, Ekiti or Akoko in Ondo Province. In these rural districts there are many secondary school boys who cannot transact a simple business in the Post Offices because they have never seen or they have never been acquainted with one. There are many secondary school boys who do not know how to send money by Postal Order or Money Order or send a telegram, or who look very foolish when they come to a Post Office where nothing but the ordinary posting of letter is done. So I feel that the Government ought to regard the establishment of post offices as well as telegraph offices and telephone offices as part of the education system, part of what will go along with schools and secondary schools so that there should be as many of these as possible all about the country.

I suggest that this would be of educational value to school children. For example, if there is an extraordinary meeting of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House should send telegrams to some Members of this

honourable House who are living in remote parts of the country, it takes a long time (more than four days) to deliver it. I think three days is long enough for a telegram to reach any part of the country.

Now I speak from experience, the telegram gets to the sub-post office which is about eighteen or twenty miles from the village or where you work. On every Monday the mail runner takes the mail and old telegrams to Postal Agencies. Unfortunately, this telegram arrived late on Monday and it would have to wait for three days before being cleared along with other letters.

I would like to suggest that more Post Offices should be built in Ekiti Division. The Division alone can absorb five post offices and twenty-five Postal Agencies. The Government policy in this matter to my mind is not progressive and generous enough.

I wish now to speak about Health and Medical Services which have been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It is gratifying to hon. Members of this House who have had occasion to talk very seriously on Doctor Gan's protest and about the tremendous amount of death of children in the Federal Capital to notice that the Government has seen eye to eye with that report and thought it necessary to build a hospital to be entirely devoted to the care of children in Lagos, and also, to establish an Institute of Child Welfare in the University College, Hospital, Ibadan, to carry on research in the field.

Well it is very gratifying indeed and I hope I will not be cried down if I suggest that the Hospital should be called Doctor Gan's Hospital. He has suffered for it and we all remember the delegations and various protests made by women's associations in Lagos confirming that he was right, and that he was speaking for them and the country. I would suggest that that hospital be called Dr Gan's Hospital for the Welfare of Children. And so once more, with these comments I support the Motion of thanks to His Excellency for the Speech from the Throne.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba: Mr President, Sir, no one would argue that the opening of Parliament last Wednesday was an historic one. It was the first time a Nigerian

delivered his Speech from the Throne as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of a free and independent Federation of Nigeria, but the whole show was too British. I would suggest that after playing the National Anthem when the Governor-General alighted from his car, drummers and trumpeters should notify the general public of His Excellency's arrival. Furthermore I would rather like to see His Excellency in his usual snowy white African robes in any public function if the Federal Government has not yet decided a uniform befitting an African Governor-General. Let the new uniform resemble the ceremonial costume of an *Oba*, or that of an *Obi* or an *Emir*.

Mr President, His Excellency's uniform as a Field Marshal when he is inspecting a military parade is excellent but not when opening a Nigerian Parliament.

Let me come back to the terms of the Motion, Sir, before you rule me out of order. If one has ever given selfless and meritorious services to his country our Governor-General is the one who had very nearly lost his own life in the struggle for the emancipation of Africa. Naturally, Sir, very few people have the fortune to live and reap the fruits of their hard labour, but, fortunately, Zik of Africa is an exception. He had successfully piloted the ship of State to its destination with all its cargoes and passengers through dangerous and rough seas safely. Having brought the ship ashore, he the Captain, as Mahatma Ghandi of India did, immediately handled it to his lieutenants. He is now the father of the Nation. We pray he may live long to guide and advise his trustworthy fellow countrymen to carry on the work.

Sir, I would like to congratulate our Prime Minister Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa for the way he has projected our personality at the U.N.O. and for his stand in the last Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference in London. He has, with his colleagues, forced South Africa to quit the great club and we hope that he will continue to fight hard to make it possible for that country—South Africa—to repent and abandon apartheid and racial discrimination.

Mr President, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to touch one or two items in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne.

Nigeria is still, technologically speaking, backward, and—unless we deceive ourselves—she is still largely a poor country. We badly need trained men and women to exploit the country's economic resources; trained agriculturists to exploit out potential wealth; doctors to fight the tropical diseases; we need farmers and artisans. There is need for scientists and technologists to man our industries in large numbers. The extension and improvement of our technical education and the provision of an increased number of technical institutes must be a matter of major concern to the Federal Government.

I suggest that the Federal Government should set up as soon as possible an all-Nigeria council for technical education which should be entrusted with the responsibility of stimulating and co-ordinating facilities for technical training in the whole country.

Sir, we are looking forward to a White Paper which would be laid before us setting out in black and white the Government policy on the recommendations of the Ashby Commission.

We all know that without adequate means of irrigation, the country's agriculture is left to the mercy of the rain. There has been frequent rainfall in some areas and in other areas there has been vast devastation by flood when the rains are heavy. Fortunately, Sir, there is the remedy in the damming of rivers. This will be done where the river spreads out, thus destroying crops and villages. The system of irrigation will also provide a reservoir of water from which land hundreds of miles around could be irrigated through canals. This will enable the farmer to produce additional crops every year in the season when there are no rains.

Besides, once water has been collected, waterfalls can be manipulated for the production of hydro-electric power for industry. Thus, not only will flood be controlled, but hundreds of acres of land will be served by irrigation.

As Nigeria is now an independent Sovereign State, substantial amounts should be spend on developing tourism. The Government should set up important tourist centres throughout the Federation with all sorts of amenities provided for foreign tourists.

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

Senator Hassan Rafin Dadi : Mr Deputy President, Sir, in supporting the Motion of Thanks for the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne, I would like to congratulate His Excellency on his Maiden Speech as the first Nigerian Governor-General. It is indeed a historic and momentous occasion and I would like to pay special tribute to that father of Nigerian nationalism. He is a politician of world renown whose contributions to the political emancipation of Nigeria cannot be measured by me with any yardstick. His mature political experience, coupled with his countrywide outlook, his patience and sympathy for all, undoubtedly qualify him to be the accepted leader of our new nation. He is, Sir, a truly Nigerian gentleman, bestowed with those human attributes rarely found in one man.

The immense task of nation building to achieve national unity is one of the paramount duties confronting His Excellency, and it is more than sure that His Excellency will not be found wanting in this sacred task.

Sir, the Federal Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, is also to be congratulated on a most successful year high-lighted by the achievement of independence six months ago. During this comparatively short space of time, remarkable progress has been achieved in all sectors of Government's activities, especially in foreign affairs.

In international affairs, Sir, Nigeria's influence has been felt all over the world and we must praise the commendable efforts of our Prime Minister. This splendid achievement does not only project Nigeria's personality abroad, but it revives the personality of the African as a human being.

The fight for this particular aspect of African personality, as one can say, has just started and will not be complete until *apartheid* and all other forms of racial discrimination are completely eradicated from the soil of Africa and the world.

In this respect, Sir, I would like to pay particular tribute to the Prime Minister for the stand he took at the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference culminating in the expulsion of South Africa from this comity

of nations. It must be emphasised that it is inconsistent with the democratic way of life that some so-called civilised countries should deny fellow human beings the basic and fundamental rights to live their own way of life—

The Deputy President : Order, order. Sitting is suspended for 15 minutes.

Sitting suspended : 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Senator Rafin Dadi : Sir, I was speaking about the atrocious crimes being committed by those so called civilised countries denying their fellow human-beings basic and fundamental rights to live their own way of life and subjecting them to all sorts of human indignity. Those perpetuating this inhuman practices do not seem to realise that to-day they are the uncivilised group of the human community. Freedom to some sections of Africa will not have any meaning so long as vestiges of colonialism and *apartheid* remain on the soil of Africa.

The programme of activities enumerated by the Government in the Speech from the Throne is comprehensive. The Government's belief that our political independence will have no meaning unless it is firmly based on a vigorous expanding economy is highly applauded.

I would, however, like to call the attention of the Government to one of the most serious threats facing the economy of our country—the European Common Market brought about by the Treaty of Rome. It will be recalled that Nigeria's export to the Common Market countries totalled over £40 million and was about 41½ per cent of the total exports of this country. The rigid external tariffs against non-member countries and their associates, including Nigeria, is detrimental to Nigeria's economic growth. Some form of positive action is therefore very necessary.

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

The Deputy President : I think it is time the Lady Senator should be given a chance to voice the opinion of women.

Senator Mrs Wuraola Esan : Mr Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support those who have congratulated His Excellency the Governor-General on his Speech from the Throne. One speaker mentioned that as Governor-General he is the right man in the right place, I agree with the speaker. I would like to say that His Excellency not only—

The Deputy President : I think when Senators speak they should say "that speaker" and not "the speaker". The Speaker refers to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senator Mrs Esan : Thank you, Mr Deputy President. As I was saying, our Governor-General was not only one of the foremost in the forefront of the battle towards the attainment of independence but he has also accumulated a wealth of experience during the struggle and we all here sincerely hope that he will make good use of this experience in order to gain for us economic and social independence. We are now politically independent, but none of us can truly say that we are economically independent.

In the Speech from the Throne, mention was made of improving the standard of living of the people and improving our trade as well as that economic development will be carried on during the year. I would like to say that there is a set of traders in this country that has been greatly neglected, and these traders are at present bringing more revenue into the pockets of Nigeria. By this set of traders I mean the petty traders. The reason why I say they have been neglected is that if you go to *Ereko*, *Balogun* or *Jankara* market you will be amazed by the glorious display of wares by these women.

The Deputy President : I hope the hon. Senator will include Ibadan as well.

Senator Mrs Esan : I am talking of the Federation as whole and not Ibadan. If you go to the places I have just mentioned, you will see the women displaying their materials for sale. It is a good thing because we feel that we are doing a good job and we are helping the development of the country. But if you go carefully into the account, you will see that they do work for nothing and they have no appreciable income or profits on the work they do. Then they tend to complain very much. What is the Government going to do about this ?

In the first place they have the trial of conditional sales, that is, if you buy a set of highly profitable goods you must buy others not so profitable to counteract the highly profitable ones, and so the profits are swallowed up in one way or other. Then they have the tribulation of these same firms who sell to their chief customers, going right into the remotest villages to sell their wares, thereby depriving these petty traders of their natural customers. Added to that, they have from time to time changes in prices, so that if you get certain goods to-day, and you are supposed to make ten pounds on them tomorrow, by the time you sell the goods off you find out that the price has changed considerably and then you have to sell at a lower price and thereby lose.

All this is being done and we hope that during this expansion of our economic development, Government or the Ministry of Trade and Industry will take into careful consideration all these points, and do a thorough inspection of the ways and means of these petty traders.

Now, our social development is one of the subject matters of the Speech, and the Government have promised to do quite a lot towards this during the year. We here appreciate the Government's attitude towards education in general. We are proud of the new schools built all around Lagos and, as one of the mothers, I am really grateful to the Minister of Education ; but I would like to say this. Our social education lacks many things. We are not developed really, socially.

If we read the paper some time ago and read about school girls' tea-time dances and things like that, any decent family man or woman would be shocked that such a thing could happen in the capital of the Federation.

This city is one which pleases the eye, going along the really developed area of the city, but there is much that you must expunge from our social standing in the city. We forget that what they do in Lagos is naturally the style in the capitals of other Regions and we are asking the Government to look into this matter because I do not want to say much to the said people about this matter now, but we will be pleased if something could be done to eradicate these evil abodes, and the proprietors of such evil institutions should be brought to book and made to suffer for their misdeeds.

[SENATOR MRS ESAN]

Still on social development, I would like to suggest that there is scope for more centres for the youth and, to my knowledge, I dare say some in the Regions are enterprising enough but want the aid of the Government to set up club houses and centres for activities of their youth. What is the Government doing about aids to such organisations? We would like to see in our Speech from the Throne things like that because recent trends in our progress, in our hurry to develop our economical policies, in our hope to be able to build beautiful buildings have shown that we forget the human aspects of our development. If we have beautiful buildings and have moral laxity and our moral laxity keeps on growing as it is now, to be sure, we shall not like it in the future.

On health I would like to say, Sir, that we are very grateful to the Government for the step taken after much arguing, after many delegations and after much process. The Government is always ready to listen to the voice of the people and supply their needs, and that is why we suppose the Children's Hospital is being built. But more planning will have to be made in order to take care of our children. But yet it is good to have a hospital and it is good to engage doctors.

We have to get the sort of doctors who would be conscious of their responsibilities. Going to the hospital you still find many children dying for lack of attention. If we must build hospital and make provision for further hospitals to be built we must, at the same time, get experienced and patient doctors to work in these hospitals.

Some of our workers now are workers not by conviction—they want to work just for their living. They do not care much for the outcome of their labour. We must be very careful with the illiterate mothers who need a lot of patient and careful handling. Therefore, Sir, I would advocate that the matter of people working in these hospitals should take a primary place when these hospitals are being considered.

We keep on saying every time that hospitals shall be built, as we envisage more sickness. We do not always lay stress on prevention of these diseases. Prevention, we are told, is better than cure. In my own humble opinion most of the children's ailments would not have been, but for the fact that these mothers are ignorant. We

must lay stress, therefore, on the engaging or training of more health visitors to go about to train these mothers in the practical way of taking good care of their children and the practical way of hygiene and sanitation in the homes.

This morning several speakers before me mentioned the Bill that was passed on Saturday. That was the Emergency Powers Bill. Nobody can deny that it is a good Bill, but what I do not like about some of those who spoke this morning is that it seems we are putting forward a motive for passing that Bill. We want internal and external securities and Government itself has assured us that in the Speech; that anybody who is not satisfied can take the Government into court for redress. Why then do we keep on rambling on this Emergency Bill being passed because of the riots that took place in the past?

After all, in a free country as ours we must have people who disagree with the Government, and whatever we do, fanatics must be in a place like this—people who will always go to extreme. I dare say this Bill is not passed solely because we shall have youths who will be too active in certain directions so that any time any body just raises his or her voice to say *no* to the Government he or she shall be seized and punished for doing so. We passed the Bill because it is right. We have to use it some times for this purpose, but there is no need in curbing the rights of the youths by saying that it is primarily because of the riots that have taken place that this Bill has been passed. To me that was what it sounded this morning.

On page 6, paragraph 4 of the Speech, mention was made about provision to introduce laws to take the place of the existing Electoral Regulations. That is a very good thing indeed. But before I sit down I would like to say, Sir, that we all like to see justice done and recently during the plebiscite in the Northern Cameroons women were called upon to fulfil their civic obligation and the efficient way this was done was very much encouraging. I know these people do not come directly under the Northern Regional Laws, but what is preventing them from doing so now that they have joined the Northern Region? Are we going to tell these women, "Do not go and vote again"? We must move with the time.

It is really good that we have Sir Abubakar as the Prime Minister of the Federation, and I know that he would use his good judgment to see that when these Regulations are being reviewed the Northern women will not be forgotten.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Senator S. Eytayo : Mr President, Sir, I refer to hon. Senators who spoke last week and who have spoken this morning. I too would like to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne. I would like to associate myself with all the good sentiments expressed and I too consider the Speech a great one, in that it was the first to be made by an indigenous Governor-General in a free and independent Nigeria.

The Speech was comprehensive because it touched many vital aspects like defence, shipping, communication, aviation, education, health, transport by land and by water, sports and so on and so forth. My only prayer is that all these elaborate plans may not be mere platitudes but plans that will, in the not-too-distant future, be executed.

Several hon. Senators : *Amen.*

Senator Eytayo : Sir, much as I do heartily support this Motion I have some observations to make. My first observation is as regards defence. Nigeria, as we have been made to understand by our hon. Prime Minister, has no territorial ambitions. We have been made to understand that Nigeria will recognise the territorial integrity of our neighbouring countries. That is all well and good. But a country which is free and independent must be prepared for emergencies and, therefore, it is heartening to note that Government intends to continue to build for the country a defence which will not only ensure internal security but will also serve as a deterrent to any would-be aggressor.

Now, how can this intention be made a reality? I think if this intention of the Government is to become a reality something worthwhile must be done in order to encourage people who will come forward to join the Army. At present, if the conditions of service of soldiers continue to be as they are I do not think we shall be able to get any young, able-bodied men who will come forward to join the Army.

At this stage of materialism, nothing goes for nothing. In the days of old, we might say that the Romans loved their country so much that they were prepared to lay down their lives, but at this age, as I have said, nothing goes for nothing. It will be very very difficult to get our young men to come forward to lay down their lives for their country without any visible means and for this reason I am suggesting very strongly that Government should make the conditions of service of our Soldiers very attractive. I am also suggesting that in our secondary grammar schools and in our universities, probably for the last two or three years of our secondary grammar schools, some form of military training should be incorporated into the school curriculum so that in the case of any eventuality these men who have had the rudiments of military training may be mobilised in order to help save the country from our would-be aggressors.

The second point I would like to touch on is as regards nationalisation of industry. Government has made us to understand that there are no plans for the nationalisation of industry to any greater extent than the public utilities of this country are already nationalised. At this juncture, I would like the Government to be more definite. We would like to know what is meant by "public utilities".

Only a few days ago the Minister of Communications and Aviation made us to understand that arrangements have been completed with the United Kingdom Government for Nigeria to take complete control of the air services.

I am inclined to ask whether the Nigeria Airways services come under one of the public utilities. Well, if it is, what of shipping, what of insurance and of the so many other things that are of vital importance and which ought to be controlled by Nigerians? That is the reason why I am calling on the Government to let us know specifically the correct or true interpretation of what is meant to be public utilities.

Sir, I would also like to touch on education. Education as we know is the inalienable right of every child, whether that child is born of poor or rich parents. But I begin to wonder why Government intends to expedite the re-organisation and expansion of our educational facilities. What is Government trying to expand or to re-organise, when there are so

[SENATOR EYITAYO]
many millions of our children of school age who cannot find their way to the school premises? At present, only the Western Regional Government has been able to launch successfully a scheme of free primary education and for the past seven years that Government has been able to finance this laudable scheme.

The Eastern Region tried it but failed. The Northern Region is contemplating, in fact I do not know whether anything is being done. It is not true to think that the Eastern and Northern Region Governments do not want their children to be educated. They do want it, but the fact is that they are financially incompetent to do so. I think it is high time that our Federal Government should know that education ought to be one of our responsibilities. I know that education is on the concurrent list of subjects, but at the same time I should think that since education is a birth-right of every child our Federal Government should consider having it as our primary aim to educate every child in the country; otherwise, we shall be losing many talents who might become future leaders of the country.

Then, Sir, I would like to dwell on health. It is also gratifying to know that the Federal Government is trying to open a hospital for children in about June this year. This is very laudable. Just as education is the birth-right of every child, I think this question of health is also a birth-right of every child. The children all over the country belong to the nation. Therefore, if it is good for the Government to build a hospital for children in Lagos, Government should also be prepared to establish such institutions in other Regions of the Federation.

Mr Deputy President, Sir, I would like to talk about the Flying Training School. I think this is a laudable scheme, and I pray that the time may come when we shall have a Flying Training School in Nigeria where our young men and women who are willing to have education along these lines.

There are many Bills which will shortly come before this august House. I only pray that when these Bills do come before us we shall try to discuss them with deep thought and a spirit of oneness. Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Mr Deputy President, I rise to support the Motion on the Speech from the Throne and to fall in line

with other speakers in thanking his Excellency for his glorious and historic speech during the opening of the first session of the Parliament after the attainment of independence.

Nevertheless, Sir, we all know the great foresight, boldness, courage, personal amiability, able leadership and administrative ability of His Excellency, the Right Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General and Commander in Chief of the Federation of Nigeria.

My other colleagues have covered every aspect of the necessary points, but I feel it will be out of place if I do not fall in line with the other speakers, or if I do not associate myself with them in congratulating our Prime Minister, the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in successfully fighting out the South African discriminatory practices against our fellow Africans, during the recent Prime Ministers Conference in London. The respect he commanded there was not for himself alone, but also for Nigerians both at home and abroad.

The activities of Nigerians in the Congo deserve praise. This has no doubt manifested the efficiency of the Federal Government. Recently, in Lagos municipality, the Federal Government was able to maintain peace and order by efficiently controlling the provocative demonstrators who if not checked might have brought about disastrous consequences such as we have in the Congo Republic.

Fundamental human rights must be exercised, but not mis-used in any way as a warrant or licence to violate the law—

The Deputy President : Order, order, order. I find it difficult to differentiate between the reading of the hon. Senator's speech and reference to his notes. I hope the hon. Senator will not read the speech but take note of his points and speak on.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Yes, Sir, I am refreshing my memory, Sir. (*Loud Cheers*) The Speech from the Throne, Sir, covered all the Government's intentions or proposals for the proper government of this country. If the hon. Deputy President may allow me to outline some certain allusions made in the Speech from the Throne, Government's intention and determination to give resolute support to the work of the United Nations,

Government's intention to maintain friendly relations with all countries which recognise and respect Nigeria's sovereignty should meet with the support of this honourable House.

I must also mention Government's intention to build for the country a defence force that will ensure internal security ; Government's intention to make provision for the expansion of the Army, their equipment programme and the construction of new barracks for the soldiers and defence posts ; the expansion of the Police Force ; the survey of the Eastern Delta ports ; the forthcoming legislation for shipping proposals, for the expansion and reconstruction of the different harbours in the Federation ; the legislation to amend the Ports Ordinance to allow a Nigerian to be appointed Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority—all these are very commendable and point to the efficiency of the Government.

Now, Sir, what is left for us to do is to support and subscribe and line up our thoughts with the Government's in order to enhance the progress and stability of the nation both politically and economically.

Before summing up, Sir, I have to remind the Government of the repeated demand for the industrialisation and agricultural improvement of this country. This is very very important and keeping with the degree of the present ambition and life in Nigeria. I am awfully serious in this matter.

Another thing worthy of congratulation is the Government's proposal to appoint a Nigerian to be the Chairman of the Ports Authority. This is in keeping with the people's wish for Nigerianisation of most of the capital posts with indigenous sons of the soil.

With these, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : Mr Deputy President, Sir, on this Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his unrivalled Speech from the Throne, I sincerely congratulate the Governor-General on the very interesting Speech which he delivered with confidence, with skill, with eloquence—unrivalled eloquence—as everybody saw. It was not only delightful to the ear, but stirred the blood and almost brought tears to the eyes.

As you know, the Governor-General is the representative of the Queen. His official dress, as I saw it, was most befitting of the most noble person of the Governor-General as the representative of the Queen. When he read through his outlined programme of legislation, as he did during his Speech from the Throne, we were able to see that it was an indication, as it were, of real intelligence and progressive plans of the Federal Government. It was a practical indication of manifold intelligence, ability and vigilance in every affair of this sovereign nation. It is also a kind of foresight mingled with interest and a full sense of responsibility, which is most fitting to this nation.

As you know, this will bring Nigeria into economic and political emancipation and stability and will make it move in equality with other nations, and if need be, excel its rivals in the modern world.

I have to seize this opportunity to congratulate the representatives of the Government who have gone to the outside world, and within the country, and have tried to project the ideology and personality of Nigeria. One of them is Mr Jaja Wachuku ; also the Prime Minister, as everybody knows, to say nothing of the Governor-General himself, and a host of others. I congratulate the Government on the real achievement that we have seen all these years, at home and abroad. We have achieved a series of splendid successes through the instrumentality, energy and ability of our representatives.

I recall that the Government sent our Army and our Police Force to work in the Congo, to participate in the work of reconciliation, and we have seen that they have tried to project the personality of this great country to the outside world. Their behaviour and their work are good examples for other nations to copy. As a matter of fact, their effort to distinguish themselves in work and character is a real glory to the people of this country and we are all very proud of their activities over there.

I go further to extend my congratulations to (I would not like to lag behind, even though others have already spoken on this, but I must express my own views) I congratulate the Prime Minister on his firm stand against

[CHIEF UMOH]
apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, and his interesting and brilliant speech delivered at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Britain.

I am very, very grateful to the Government for all its proposals to enlarge and consolidate the defence forces. I would advise the Government to endeavour as much as possible to train Nigerians in the technical fields to be able to manufacture certain weapons of defence in Nigeria. We should not always go outside to get these things.

I also have to advise the Government that it should establish a kind of consultative committee to look into the conditions of service in the army. The life of any country is greatly dependent on the army. No matter how wealthy the country may be, no matter how developed economically and even politically, if the army is not strong enough to put up a strong defence and to create fear among their rivals, the country is nowhere. I feel that we should not only depend on the top-ranking officials who are mainly non-Nigerians. At the moment, we have not got any reasonable number of Nigerians holding top-ranking posts in the army.

We should try to Nigerianise the Army as much as we can. The only one thing that we can have for Africans in the Army is the rank of major, and anything above the rank of Major is a position for the people you know. I am very happy at the moment that even somebody in charge of the Army is a member of the Senate and I would ask him to go deep into the Army, study the Army if he wants this country to be of any use in future, he should realise that if you do not say "I am" nobody will say "thou art". The owner of the House knows exactly what is wrong with his house no matter what has happened.

The old system, the old colonial understanding still remains in the blood of the leaders in the Army at the moment and the only way to eradicate it would be to give promotion to Africans; do not think they are not experienced, we can only be experienced by learning and actual experience can be gained by applying ourselves to the position and the situation of things while you are talking and imagining of expanding the Army.

I feel we are still behind, no matter how we expand the Army, if you do not promote Africans, I mean Nigerians, to hold responsible posts; somebody you can confide in. We do not want a mediocre type of Army. There are certain things they will not part with in their hearts. I am sorry to be so strict in my advice. If there is a Council of the top ranking officers of the Army to plan the future defence policy of this country, no African will ever be mentioned. This is a great country.

The President : We do not want a mediocre type of Army (*Laughter*).

Senator Umoh : If there is no African in the Council of top ranking officials in the Army to participate in the future defence of this country, no African will ever be mentioned. This is a great country, and it must be represented; even if you feel they have not developed to the right standard, let them remain and participate in the Council of top ranking officials to plan the future of this country because Christ said in his Gospel "I am a good shepherd; I will never run away, whatever happens to my sheep, I shall stand-by and face it to the end no matter what happens. I am not a hireling; a son looks over the house of his father".

I would go further to thank the Government for its proposal to introduce legislation which will provide for appointment of a Nigerian to the post of Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority and the proposal for the development of international telephone and telegraph services and international telex system. We wish these proposals should be put into action immediately because in the past some of the proposals made have not been put into operation up till now. These were very long term proposals.

While the above proposals are going to be carried out, I remind the Government to direct its attention to supply electric lighting to deserving townships in the regions as previously proposed. This is a sovereign nation; we need not tow the line of others; whatever is to be done we should do it.

While the above proposals are going on, I would like to remind the Government that

if you go into the Provinces and into different areas in the Regions, there are certain developed townships without electric light, most of them are overdue for this. I call upon the Government to take immediate steps to see that there is light supplied to those townships that should have got it long ago.

If you go to Annang Province in the Eastern Region (I had already made mention of that) if you go to Ikot-Ekpene the headquarters, you will find that it is long overdue for electric lighting. Even if I speak of Urban District Councils, Ikot-Ekpene was the first before Umuahia, and Umuahia for a long time had got electric lighting and every other amenity has been supplied that way; but Ikot-Ekpene is left totally desolate; up to this moment there is no electric light there.

Mr President Sir, I really deem it a very wise plan of the Government to give first priority to economic development and to ensure close co-operation with the Regional Governments. I believe Sir, sometime ago in this House many a speaker in this House brought to the notice of the Government that there are certain rural areas where you have certain products which will be useful for manufacturing many things, for example palm oil. If you go the Area of Annang Province you have a lot of palm oil. We can manufacture soap from that. If you go to Ikpe-Annang in Ikot-Ekpene Division you have production of palm wine, a superior type of it. It is produced in great quantity and the Federal Government can utilise that as the Regional Government is not ready at the moment to make use of it. I feel if the Government can do that, it will be of help not only to the local people but also to the Government. It will help Government to have limited jurisdiction over regional areas and you will have control of that area and make yourself known to the people and people will know who you are; for if you do not say "I am" nobody will say "thou art". It is good to identify with the rural areas.

Finally I wholeheartedly endorse the Government's declared policy of not identifying itself with any bloc or group but fostering good relations with countries which recognise and respect Nigeria's sovereignty and wish to maintain friendly relations with it. This is a very good policy. I congratulate the Government for having that policy whereby every

country that wishes to associate itself with Nigeria should be allowed to do so wholeheartedly. Any countries that fail to recognise our sovereignty we shall never recognise them. Mr President with this observation I support the Motion.

Senator Zanna M. Sheriff : In supporting this Motion, Sir, I think a lot has been said in the way of praises from all sections. For me to add anything will be a repetition, and above all, a waste of time. Truly speaking, the Speech from the Throne was exemplary, and full of hope that Nigeria will be a welfare state, as one hon. Senator has said earlier. Well, it is now left with the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers to prepare to shoulder this great burden of implementing all these projects, item by item.

Along with this, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers for their past achievements. Now there is a great task before them, and that task is to implement all these very nice projects which will be of great use to the country.

Coming back to the real subject, that is the Speech from the Throne, I have to make one or two observations. Firstly, I am very pleased to note the statement about the Bornu Railway Extension. The progress made is very gratifying. Hon. Senators might say that because I am a Bornu man, I am being sectional, but I think I am only commending Government's efforts. It is very good; the progress made has been very hopeful, but I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that, while such a project is in progress, we wonder if there are any plans at the same time of constructing feeder roads, which are really essential if the projects are to succeed.

Feeder roads are vital links because they are the only means of getting goods to the railway station. The areas affected, as you know, are four provinces; and we have been complaining of lack of roads, and we even say that the existing ones are bad. That is the position all over the North and I think it is important that the Government should start right from now to think about the construction of feeder roads. Without the feeder roads, the whole efforts, and the whole finance expended would become useless.

[ZANNA SHERIFF]

Besides this, the Bornu North-East and North-West areas come in for mention. These areas have vast economic potentialities. Without these feeder roads, for instance, there can be no skin trade and pottery trade. The number of cattle in that area far excels all the other provinces in the North. If feeder roads are constructed in these areas I can say with every confidence that the railway will really be a success. I would like the Government to consider seriously the construction of these roads particularly in Bornu North-West and North-East.

My second point is about the Chad Basin. I am much pleased with the efforts being made at the moment by the Government, and here, Sir, I crave your permission to quote: "Impressive results have been gained in the exploration of the mineral resources in the Chad Basin. About one hundred Artesian Boreholes have been completed and drilling will continue there during the coming year". Water has all along been an outstanding problem not only in Bornu but in all the Northern Provinces particularly in Sokoto, Kano and Katsina. Bornu unfortunately happens to be in the same line, but luckily Bornu is near Lake Chad, and we there are benefiting by tapping the underground sources of supply from the Chad Basin. We are only a little better off than Kano or Katsina, simply because we try to make full use of the existence of Lake Chad, but that is not enough.

Apart from the human population, the cattle population in that area is immense, so it should be understood that when we are crying for water all the time, it is not that we have not got drinking water for ourselves, because before the drilling commenced, people who inhabited that area were drinking water, but we want sufficient water for ourselves and for the animals. You know we have, quite unlike some of the provinces in the West or the East, a large number of cattle and sheep. Therefore, we are not only talking of ourselves but we are talking also on behalf of the animals. I wish the Government to expedite this project and provide more staff and money to speed up drilling these boreholes all along the Northern Region, and by that I mean, places like Kano, Katsina, Bornu and Sokoto.

Finally, I would like to bring before this House our appreciation of the services rendered by Senator Dr the hon. Majekodunmi. Dr Majekodunmi deserves some measure of thanks (*Applause*) for his great service to this House. His calm attitude and lively attention to every request put to him deserve our thanks. You know it is extremely difficult to handle elders like us, but this he has done without any grudge. He has suffered but you will find no traces of suffering on his face. I wish all hon. Senators to associate with me in thanking Dr Majekodunmi for his excellent service to this House (*Loud Applause*).

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

(Mr President in the Chair)

Senator Chief S. O. Esanghedo : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne. I have taken notice of the improvements to our telephone system as contained in the Speech, such as that automatic telephone exchanges will replace manually operated telephone exchanges in fourteen centres in the country, the number of telephone trunk call circuits will be increased and efficiency improved by the provision of direct dialling facilities at automatic telephone exchanges.

In my previous speeches in this hon. House I have always spoken about the need for the extension of telephone facilities to some towns in Ishan Division such as Uromi, Igueben, Irrua and so on. I am still craving the Federal Government's indulgence for the whole of Ishan Division to be supplied with telephones.

Sir, with these few remarks, I support the Motion.

Senator L. T. Olamijulo : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne. As this was the first occasion that a Nigerian delivered the Speech from the Throne, I associate myself with other Senators who have congratulated the

Nigerian on whose lot it has fallen to be the first indigenous Governor-General of the Federation, and I will also congratulate Nigeria on this forward step in the right direction.

With regard to the proposals and the plans for the future as contained in the Speech from the Throne, I have no doubt that hon. Members of the Senate will do all that lies in their power to see that laudable plans receive their blessing whenever they are laid on the Table of the Senate and, at the same time, will criticise proposals that are not progressive.

It is gratifying indeed to learn that our troops in the Congo are conducting themselves in a manner that has brought honour and prestige to Nigeria but it will not be out of place to sound a note of warning here. I think it is very important that whenever our troops are going to serve outside Nigeria, either with the United Nations or to help any oppressed nation, Parliament should be consulted. We know that to err is human and it is only God that is infallible, but I feel that whenever our troops are to be sent outside both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament should meet to approve of it. Our troops have been doing very good work on our behalf and it is our prayer that this honour may be preserved until the end of our work in the Congo.

I also commend the efforts of the Government to improve the administration of justice in Nigeria and, I hope the work of the Government in this direction will always be to the best interests of the people of Nigeria. It is the right types of men that matter and those who do not care to sacrifice justice on the altar of illegal acts.

With regards to states I will not be doing my conscience justice if I fail to make reference in this debate to the following point of our constitution. I mean the question of new states. Whether we like it or not, tribalism and nepotism are canker-worms steadily eating into the structure of our Federation. These traits of characters are worse within these six months of the independence of our Federation. It will do us a world of good if we are prepared to call these trends to a halt; but if allowed to wax stronger they may eat the fabric of the structure of our Federation. God forbid, but we may have to collapse. The

sooner we contemplate the creation of these states from all three Regions—not from one—the better it will be for all of us in cementing the bonds of unity that exist in our Federation.

At present superficial law exists. We should remember that the animal propensities of all human beings is to eliminate others and all you can do is to turn to the other side of our nature to organise Nigeria for the benefit of all the economic groups that inhabit the country. It will be to our best interests to pay great attention to this, and once we do so and ensure that all promises are carried out faithfully and honestly, there is no doubt about it that Nigeria will grow from strength to strength and the name of the perpetrators will be almost immortalized.

Mr President, I sincerely commend these few remarks for your serious consideration. I beg to support.

Senator H. Udo : Mr President, Sir. Even if we are given a day or two on which to comment on this masterpiece of Address from the Throne it will not exhaust my praise. Before I support the Speech from the Throne I have a few observations to make.

Anyone who watched what happened here on the 29th of last month at 10 o'clock in the morning will come to the conclusion that really Nigeria is now an independent country. It is the first time in our history that an African, a Nigerian, gave an Address from the Throne. That is another point to show that the struggles which we have been having for all these years have not been wasted.

Sir, much as we congratulate the Governor-General, we should also include his lieutenants. No one man can run an army all by himself, and the Speech, studied carefully, is from a mature brain. Everything contained in the Speech seeks to improve our conditions and put us on a level with other independent countries, even though there are very many things lacking for which we must depend on other people, but judging from the space of time we started praying for independence, it is all good that, with more encouragement and personal sacrifice, as those who started before us, things will go on increasing progressively for the better.

I congratulate the Federal Government for all that it is able to do and is still doing. Very many things have to be done, and it is our

[SENATOR UDOH]

wish that these things should be completed. Having looked around at our needs, one may be a little despondent that nothing has been done but, watching carefully, we see progress is steady—and satisfactory work is being done too. From the Speech from the Throne one discovers that the Governor-General mentioned that the Federal Government needs co-operation from the Regional Governments. If that is so, I see no reason why the employers would not co-operate with the employees.

Just this week I discovered—though I personally may be wrong—that there is a great laxity in various Departments, and it is for this Government to look for the way out. Last March the same comment came up—how it took a telegram in the Federation more than a week to get to its destination. Several times something may be given out to be done and when the man at the head asks whether the job has been done the junior officer will say, "I am sorry, I have not done it." Does it mean that the inclusion of Fundamental Human Rights in our Constitution is there to make us lose sight of our sense of responsibility?

If the Government would ask the other Governments for co-operation why not an individual? This is one of the difficulties I notice we are having in this country to-day. Somebody spoke of it very forcefully in March of last year but, still although I may be wrong in my observation, there is not much improvement.

Those of us from the rural areas notice that some young men and young women resent going on transfers to rural areas to work. Will the rural areas be forsaken? Does it mean then that rural areas will be allowed to rot? How can we get along with this kind of business? The excuse they give is that the place is not fit to live in or is mosquito ridden. Another excuse is that there is no cinema in the area. What about those who worked in the Cameroons in those days when the Cameroons was supposed to be a concentration camp? This is one of the difficulties people outside townships experience and in former years a worker would say, "This is white-man's work, it has no end; I should not worry my life." To-day the work is mine as it is yours.

We demand this from the Government; we demand that from the Government, what do we contribute? We do not demand from the Government, the Government is a body and we all are part and parcel of the Government and when one is asked to do a little contribution there are bound to be excuses here and there. Sir, our everyday prayer is for good roads, aerodromes, waterways clearance, and these are given out on contract. The Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin road has long ago been given out on contract. The Arochukwu-Calabar-Mamfe road has been given out on contract. What is delaying the building of these roads? I feel, as an individual, that the contract is loose, there is no time limit.

If people are given contracts, the contract should be given to capable hands, and if Government finds it necessary, which I feel it should, a time limit should be imposed. Such time limit was once promulgated in the Public Works but after a little bit of time it was dropped, hence many contracts are hanging.

One may feel that the Government does not hear nor wish to help, but we are particularly concerned to know that the Government feels to help but the contractors in charge of the work are responsible for the delays.

Mr President, I am still on the question of contracts. It has been rumoured that the contract for the Niger Bridge construction will be given to a firm from a country whose Government toys with our lives as Africans by testing their atomic energy in our country against repeated opposition. How ridiculous will it look for such people to come to our land to find their daily bread and resuscitate their destructive weapons which they use on us as tools or targets. But the Government should look closely into this. I do not think those are the only people on earth who can construct such a bridge.

We have spoken a lot on this Speech from the Throne and with these few observations I support the Motion.

Senator Chief S. J. Hunponu-Wusu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the various Senators who have spoken at length on this Speech by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, P.C. from the Throne. It is indeed a master-

piece of speech and I would like to congratulate the Federation of Nigeria for bringing up such an illustrious son to deliver such an orderly and well worded speech for the first time by an African, a hundred *per cent* African, from the Throne. This is the first time that such a speech has been delivered by an African, particularly in Nigeria.

What did we think when we were all fighting to become an independent nation? The struggle then was to have our independence and we thank God for giving us such illustrious children—sons of Nigeria, and three of them in particular. Mr President, Sir, I would mention one to start with and that is our Governor-General of to-day; two the Prime Minister of to-day and third the hon. Jaja Wachuku. They have projected Nigeria to the whole world as true and complete Nigerians and for that we must be grateful to God for giving us such illustrious children to place on the record of the whole world what Nigeria is capable of doing.

I am not going to waste your time, Sir. The Question of two other illustrious children in person of our Prime Minister and hon. Jaja Wachuku will be dealt with later on, but I will direct my attention to the Speech from the Throne by our Governor-General.

We have all read the Speech as circulated to every one of us. It is really a master-piece and every aspect—our desires, our intentions—has been brought out clearly on record by the Government and for this we must be grateful. I am happy that this speech has given us food for thought. To make a start I will give my points one at a time.

On the question of South Africa's policy that we are now fighting against, I pray and I hope that we shall not let ourselves be carried away by sentiments, by the way things are going on in South Africa at present. We all agree that our Prime Minister has fought out that for us, but it is left for us in Nigeria to carry on what he has so accomplished. And how are we going to do this?

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku in his speech delivered to the House here spoke in connection with the low income group, and people at the top. What is happening to-day in the Congo is because the white man is trying to suppress the African. It is because they are trying to dominate, and segregate. I beg to sound this note of warning that example

is better than precepts. I will say that what is happening in the Congo, what is happening to-day might in turn happen in Nigeria if we are not vigilant and careful.

Why have we started to cry for more pay among the legislators in the Upper House. We know what money is. But we must consider those other people who are in the low income group. They are many and what strikes one most vividly is that everybody in the country buys from the same market. Government has not at any time given consideration to create a market for the higher and another for the low income group.

You are fortunate, Mr President, that you have risen up to this position. You have gone through certain elements which your counterparts, Africans, are unable to go through and perhaps you are fortunate to be promoted to where you are to-day. This does not mean that we should look down on the low income group. I would like to advise our Government to look into it and ensure that the question of increase in the pay of legislators is not considered in this House. If we do, we are trying to create a row among the workers. We must have their feelings at heart. We shout out every day that our fellow Africans are being oppressed and segregated, but the way things are going on now needs to be examined with care, in this country. If there is any rise in pay as far as Parliament is concerned, I doubt most seriously if we are helping the country.

Now, Mr President, I am not of the opinion, and I will never support anybody who advocates, that there be an increase in our pay. By doing that we shall create alarm among the workers. At any rate any increase in the pay of legislators should give consideration to low income groups' pay. If Mr A asks for an increase there is nothing to prevent B from asking for more pay. Therefore, I think our President will pass this on to the Minister of Finance, if they have in mind to ask for more pay.

As I said sometime last year in this House a country that is not healthy cannot run a healthy government. Thank God to-day. If our Heads of Department are not healthy how can we have a healthy government? Any home that is not healthy cannot bring forth useful citizens. So the question of health is something that will take an important place in our minds.

[CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

We are now having more doctors. But we seem to forget one other aspect of our progress. For how long shall we continue to import drugs from Italy, Germany, Belgium, Canada, England? We have trees, roots, seeds from which we can extract all these things. Why can we not institute a Pharmaceutical College? (*Loud cheers*). The time has come when we cannot always depend on other people to come here and take away our money. There is no need asking for *quinine* or *paludrine* when we have everything from which to make them here. Why can we not make use of things that we have in our hands?

I will appeal through you, Mr President, to our Minister of State that the time has now come to give serious consideration to the production of drugs instead of importing them from England as we did some ten, twenty and thirty years ago. With all due respect to our Minister of State, Senator Dr M. A. Majekodunmi, we need to live on our own as a nation. The time has indeed come that we must call a spade a spade. There are thousands of young people who can produce these drugs. Let us encourage them. Some of them even die with this useful knowledge.

Imagine that in places like Abeokuta, Enugu, and in the Northern Region of Nigeria people live on these drugs manufactured from our trees and roots! Why cannot we improve on them? We are really lacking in certain items of national progress, things that will keep our country healthy and future generation. There are many people coming into Nigeria to-day. These come in and take away our money. Whereas we have the roots and the herbs. I therefore, appeal to the Minister of State to look into it.

We are given this book to-day called "Nigerian Trees" for a purpose, that is to prove that we have all the materials for making the drugs we import. The time has come now that the Federal Government should take immediate steps on this matter. It is one of the canker-worms that will destroy Nigeria if we do not look into it immediately. It is good to have all doctors qualified, but what are we going to use in the way of drugs? In any case I leave that for the consideration of our Minister of State.

Now other people have spoken at length in connection with bridges. It is good so far, Sir, and I give another note of warning that the

Government should take an active part in constructing a second bridge for Lagos. This is the capital of Nigeria and you will all agree with me that the only gateway from Apapa, Ikeja, Ebute Metta is through Iddo—Carter Bridge. It is a bottle-neck. Sometime last year I put this question through the President to the Minister of Works. He was invited to answer. He said that his experts had advised him that it would cost the Federation of Nigeria seven million pounds, I repeat seven million pounds, to construct another bridge for Lagos. Is it because of seven million pounds that we should lose the respect of Nigeria?

You all know that there are seven bridges over the River Thames. Can we not have a second bridge for Nigeria over the river? I think it is essential that a second bridge should soon be constructed. It is a pity that I have not seen it in the Estimates or in any other paper. The Minister of Works has said that his experts advised him that it would cost some seven million pounds. Let us recall some of our money abroad for the good of our country.

Going back to the North, there is scarcity of water there. Let us give our cattle water. After all, we people who live in the Federation, know the amount of cattle that are brought down for our consumption yearly. If they are not well cared for, if they are not properly looked after, where are we going to get them? I do not think the Government is giving serious thought to this matter. See how our cattle are being railed down here and being distributed. Unless immediate action is taken to open these water works in the North, we still have a long way to go.

I come now to the question of Police. This is an important department as far as the security of people, life and property are concerned. These people ought to be encouraged. To-day one hears there is corruption in the Police, tomorrow one hears there is corruption. But when we stick one man to the same post for 15 to 16 years on the same salary, and then you post him out, what do you expect? He looks at the other comrade of his who probably joined the Force two or three years ago, and looks at what he is earning as compared with his own, he feels—"How am I going to live on this with my family?" Naturally, he will try to create something, knowing fully well that there is nothing coming for him by way of promotion for the next many months. He

feels like doing something. I am not saying that we should encourage this type of thing, but the Government should look into that Department and give them promotions.

There are several other cases where the people who have long been in the service are superseded by much younger people simply because they have passed B.A. or Senior Cambridge. There are people in the service who know the job better than the people who have degrees. In the question of practical work, there are people who have the technical knowledge but who are deprived of their promotion because they have not attained the required educational standard. If you feel you are going to stick somebody down for 23 years on the same scale, how could you tell me you are doing justice to him, to his family and to the country? All these ought to be looked into.

Again, Sir, there is the question of income tax. As one hon. Senator said this morning, our Governor-General dealt with it in the Speech from the Throne. It is very important. You have to look into it very carefully. It requires careful study by the people who know what it is. I am happy that Senator Daldry dealt with it this morning, and I will commend this to our President and the Minister of State. They should look into it. If you are in the Federal Capital of the Federation now and your tax is, say, £3 and you happen to be transferred to another Region under the same Federal Government, when you get there (I am open to correction) the tax there (it may be in the Eastern or Northern or Western Region) may be different from what it is in the Federal Capital of the Federation. All these things have to be looked into. This is not the time that anybody should evade paying tax. It is nothing but cruelty for anybody to evade tax. We should all pay our tax and also pay it in time.

Now, coming to the Military Force, it is a good thing that we have a military force, that we have been able to send a handful of the military force to the Congo. What provision has our Government made as far as education scheme for the military forces is concerned? I think the time has come when we should include military training in our secondary school programme. Outside Nigeria, in the Continent, women do take military courses. Let us start with our male children, from the

age of 15 or 16. After all, we say we want security. How can we be secure? Those who are in the forces to-day are getting old. How are you going to replace them?

Anybody entering the secondary schools knows how to make up his mind—"I am taking physics; I am taking Chemistry". I am asking our Minister of State to speak to our Government and the Council of Ministers to include military training in the secondary school curriculum. It is by that, and by that alone, that we can start as a nation. We cannot ask outside people to come and defend us. We must remember that those who are in the military service to-day are getting old and the time will come when they will retire. We are speaking of free education. At the same time we must not lose sight of this important subject.

Mr President, Sir, there are other speakers, and I will not say very much about this at this stage. I will have another opportunity to say more on this matter. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator H. O. Abaagu: Mr President, on the 1st day of October, 1960, we attained our independence; on the 16th day of November, 1960, we celebrated the installation of the first African Governor-General. Now, this Speech from the Throne by an African Governor-General is the complete realisation of our aspirations. The hon. Senators who have spoken before me have paid adequate tributes to that worthy son of Nigeria, the Governor-General. Therefore, I do not need to go all over them again. I want therefore to go quickly to my point.

I am very much interested in defence and internal security. I recall certain incidents in the Tiv Division in Northern Nigeria where there was a riot, a very serious one too. The people who planned such a riot were wicked by the very fact that they planned it on the eve of independence. The same people prevented the Princess who came to represent the Queen at the Independence Celebrations from going to that part of the Federation. That is very bad.

The work of the Police during those troublous days was very commendable and that is why I am very happy to hear that the Government is making preparations to strengthen the Force.

[SENATOR ABAAGU]

The Police came to our rescue when nobody was very sure of his life. The rioters man-handled innocent citizens; civil servants were beaten up and the Resident in charge of that Province was held at gun point and he was told to call the name of certain man in order to save his life. People's wives were raped in public; houses were burnt, property destroyed and farms devastated. That was the time when the Police came. And that Division is a very big one. We have about 500 Policemen in the Division, but that was not enough, because when the riot spread the Police could not cope with the situation. I, therefore, suggest that if we do not take proper measures, Nigeria will one day become a second Congo. Riots in Nigeria are becoming rampant and we must look into the causes.

Hon. Senators have been making points about the conditions of service of soldiers and the policemen. I think that is a very good thing. I made a point about the conditions of service, especially of the Police Force, here during the last meeting. To my mind, there is still some sort of favouritism in the Police Force as far as promotion is concerned. I am very much disturbed at the thought of hearing these things said by the public against whoever is responsible for promotion in the Police Force, and unless we stop favouritism the question of corruption in the Force will continue. I am not saying that those who are guilty of corruption do so because they are underpaid, I am not suggesting that, but I think it is one of the good reasons why people are corrupt.

I now come to the question of the Niger Bridge. This is one of our long expected projects, and I am very pleased that the Governor-General in his Speech from the Throne made mention of this project. I think the contract has been signed and that work is to start at no distant date. Certain quarters have complained about the award of the contract. I was one of those people who disagreed with the Government about the award of the contract because the contract has gone into the wrong hands, but at the same time I would want hon. Senators to remember that the bridge over the River Niger is a necessity and the more we keep on dragging the issue, the more we are going to be without a bridge over River Niger. I have therefore

changed my mind and I support the Government in giving the contract to whosoever has got it.

I do not care who gets it, all I want to see is a bridge over the River Niger. We can leave the rest safely to Government. If a mistake has been made the Government will no doubt note it and try to safeguard against a recurrence in the future. I maintain that we must have a bridge on the River Niger and the earlier we stop talking about it, now that the contract has been awarded, the better.

Speaking on the question of roads, I have to say that the roads linking the capital with the Regions are not even tarred. The road linking Enugu and Kaduna has not been tarred, the one linking Ibadan and Kaduna also has not been tarred. The only one tarred is that linking Lagos and Ibadan because the distance is not much. I think we must try and make Nigeria one. We are independent, and our Ministers and Members of Parliament go to other countries to study the improvements there and people from other parts of the world also come to us. Nigeria is one of the greatest countries in Africa, and it will be very disgraceful if when they come here and wish to take a trip to Kaduna or Enugu, they have to pass through certain sections of the roads that are not passable. No doubt, such a thing will be a bad reflection on the reputation of Nigeria abroad.

In the course of the debate, certain Senators mentioned something about the creation of more states. I have my own views about this matter. A Motion is being debated in the other place to-day, and I am sure that that Motion will one day come to us for endorsement. I think when it comes, I shall have the opportunity of airing my views on the matter.

Another matter is about the proposed increases and allowances to certain holders of office and Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. I also, think, there is an Appropriation Bill coming before this House, and I think that that time will be the opportune moment for one to air one's views on the subject.

Mr President, Sir, in the absence of any further point, I have to support the Motion.

Senator O. Somolu : Mr President, Sir, it is with very great pleasure that I associate

myself with the words of encomiums which have been offered in this House to the effect of the fact that for the first time in the history of this country, a very great son of Nigeria presided over the joint session of Parliament and delivered the Speech from the Throne, which we are now debating. There can be no doubt at all that at that moment when the Governor-General was handed the Speech from the Throne by the hon. Prime Minister, we all felt that indeed Nigeria has arrived on the world stage.

I join other hon. Senators to congratulate our Governor-General for the unique opportunity which history has given him to be the first holder of this high office. It is my hope and prayer that in the years to come, when the history of these times will be written and read by our children and our children's children, they will have cause to feel not only happy, but glorified upon the achievements of our country during his tenure of office.

There is a feeling in my mind, however, that this Speech from the Throne is not an address, it is not the composition of our Governor-General. He, as we all know, is the constitutional head of the Government of this country and as such, we all know and realise that he has delivered to us not his own personal message but has only outlined in the Speech from the Throne the policy which the Government of the Federation intends to pursue during this financial year, and it is on that score that I intend to address myself to the task of making my contributions to the debate on the Speech.

I am very sure, knowing our Governor-General so intimately as I have done in the years past, that he will be the very first to agree that the Speech from the Throne which was delivered through him as a government policy for this financial year should be ex-rayed and be put under *post-mortem* examination.

Having read this Speech from the Throne fairly carefully, Sir, it is my view that this Government of the Federation is a very clever government; clever in many respects and timid in many other respects, timid to plan, timid to execute and timid even to earn praise. In the Speech from the Throne, we have it said by the Governor-General that "the improvement of the situation in Africa will be one of the main objectives of my Ministers and they intend to continue to pursue the Government's declared aims of not identifying itself with any bloc or

group, but of being at all times guided by a sense of realism and support for the truth. Nigeria will continue to be opposed to all forms of aggression and coercion and will continue to respect the territorial integrity of all countries large or small." This is a very laudable aim and it is one which every Member of this House will praise from the bottom of his heart; but there is this point to it: how are we going to do all these things? How are we going to plan? Have we got any indication of this from the Speech from the Throne? There is nothing to suggest this.

One hon. Member said the other day—and I think we are all grateful to him—that he read in the newspapers that the Prime Minister has made concrete plans for meeting the Heads of States in Africa to plan what to do in achieving what has been outlined in the Speech from the Throne. Why is this not put in the Speech from the Throne for all of us to see? Is our Government afraid of its own efforts? Is it afraid to earn the praise of this House? Is it afraid to pursue a policy which it feels will receive the praise of all right thinking people? I think this is a very serious omission. The Government is making such wonderful plans which will rebound to the glory of Nigeria, and yet our Government is so afraid that it cannot put the plans in the Speech from the Throne!

This is an omission, which in my view, is very serious. Our Government is planning for the defence of this great country, and I think we are all happy—I, in particular, am very happy—to know that there is a proposal to establish an Air Force.

In my contribution in this same House last year on the debates on the Speech from the Throne, I called the attention of the Government to these deficiencies, and I am very happy to observe that in this year's Speech from the Throne, something has been included. We are going to have an Air Force, we are going to expand our Army and Navy by training and supplying them with new weapons and many other methods of improvement are going to be employed. This is welcome news indeed, but I want the Government to know that time is running against us, the world is in a hurry, and it will not wait for us, times are changing and we should change with them if we want to move along the path which other civilised states have passed.

I am also very happy to note that there is an

[SENATOR SOMOLU]
 effort to expand and improve the Nigeria Police Force. Very many Senators have spoken on this subject, and all I intend to do is to call the attention of the Government to the fact that improving, increasing and expanding the Force is only one thing; supplying it with the necessary human material and the necessary training is another thing. Those who happen to know the inner workings of the Police in this country are not happy at all.

Is it not a shame and a disgrace to know that in the whole of the Nigeria Police Force, there is not a single hand-writing expert? Not one, Sir, the only man who has been flying round the country for years to testify in our Courts is only a hand-writing analyst! That must be so because he has not been given the necessary expert training that he deserves. He acquired this knowledge himself and that he did while serving in this country. When he started testifying in our Courts, he was only a Corporal. It was because of the recommendations of the Courts, and the praises he earned that the authorities have pushed him to the post of, I think, Assistant Superintendent of Police.

There is one other point. We must, in expanding our forces, provide them with the necessary training to make them quite capable and confident for the discharge of their duties. (*Hear, hear*). Our Finger Print section needs to be strengthened, and Flying Schools staff need to be trained. We have just been told that we are expanding. In what direction are we expanding? We must always remember the human material, and remember, too, that if they cannot get some reward equal to what others in other spheres of the civil service are obtaining, it is going to cause them a very serious depression of spirit, and a Police Force that is depressed is a most dangerous arm of the Government.

Mr President, Sir, I am gratified to learn that the Government intends to produce a new Companies' Ordinance. This is long overdue, because those who have been reading through our Company Laws will know that at least we are forty years behind the civilised world. I am very happy that this is being done. And, I commend this to the Government, in bringing forward this new Companies Law, to have at the back of their minds a provision to the effect that the shares of companies operating in this country should be open to the natives of this country.

One hon. Senator mentioned the fact that some people are handpicked and made directors. They are paid some *honorarium* at the end of the year and we parade them as directors of so and so company. That is all very well, but it is just window dressing. The natives of this country should be made to partake in the running of the Companies from which profits are derived in this country. Twenty-five per cent of the shares of companies running in Nigeria should be purchased by Nigerians. Thus we would be able to share in the profits, the profits would remain in this country. In the case of profits that must necessarily go outside this country, I think the Government should also consider the question of making provisions for excess profit tax.

The Speech from the Throne rightly called attention to the fact that the Government intends to pursue the question of the investigation of underground water resources, and as some hon. Senators have called the attention of this House and the attention of the Government to it, I think it would be good for me to join in expressing our thanks to the Government for having this matter in mind. But, at the same time, I would like to impress upon the Government the fact that this question of water is very fundamental.

It is true that in so far as the Northern Region is concerned it is a major problem, but it is not only in the Northern Region that we have water problem. We have it in the East, we have it in the West, we have it even in Lagos. We have it everywhere, and it is my suggestion that the time has come when the Government should do something about the water business. There is need for a national effort, not just left to the Regions, not just left to a few companies. I think it is time that the question of water and its provision should be taken up at the federal level and I call the attention of the Government to the fact that it is my suggestion that there should be set up something like a Federal Water Board that will devote its time and its energies to the provision of water not only for the Northern Region but for all places within the Federation of Nigeria.

There is something in the Speech from the Throne in relation to natural gas. In the Speech from the Throne the Government proposes to utilise the natural gas going to waste at the Afam-Bomu fields to generate electricity at the new E.C.N. power station at Afam.

This same question of gas was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne last year and this is what the then Governor-General read to us. He said—

“The Electricity Corporation is carrying out projects of long term expansion. Construction will begin on the new power station at Afam near Port Harcourt”

This year we have the same promise. The Government proposes to utilise this time the natural gas. Now, what have we done with the construction of the new power station at Afam?

It is essential that the Government should tell us how far it has gone with this project, when it is supposed to be completed; or are we going to have these same promises repeated over and over again only with different words? The Government is being too clever with itself and it is up to you hon. Senators to pin point these things and call the attention of the Government to them. We cannot live on promises. The world will not wait for us. Construction began last year. This year we are only going to utilise the natural gas. What efforts are we making? How far have we gone with the project? Nobody knows.

On education, last year we were told that efforts would be made in conjunction with Regional Governments to set up Inter-regional Secondary Schools because it was stated on the Floor of this House that it was one way of promoting the unity of this country beginning from the rising generation. Now, what have we done about these Inter-regional Secondary Schools? Twelve months have gone, still we do not know where we are. When we come for another Speech from the Throne, it will just be promises and promises all the same! I think it is time something should be done to show the outside world that these plans are not only paper plans but that the Government intends to and will carry out its promises to the nation.

I am very happy to learn that efforts are being made to provide for the health of children. There are others more qualified to speak on this, and I will not trespass on their preserve. But this much I would like to say, and that is to call the attention of the Government to the need to plan for the health of our children and to recruit people to work in all the various medical sections. But then often they turn round to say they have broken some regulations

—General Orders—and the next thing is we kick them out. I hope our Government will always remember the name of Dr Gans in its history.

The revision of the Laws and the provisions made for the Judiciary receive my most hearty approbation, and I think that the Federal Government is waiting too long to be led by the nose from the Regions. At least, two Regions have gone forward in the revision of their Laws. This is the third promise we are having about revision of Laws. We had one in 1948, another in 1958, now we are having another promise—Revision of Laws. The only simple reason is that before they are presented to the people they are already out-of-date! Additions, subtractions and all sorts of things make them out-of-date. The result is that you cannot take the Law of Nigeria and say—“This is the Law.” You have got to search in various pigeon holes before you can say—“This may be the Laws of Nigeria”—because you cannot be too sure.

We bring out retired Judges, retired Chief Justices to come and help us revise our Laws. By the time they finish they are completely useless to everybody because you cannot say categorically what is the Law of Nigeria. Now if the other Regions have been able to achieve these things, why must it take so long for the Federation of Nigeria to achieve the same? Fortunately we have new young blood infused into the Government in the person of our new Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. I hope they will be able to convince the Government, as this Speech from the Throne has indicated, that a lot has to be done about the revision of our laws and the improvement of the judiciary.

It is my feeling that our judiciary is not receiving adequate attention. Our Judges and Magistrates, in my opinion, are not well paid. It is true they received money under a consolidated fund but those who have been in practice and know what practice is to those who succeed in it, will perhaps agree with me that the time has come when revision should be made of the stipends paid to our Magistrates, because the administration of justice is the bulwark of the independence of this country. Whatever your Region, whatever your tribe, whatever your race, when you get before the throne of justice you want to feel satisfied.

[SENATOR SOMOLU]

Unless the people who are put there to administer justice are paid and paid well, you cannot be sure that you get the justice you deserve because they too have doubts and they cannot form trade unions and go on strike as others do.

The administration of justice is one bulwark of the independence and sovereignty of this country and the liberty of the people and I commend it to the Government to look into the service conditions of those who preside over the administration of Justice.

It is very commendable, Mr President, that our Government has thought it fit to mention provision for an increase in the pensions of those who have served our country in days gone by, but I think I agree with my hon. Friend, Senator Abaagu, that it is not only the old pensioners and the workers in the high income group that should be provided for. A time has come when there should be a national effort by all the Governments of this country together so that they can sit down and think of a living wage for the workers of this country. A country where workers make complaints about service conditions from time to time and have to resort to the unnecessary weapon of strikes and riots is not a happy country, and I think the time has come when all hands should be joined to see that this aspect of the service conditions of those who have been serving in the lower income groups is looked into and is put on a firm basis so that we can at least tell them when they complain that the Government will look into their complaint and that we are giving them their just rights. When we have done that, that is the time when anybody can raise the finger to say, "I do want something". Unless we make our workers happy we have no right to demand any more.

I note, with regret, that the Government intends to establish a newspaper. I think this is a most unrealistic and wasteful policy. In my view this establishment is going to degenerate into an establishment where they are going to provide "job for the boys". You have national newspapers. If the Government wants to have its views known, various periodicals, various magazines are at its disposal and if they feel that the general public should know anything it should be put into the national newspapers.

Are we going to compete with the national newspapers? Are we also going to have vendors shouting, "National Newspaper", "National Post"? I think this is a very wasteful effort. Those who have engaged in it in the past have not been happy with the result. Now we are entering into the same thing. It may be that by the time this is carried on for one or two years, or maybe a little more, we shall see our folly and the Government will be compelled to change its policy.

Mr President, Sir, I would not like to take more of the time of this House because others may still wish to speak, but this much I commend to the Government, that it will so alter its policy and execute its plans that it will not only make those in the upper rungs of the ladder of life in this country happy but that it will also make the common people happy and contribute to the elevation of the name of Nigeria in the community of nations, as a worthy and responsible member of the community of nations, so that it may be said of us that in the planning of our policy we have contributed to the resuscitation and the revival of the stature and the dignity of man in Africa and in the world. (*Applause*).

Senator M. G. Ejaife : Whilst congratulating and rejoicing with our Governor-General and whilst underlining all the praises showered on him, I would also congratulate the Government on the way in which it has got down to its job of planning and in trying to outline to us what it intends to do during the year. It would have been an infallible Government if, in such planning, there were no defects whatsoever, but I think that by and large, the hopes of Nigeria would be fulfilled if the various points set out in the programme were executed.

Defence to-day is a subject which we must very much encourage. Although in the past we have had an army and we also have a nucleus of a navy, we have not an Airforce and I think it is encouraging that something is going to be done about that, although while advice about this at the moment is not sufficiently forthcoming, some advice is going to be sought about the setting up of a Nigerian Airforce. And I wonder whether during the year we shall be able to get not only the advice but also to get the Nigerian Airforce actually

started. It looks as if, judging from the wording of the Speech, we shall probably spend the year in getting advice and perhaps nothing else. But I think the services as a whole are a very good contribution to the stability of this country.

The Services—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—are the grounds for training in discipline. They are also a means of educating our youths and of giving employment to a very large number of our young men and women, and I think they also provide opportunity for inculcating certain other skills. I know that great countries like Great Britain and America that have developed technological education became much more sure when the war broke out and accelerated the pace of research and produced great geniuses and things like the radar and tractor and many other things that were not known in those countries became known. I think the Army, the Navy and the Air Force provide an opportunity for promoting and encouraging technological knowledge in those countries, and for that reason I think these should also be encouraged in this country, quite apart from the fact that Nigeria must be on the alert and provide a means of curbing insurgence and at the same time of fighting off would-be aggressors.

In regard to the Police Force, I think I agree that in the Police Force occasions have arisen for disgruntlement. I recall a particular incident of a young man—I would not say a young man, indeed a fairly aged person—who was considered sufficiently efficient to be a member of the staff of a Police institution. He would not be removed because he was very able and very capable and very efficient, but he was not considered sufficiently worthy to be promoted. On the other hand, some of the boys who passed through his hands got promoted to the post of Assistant Superintendent of Police and I think he has stayed there for many years. I think quite recently someone attended an interview but he was not found fit to be promoted although he was found sufficiently good to be recommended for overseas training. That seems to suggest to me that there must be some evidence of discrimination in the Police Force and I think this is likely to lead to frustration.

I would, however, like to turn to some other aspects of the Police. Although we are going to debate the Estimates later on in the month, perhaps in May, yet I would like to anticipate something about the Police. I must say that on the whole the policemen are doing their job as best as they can, and although someone mentioned something about the British Police I think the British Police are the best any where in the world. Somebody who has met the typical British constable will be satisfied that they are very efficient, very helpful, very courteous and very careful. I do wish that the rank and file of the Police Force in this country would imitate the demeanour of the British Police in being kindly, careful and helpful.

On the other hand, in the metropolis and some of the places in the country some policemen have represented tyranny, and I think the average person in the villages regards the policemen as a tyrant and a bully because when policemen come to the villages some of the villagers tend to be frightened and run away, and if there is a little thing to be investigated it is an occasion for dragging people up and down and wasting their time for days instead of disposing of the matter in a very short time. We do hope that more and more of our men will be sent to Britain to acquire that courtesy and carefulness and respect for human dignity which characterises the British Police, and that the few that are sent there should be told to pass on this knowledge to the rank and file of the Police so that there may be a change of heart in the Police Force for the good of this country.

Now, I think there is one little thing I was very happy to hear in the Speech from the Throne, and that is about minimum wage structure. It was slightly touched but it was not well touched. I think it is about time that the country laid down what would be considered the minimum wage for anyone. I know that some people have mentioned it, but I do not think that the Government has at any time actually made any promise or made any plan to legislate about what should be the minimum wage which any decent person should live on and I think we look forward to that kind of thing by way of legislation.

[SENATOR EJAIFFE]

There is also a reference in the Speech to efforts which will lead to the raising of the standard of living—a vigorous expanding economy which will ensure the raising of the standard of living. I think this should be more so, especially now that we are independent.

Only a few days ago somebody drew my attention to the arrival of independence and he said: "Well now, we have independence, what next? We do not see any more money; as a matter of fact, we are getting poorer. We have not seen this and that. I had hoped that after independence plenty of money would be coming into our hands and we should be enjoying life more abundantly." I told him that we might not have cash in our hands but certainly we had been enjoying ourselves much more than we did before and that things had improved; people living in Lagos have motor roads, better parks and altogether there are more social amenities than there were before. I pointed out to him that the only way to reckon wealth is not in cash but I do not think the ordinary man realises that there are other ways of raising the standard of living than by having cash.

I think that what we should aim at is to reduce unemployment in this country. Unemployment is a problem which arises in every country and I think the Speech from the Throne ought to have mentioned the existence and perhaps the rise in unemployment in this country as a problem and should have proposed some solution to the problem.

I have here a few suggestions which the Government may probably take to heart in tackling this problem in this country. First and foremost, I think there should be more liaison between the Regional Governments and the Federal Government because if the Regions are working apart from the Federal Government, and the Federal Government knows nothing about what the Regional Governments are doing, they might be working at cross purposes. After all, Nigeria is one country and if there is unemployment in Ogoja a young man in Ogoja may feel that he should go to Lagos to look for a job. Similarly, a young man from Ibadan will say the same thing. We are all in the boat.

I think it is necessary that the Federal Government should try to reach an understanding with the other Governments. There should be more Trade Schools in this country, because one of the reasons for unemployment in this country is mal-education. There have been too few Trade Schools in the past and so many boys who finished their school courses thought that everybody was going to be a pen pusher and they were fit for nothing else. I am happy to note that some of our Governments are tackling this by setting up more and more Trade Schools which will turn out machinists, fitters, mechanics, decorators, builders and so on. That is some departure from pen pushing—the traditional avenue to employment in this country.

I am also happy to note that some of our Governments are exploiting the new system called "Farm Settlement". I think it has come to stay in the Western Region. I am happy also to realise that the Eastern Region is embarking on this scheme of farm settlement. Already they are setting up farm institutions which will train large numbers of young people who will go out to settle down to make career of farming. I think this is essentially a farming country, and it would be a great pity if more and more people were not settled on the soil and did not get themselves used to the farm settlement scheme.

I am also happy that some of our Governments are introducing more and more industries. I think it is in this way that we shall be lessening the incidence of unemployment and again in this matter I think the Regional Governments and the Federal Government should enter into closer understanding. As a matter of fact, the unemployment problem is such that I think that no field of human activity requires a commission of enquiry more than that. Most other things have been the subject of commissions of enquiry and I cannot see why unemployment should not be the subject of one. I think a high-powered commission of enquiry should be set up to look into the root causes of unemployment in this country.

Then there is the problem of communications. I have not much to say just now until we get to the Estimates, but I would mention just one little point. As a matter of fact,

I spoke on this question in regard to what conditions were necessary before setting up postal agencies. One of the conditions was distance, which should be at least five miles. This is so far as rural areas were concerned. I know that is the existing law, but the fact that it is existing does not mean that it should exist for ever. It seems to me that a piece of legislation could be out-moded, and this is one.

It is not argued that one of the criteria for setting up a postal agency is that the distance should be at least five miles, but as a matter of fact many rural areas have very thick population now. The volume of their correspondence, and the volume of trade are increasing; many schools have been set up and I think that that legislation should be scrapped by now or revised so that the minimum distance between one postal agency and another should be at least two miles. Perhaps the Minister will take that point into consideration so that within the next few months the law should be amended to read *two miles* rather than *five miles*, because, at the moment, the old law will bring suffering and hardship on the majority of the people.

Then there is the question of nationalisation. I must say that I was disappointed when I read from page seven of the speech that "my Government has no plans for nationalisation of industry to any greater extent than the Public Utilities of this country are already nationalised". I think most people in Nigeria are disappointed. The major political parties in this country are in favour of nationalising more than the Airways. The Action Group have been in favour of nationalising, for instance, the shipping industry, the shipping line and Insurance Companies. The N.C.N.C. has taken a decision to advise the Minister to nationalise Shipping Lines. I would like to quote, for instance from the Pilot of the 29th of this month. Heading—"N.C.N.C. Praises Njoku and Akinfosile—calls for nationalisation of Shipping Line". "The N.C.N.C. calls on the Minister to ensure that the Shipping Line should be nationalised as has been done to the Airways Corporation".

I believe that the N.P.C. as well must be in favour, because the shipping industry is a very important part of our economy. They are carrying agencies for our goods, goods going out of this country, and if shipping

is not in our hands, it means that any quota of goods sent out can be rationed according to the whims and caprices of the companies concerned, and also the rates at which goods are imported and exported will be controlled entirely by people that are not within the control and reach of our Governments.

I understand that the cost of importing certain goods into this country is many times higher than the cost of exporting goods from Great Britain to South Africa. I think that if we really want to enjoy our trade and grow in the country's wealth we cannot do better than nationalise the shipping lines. If we also make efforts to nationalise insurance, that will help to increase the income of this vast country. The Government is a big Government of a very big country. There is no reason why we should be timid about certain interests being concerned and as a result should not be able to establish and nationalise the shipping lines, particularly now that the move has the backing of the majority of political parties in this country and all their followers. I might suggest that the Minister will be well covered and will be well advised to consider nationalising the shipping industry, and also the insurance firms of this country.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusufu : Mr President, Sir, it is unfortunate that I have not been given a chance all the while to express my views, and the points which I have in mind to touch have been referred to by other members. Now the only point left for me is to make a brief remark on the Governor-General's speech from the Throne.

It is very encouraging indeed to see that the Governor-General who is an indigenous son of this country was this time to make a Speech from the Throne. At the same time, I do not think there is any room left for criticism of the Speech he has made. All we need do now is to thank him for this glorious Speech.

On the other hand, I wish to say just a few words about the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference which was held in London. Well did our Prime Minister actually deserve congratulations from all over Africa not merely from Nigeria alone. In fact, due to his effort in the Conference, a lot was

[SENATOR YUSIFU]
accomplished. When he left the country, speculations were high about what he could do. It is now clear that he has not let the country and Africa down. He has been able to live up to the expectation of the public and created historic achievements during the Conference. Above all the battle against the *apartheid* policy of South Africa, and also the situation in the Congo have brought together all the Afro-Asian nations together in the struggle to restore peace.

Now, I also have something to say about the recent plebiscite which was conducted in both the Southern and the Northern Cameroons. I hope it will not escape the Federation of this country to send greetings and praise of congratulations to the hon. the Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, for his achievement in seeing that the Northern Cameroons decided to have association with the Federation of this country. At the same time, it is a pity that we have lost one side of the plebiscite, that is the Southern Cameroons. But all along we have to thank God that the Northern Cameroons have decided wisely to continue association with the Federation of Nigeria.

With these few remarks, Mr President, I associate myself with the other Members in congratulating and also thanking the Governor-General for the Speech from the Throne.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, this debate has demonstrated a very large measure of agreement by the Senate with the measures which the Federal Government proposes to take in this session of Parliament. Apart from one or two discordant notes, practically every Senator who has spoken in this debate has spoken in praise of the Federal Government for the programme which was outlined in the Speech from the Throne. It will, therefore, not be necessary for me to elaborate on this programme. Indeed my contribution to the debate will be a very short one.

But there was a very important statement made by my hon. Friend, Senator Ogundipe, this morning, when he asked us to recall the units of the Royal Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police at present serving in the Congo. I feel bound to say a few words about this

because this is a statement which is likely to be misunderstood not only here in this country, but abroad. I must confess to a measure of disappointment that such a statement should come from a Member of the Senate.

Now, it is not given to all of us to see clearly where our duty lies, but I wish to emphasise in this Senate to-day that the Federal Government has no doubt whatsoever where its duty lies in regard to the Congo, and I think it will be a disservice to those of our men who are serving there if we should here echo some of the irresponsible statements which have appeared in the Press about the contribution of our men to the preservation of law and order in the Congo.

When, on the attainment of independence, we applied for membership of the United Nations Organisation, we accepted the obligations of membership once we were admitted as member, and part of the obligations of membership is to contribute our quota, no matter how small, to the preservation of world peace. Now, if we should recall our men from the Congo, what do we leave there? What is the alternative? Should we then decide that the Congolese should settle their own affairs and continue to kill one another and to bring suffering to the poor peasants who do not know the why and wherefore of the whole constitutional issue at stake in the Congo? Shall we desert our own responsibility and leave the Irish contingent to bear the brunt of maintaining law and order in the Congo, and allow the Indians to fight our battle for us and bear our responsibility in the Congo? Or shall we desert our brothers in the Congo and allow the other independent African states who have their contingents there to carry on the struggle in the Congo?

I think that all responsible Nigerians will agree that we cannot run away from our responsibility. The misfortunes of the Congo are our misfortunes and we feel that the presence of our contingent in the Congo is contributing materially towards the remission of the very complex problem, which is the problem of the Congo Republic.

This brings me to the allusion which was made this morning by Senator Nzerem and Senator Daldry to the irresponsibility which was displayed by some of the youths of this

country very recently. We grant that it is the privilege of youth in every country to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of their country. Indeed it will be wrong if our youngmen in this country do not take an interest in what is going on around them, and if they do not react, or even demonstrate, in approval of some Government's measures, and in disapproval of some of Government's measures. (*Applause*). But if these young people are to grow up to be responsible men and women, to whom when we grow older we shall hand over the reins of government in this country and the leadership of it, surely, they cannot afford to go beyond the limits of decency and good breeding. And, unfortunately, the elements in this issue did go beyond these limits, and in fact did partake in acts of hooliganism in Lagos recently.

We were all very distressed to hear about the death of the late Prime Minister of the Congo Republic, and our Prime Minister was one of the first people to write a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation deploring in no uncertain terms the circumstances which led to the arrest and the torture and the murder of the late Patrice Lumumba, particularly as the United Nations Organisation had contingents there who were there specifically to prevent this type of action. We all appreciate that the late Patrice Lumumba did all he could for his country. He was young, and perhaps impatient. Unfortunately, he was murdered by some of his political opponents.

There was no doubt whatsoever that he was a nationalist, and a great credit to the African race as a nationalist. But I am sure that even the late Patrice Lumumba would be the very last person to wish to drag his beloved Congo or the African continent to the grave with him, and some of the acts which our youngmen perpetrated here were calculated not only to bring the cold war to Africa, but even to bring a real war. We were fortunate that the tragedy was not as great as a war.

As a result of this unfortunate tragedy all the papers were foretelling about the blood bath which was to follow the death of Patrice Lumumba as if to goad everybody else into violent action. Luckily as it happened the blood bath which was expected did not come

to pass and we are all very sincerely happy that the unity and the stability which we hope will come to the Republic of the Congo will be achieved.

We are all aware that the United Nations is not a perfect Organisation, no human Organisation is perfect but I think all intelligent people to-day will agree that that Organisation is the greatest hope we have for world peace and for a small nation like ourselves. Where would we have been if there were no United Nations? Just imagine after our attainment of independence that we had no voice in the Council of Nations where leaders of Nations would seek our vote or come to us to canvass for our opinion, where would Nigeria be with her 44,000,000 population? Even great India, with her 400,000,000 population, is just a tiny little satellite revolving around one or other of the great powers. But we all go to the United Nations to-day and in the Assembly each Nation has one vote; and this is a very great blessing to us; and, imperfect as that Organisation is, I think it is our duty to make it more perfect to ensure a closer adherence to the principle on which that Organisation was founded.

For our part, we in the Federal Government of Nigeria are doing our best. One of the members of our Government, the hon. Jaja Wachuku, was the Chairman of the United Nations Congo Conciliation Committee and he has done a very good job there and in so many ways we are contributing towards the work of the United Nations. Therefore, I feel very disappointed indeed if hon. Senators in this House say that we should withdraw our troops from the Congo and also withdraw our police contingent there. We should be abdicating our place in the continent of Africa if we acceded to that request.

These are the two important things which have emerged from this debate and I comment on them because we attach very great importance to these things, for what we say in this House is reported in the press and goes to our men in the Congo, and if we do not show our appreciation of the sacrifices which our men are making in the Congo it will have a very demoralising effect on them.

They are not the only people who are making the sacrifices. As I said earlier, you have Irish troops there. Hon. Senators must

[DR MAJEKODUNMI] have heard that at one time a whole company of Irish men was wiped out by Baluba tribesmen before our men took over. They are not related to the Congolese, and they make these sacrifices for the cause of world peace and in the cause of humanity as a whole. We in this part of the world cannot abdicate our responsibilities in this respect.

Senator Somolu, in his usual very eloquent way, has raised our hopes about some very important criticism which he has against the Government. He says that the Government is timid about bringing out measures, and we have in fact produced a good programme, but we have not outlined the measures by which we hope to achieve our objectives. I assure the hon. Senator that his criticism is noted but that is not a very serious point.

If we were to tell Senators all the details of the things which we intended to do to carry out the programme which we had outlined in the Speech from the Throne, I think the Speech from the Throne itself would take as long to deliver as this debate on the Motion of Thanks.

We feel that since we have been debating this Motion from last Thursday—there was no sitting on Friday and Saturday—hon. Senators have talked themselves out. They have always accused the Government of not allowing them much time to debate measures before the Senate. I do not think there is any Member of this hon. Senate here to-day who can say that he has not had his chance. I do not wish to prolong this debate any further.

I think I should thank hon. Senators for the very constructive criticisms which they have made of the programme which we have presented. I assure you that we have a very heavy legislative programme before us and we shall hope for more co-operation from hon. Senators when we meet again after the adjournment.

Mr President, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows:—

“Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the Senate of the

Federation of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.”

ADJOURNMENT

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Sir, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until the 25th April.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin): Sir, I beg to second.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, I wish to say on behalf of hon. Senators that we are grateful to the Minister of State for this very long adjournment. We want to convey our appreciation of the fact that we have always known him to give due consideration to our Members.

Sir, as Senators, we are not afraid to work. We expect that any time we come here Government may give us as much work as they can give us. We are prepared to stay, even until nightfall. But it must be borne in mind when meetings are being fixed that many of us live very far away from here, and that meetings should be fixed to commence on Wednesdays, rather than on Tuesdays, so that it will not necessitate people travelling on Sundays. Christians will not travel on Sundays and Moslems will not travel on Fridays.

I would like to thank the Minister through the President of the Senate, and ask him to convey our gratitude to Government.

The President: Order, order. Let us regularise the procedure. When the hon. the Minister of State moved the Adjournment, I had not proposed it when Senator Nzerem began to speak. I first have to propose it before a debate can ensue. Then, I have to put the question.

Question proposed:

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku: Mr President, Sir, I have but very few remarks to make. In the first instance, I would not like this session to close without placing on record our satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the ceremonial robe in which you were adorned at the formal opening of Parliament. (*Hear,*

hear). The ceremonial robe was quite appropriate and it lent great dignity to the traditional and ceremonial importance of this great House, (*Hear, hear*) and we shall be happy to see you in that robe, each time there is an occasion to merge with those small boys.

We also observe that you have changed somehow because from the beginning of this session, you have been in that minor robe and not in the major robe. Then, sitting on the Chair in your present robe makes us feel that we are really out for business and not out for one of our *Aso Ebi* parades. I think, Sir, that so far as the Senate is concerned, we, the Members, do welcome it because anyone coming to our House, and seeing you in your present robe, will know very well that there is a great traditional authority vested in you.

Again, we want to thank the Government, because since the inauguration of this House, we have been making observations about our Serjeant-at-Arms who used to come here in khaki shirts and khaki trousers. But now that he is uniformed, I will only say that to some extent the uniform is satisfactory. I do not want to give an opinion now, but I think it is better than what it used to be.

The other point is about adjournment until the 25th April. We have to thank the hon. Dr Majekodunmi very much because right from the inauguration of this House, he has always identified himself with us and has shown a very keen sense of responsibility and has discharged his obligations to our greatest satisfaction; (*Hear, hear*) but we shall be coming here again on the 25th to debate other Bills coming before us.

Dr Majekodunmi does not pretend to be jack of all trades, nor does he pretend to be the master mouth of the Cabinet. One of the reasons why we have adjourned is for us to be able to have the Ministers here with us, to have them to reason with us, to explain matters to us, to take notes of our observations and to go back and think on those observations. We shall be highly disappointed, I repeat, disappointed, if we come here on the 25th and find only Dr Majekodunmi, our own Minister of State, with us.

We shall be disappointed also if we have one Minister of State coming to us, and in a twinkle of a minute, passing his papers to Dr Majekodunmi and going out. We want

them all, it is their persons here which will give us the opportunity of knowing what they are thinking in the Cabinet. We feel that this matter should be brought to their notice in the Cabinet. This House will be highly honoured to have them with us.

It has been the practice of our magnanimous Prime Minister to visit us in this Senate. I feel Sir, that this is his House, the fact that he is the Prime Minister notwithstanding. This is the place for him to reason with the elders of the land. We want him to come here and address us on some points and to explain some action of the Government to us. Such statements, coming straight from him to us, will infuse great confidence into us and make us feel more important. Apart from the fact that we want the Ministers to come here on the 25th and thereafter, I think we shall be highly honoured; and with every degree of responsibility and dignity, I implore our most hon. Prime Minister himself to make sure that he will be here. Having known that he is here, all the other Ministers will also be here because then they cannot run away. These are the few observations I want to make.

I now want to thank you, Sir, for the very fine way you have conducted this session. I think a greater part of the job is still ahead, and that will come when we re-assemble on the 25th. We have no doubt that you are very good for the job. Fortunately, a Motion for the creation of a Mid-West State is going on in the Lower House, but I think that is not going to carry you away from us now. I think we have really enjoyed you. Thank you Mr President.

Senator A. S. Yusufu : Mr President, Sir, I would only like to remind the hon. Members of the Senate, before the adjournment, of one important point, and that is about the group photograph we took with the former President of the Senate, now His Excellency the Governor-General. I think Members are willing to know when these pictures will be ready for sale so that every Member of the Senate will buy his own copy.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Sir, I just want to underline the sentiments expressed by the last speaker but one, about the presence of the Ministers in this hon. Senate. It is very important that we have them here with us because their absence tends to mean that all our deliberations are being thrown into the air.

[SENATOR ABAAGU]

Unfortunately, the President does not himself attend meetings of the Council of Ministers, and it is the Ministers representing the Government here that we have to deal with and it is they who have to take our view points to the Council of Ministers.

I agree wholeheartedly with the hon. Senator who has just spoken about our Minister of State here. In fact, the Minister has measured beyond our expectations. It is very pertinent to recall that when this Minister was appointed, he was described in the other place as an imposition. I do not know whether the member who made that description is still in the Parliament or not. How I wish he were here to tell us another story about this gentleman.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Dahlton Asemota: Sir, I have very few observations to make, and in doing so, I have to go back to what we Senators have been complaining about in the past and which, up to the moment, has not been rectified. The speeches made in this hon. Senate are not given sufficient publicity. We hear everyday since the Parliament opened at quarter to ten in the evening, Horatio Agedah narrating what happens in the House of Representatives, but nothing has ever been said about the Senate. Anything said in the Senate is just as important as the speeches made in the House of Representatives.

I feel very strongly, Sir, that the speeches made by Senators should be given more prominence than any other speech in the Parliament.

It is exactly the same thing with the pressmen and the press photographers. You always see the photographs of Members of the House of Representatives but nothing about the Senate. We too feel that our photographs should appear in the papers and we want the public to know what we are doing. We have not been given any publicity and that is the only way by which our people, the people we represent, can know that we are actually attending meetings and that we do contribute something.

I do hope that there will be no further occasion for me to remind you about this because this is not the first time we have been complaining about this and I have the impression that our worthy Minister of State

who is very energetic and with whom we are very much pleased will bring this forcibly to either the Minister of Information or whoever is responsible for organising the publicity of speeches and press photographs.

Another thing I would like to refer to is that we say charity begins at home. The Clerk of Parliaments, Mr Manuwa—this is supposed to be his seat. It is his Assistants that are supposed to be in the House of Representatives. But where is Mr Manuwa since we started? He comes here, spends only five minutes, and off he goes to the House of Representatives. If this is the Upper House, I think we should get everything that is really good, things that are dignifying to the position of Senators. I do hope that on the 25th we shall find Mr Manuwa here and not his Assistants and, he will not just come here for five minutes and go back again to the Lower House.

The other point I would like to make is about the complaints put before the Minister some time ago about our quarters. I think in practically all the quarters in Victoria Island the kitchen is so placed that as you enter into the corridor you will just see the frying pan on the fire. I think we should have something to shield the kitchen. There is room for it, a shield to protect anybody from seeing what you are cooking. I think this is very important. The Senators quarters should have priority over other things and we hope that this will be done before we come back on the 25th.

I do not think I will be asking too much if I say that even the sitting room is so exposed to light that we will suggest that we get some window blinds. The sitting room is exposed to light. If you sit in the sitting room the sun will come right away to wherever you sit. I do not think it will be too expensive for the Government to provide either a decent screen or curtains that will be able to keep the light away when we are in the sitting room.

The other complaint is about our telephone facilities. We are happy that telephones have been provided but the inconvenience is so much now that we like to put it before you that it is necessary now that we have a telephone in every room. The new practice developing in the quarters now is that if you are in the sixth floor and you want to book a trunk call, you have to come to the ground floor to sign before your call can be attended to. When I

asked the Operator what was responsible for this, he said that what necessitated this was that car drivers and people from outside go up to book trunk calls and the only way by which this can be checked is to call on Senators to come down to sign so that they can know them. I think this is a bit too much.

I quite appreciate that other people may use the telephone wrongly, but I think either the Operators should be taught the voice of Senators or something more concrete be done or instructions given whereby the Senators at least will be given priority. After all, Members of the Lower House are younger and they can run up and down. I feel the Operators should be educated to at least know the voice of Senators or find another easy means of understanding or differentiating our calls.

Finally, I thank you very much indeed, Mr President, for the patience which you have again exercised like our former President. When we met him at the State House the other day he said there is a lot to be done. I think it is a great pleasure that we have always been fortunate to have men who are considerate, men who are equally elderly and ready to answer to the calls of Senators.

Thank you, Mr President.

Senator H. N. Udoh : Mr President, Sir, it is unfortunate that Senator Asemota forgot one point. The point is that the bedrooms have no keys. The only place where you have a key is the lavatory ! All these things were mentioned last year. We gave a list of these things to the Minister of State. We all depend on him but he has not made a visit. Probably he gave the instruction and the instruction was not carried out. If he visits the area he will be able to know that we are still where we were last year.

Thank you, Mr President.

The Minister of State (Senator Dr M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I would like first of all to give a short reply to Senator Yesufu. Unfortunately, he is not here. He asked about the photographs which were taken in the State House. I have no information yet of when the photographs will be ready myself. The photographs were specially commissioned by me from the Ministry of

Information and I expect the Director of Information Services will get in touch with me before long to let me know how many copies will be required. I think the photographs will be ready for the Senators when they come back on the 25th.

With regard to publicity of the proceedings in the Senate, I do hope that Senator Asemota is not requesting the Government to undertake this publicity. The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is an independent statutory body with an independent Board and they have their News Division which decide what news to give out. We cannot direct them to come to the Senate to take down notes and broadcast some of the speeches made in the Senate. But no doubt there are Reporters who will report some of the complaints which Senators have made and they will know that they need to get the goodwill of the Senate on their side. They are having criticisms from all sides and when they have the criticisms of the Senate added to it, I think it will probably be a desirable burden which they would not like to have.

We cannot order any newspaper to print photographs or print our speeches but, if the speeches are sufficiently attractive to the News Editors, I have no doubt that they will make use of them. When the Government establishes its own proposed printing organisation you will have justification if the newspapers which we produce ignore some of the speeches made in the Senate. But at the moment, we have no control whatsoever over any of the newspapers being published in Nigeria to-day. This paper which we propose to produce will be under our controlling interest because it is going to be a Government paper.

Apart from that, I am afraid I cannot give any answer to some of the criticisms which hon. Senators have made about their quarters. That should probably be directed to the Housing Committee of the Senate.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Senate do now adjourn until the 25th of April.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-nine minutes past five o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 25th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

PAPERS

The President : Hon. Senators, I have to lay on the Table of the House a Report from the Committee of Selection. This will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings of to-day's sitting.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to make business statement for to-day as follows :—(1) Government Motion: Declaration of the Ogun River as a source of water affecting Western Nigeria and Lagos. (2) Presentation and Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1961-62. (3) Presentation, Second and Third Readings of the following Bills :—(i) International Financial Organisations (Amendment); (ii) Treasury Bills (Amendment); (iii) Lagos Stock Exchange; (iv) External Trade Letters of Credit (Control); (v) Companies Income Tax (As amended); (vi) Income Tax Management; (vii) Personal Income Tax; (viii) Niger Delta Development Board.

(4) Presentation, Second and Third Readings of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60). (5) Presentation, Second and Third Readings of the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61).

The Programme for tomorrow will be laid before the House towards the end of to-day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : *Second Reading*—This day.

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : *Second Reading*—This day.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)
BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1960-61)
BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANISATIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

TREASURY BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

LAGOS STOCK EXCHANGE BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

EXTERNAL TRADE LETTERS OF CREDIT
(CONTROL) BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

COMPANIES INCOME TAX (as amended in
the House of Representatives) BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

INCOME TAX MANAGEMENT BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX (LAGOS) BILL

The Minister of Finance : *Second Reading*—This day.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (MONEY BILLS)

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That, for the remainder of this Session, notwithstanding anything contained in any Standing Order, on the conclusion of the Proceedings on the Second Reading of a Bill brought from the House of Representatives endorsed with the Speaker's Certificate that it is a money Bill, the Bill shall not be committed and the President shall put forth with the Question, That the Bill be now read the third time, and that Question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, for the remainder of this Session, notwithstanding anything contained in any Standing Order, on the conclusion of the Proceedings on the Second Reading of a Bill brought from the House of Representatives endorsed with the Speaker's Certificate that it is a money Bill, the Bill shall not be committed and the President shall put forthwith the Question, That the Bill now be read the third time, and that Question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILLS

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That this day, notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, debate on Second Reading of—

(a) the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill, and

(b) the Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill

may be resumed, and the necessary period for the Second Reading of these two Bills shall be deemed to have been thus complied with.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, debate on Second Reading of—

(a) the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill, and

(b) the Supplementry Appropriation (1960-61) Bill

may be resumed, and the necessary period for the Second Reading of these two Bills shall be deemed to have been thus complied with.

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, that notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, debate on second reading of the Appropriation (1961-62) Bill may be resumed tomorrow, and the necessary period for the second reading of the Bill shall be deemed to have been thus complied with.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, debate on second reading of the Appropriation (1961-62) Bill may be resumed tomorrow, and the necessary period for the second reading of the Bill shall be deemed to have been thus complied with.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION OF 7TH APRIL:

SOURCES OF WATER AFFECTING MORE THAN ONE TERRITORY

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That this House do concur with the honourable House of Representatives in the said Resolution.

The object of this Motion is to spare the Senate the tedium of listening to a reading of the lengthy description of the catchment area by compass bearing given in the Motion as tabled both in the Order Paper and in the Supplement to the Order Paper. I am advised, Sir, that by moving this Motion, the two Motions can be debated as one since the failure of the Senate to approve the Motion will automatically dispose of the Motion already tabled.

Sir, I think I owe this House some explanation. Lagos Water Supply derives its water from two rivers in the Western Region: the Iju and the Ogun Rivers. The former has been fully utilised and any further development of the Lagos Water Supply will, therefore, be dependent on increasing the take off of water from the Ogun River. Already, there is the urgent necessity for the development of the Ogun River catchment area in order to meet increased demand for water resulting from the rapid expansion of Lagos and the establishment of industries requiring the use of several thousand gallons of water a day.

At present, eighteen million gallons of water are consumed daily in the area supplied by the Lagos Water Works. This area, I would like to remind the Senate, includes Ikeja. With further improvement it is hoped to step up the figure to thirty million gallons a day in the next few years. A sum of over £2 million has been allocated for this purpose in the current Economic Programme of the Federal Government.

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

The Western Nigeria Government is also using the Ogun River for developing water supplies to Oyo, Ibadan, Abeokuta and areas in the vicinity of Lagos. In the interests of Western Nigeria and Lagos it is, therefore, necessary that there should be some measure of control over the apportionment of supplies of water from the Ogun River which is the source of water both for Western Nigeria and for the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Western Nigeria Government which has been fully consulted, is in agreement on the need for such control.

Under item 40 of Part I of the Schedule to the Constitution of the Federation, Parliament is empowered to make a declaration by means of a Resolution passed by both Houses in respect of water sources affecting more than one territory. This Motion, therefore, asks Parliament to declare the Ogun River a source of water affecting both Western Nigeria and Lagos.

After the Motion has been passed, my hon. Friend, the Federal Minister of Works and Surveys, who is responsible for water works in the Federal Territory, will convene a meeting of water experts from the Federal Ministry of Works and Surveys and the Western Nigeria Ministry of Works and Transport to agree on the apportionment of the waters of the Ogun River.

In conclusion, Sir, it might interest the Senate to know why, as Minister of Transport, I am sponsoring this Motion dealing with water supply. The reason is that at present I am constitutionally charged with responsibility for sources of water affecting more than one territory of the Federation.

This, I think is a non-contentious Motion, and I am sure it will receive the unanimous support of this House.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Resolved, That this House do concur with the honourable the House of Representatives in their Resolution, That the Ogun River, from its source to its confluence with the Iju River and the catchment area of the Ogun River are declared by this House to be sources of water affecting more than one territory, namely Western Nigeria and Lagos; and the area thereof comprises all that piece or parcel of land containing 8,345 square miles in Egba, Egbado, Ibadan and Oyo divisions of the former Colony, and Abeokuta, Ibadan and Oyo Provinces of the Western Region whereof the boundaries are as follows:—

The Minister of Health (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku: Sir, as far as the Resolution is concerned, it is not one which can be challenged by anybody, particularly where we know the seriousness of water problems in the Federal Territory to-day. I could remember very well, Sir, that on more than two occasions Members of the Senate coming to Lagos have complained about water supply at their Rest Houses, and I know very well, Sir, that the few resources have been tapped to their utmost capacity.

I am quite conversant with the Ogun River and it would be a good thing for the Federal Government to establish its interest in that particular River, as far as water is concerned. That will bring us also to certain social problems, because the Government will be interested in the water supply. I know that along the riverside there are one or two places, particularly important areas where the people live, and we have to consider the interests of the people living in those places. I am not at all trying to introduce in one way or the other other problems outside this matter but I am only trying to suggest that whilst we are negotiating for the development of the Ogun River the Government should at the same time be conscious of its obligations to certain territories, those small villages along the river.

This should also make the Government start thinking of the Lagos Airport itself. It is good we think of River Ogun as supplying Lagos with water but I think the Minister of Transport will have to think of the Lagos Airport, Ikeja, which is becoming, I should say, Sir, an international airport, and which is the airport that has to do with the Federal Territory of Lagos.

With these few observations, Sir, I support the Resolutions.

Question put and agreed to.

Starting from Iju Junction station of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, whose geographical position is approximately $6^{\circ} 39' 30''$ north latitude and $3^{\circ} 19' 14''$ east longitude, the boundary runs on a bearing of $327^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 10.1 miles; thence on a bearing of 0° for a distance of 1.6 miles;

thence on a bearing of $315^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 3.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 275° for a distance of 1.5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $314^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 2.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 270° for a distance of 1.9 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $321^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 1.9 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 299° for a distance of 6.8 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 55° for a distance of 3.9 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 17° for a distance of 2 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $66^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 1.5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $31^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 331° for a distance of 2.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $50^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 1.5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $2^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 2.7 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $311^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 2.2 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 12° for a distance of 1.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $311^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 2.1 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 29° for a distance of 3.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 318° for a distance of 3.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $14^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 2.1 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 292° for a distance of 1.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 336° for a distance of 3.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $311^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 2.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $269^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 1.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $307^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 2.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 7° for a distance of 3.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 334° for a distance of 1.9 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $257^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 2.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $13^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 1.8 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $285^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 3.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $330^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 1.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $279^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 3.4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $346^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 305° for a distance of 4.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 246° for a distance of 3.8 miles;

to a point on the International Boundary between Dahomey and Nigeria, which is 0.9 mile North of a Concrete Pillar No. 125; thence following the International Boundary northwards through a Concrete Pillar No. 133 to a point 0.5 mile south-south-east of a Concrete Pillar No. 134;

thence on a bearing of $74^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 1.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $20^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 10.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $355^{\circ} 15'$ for a distance of 5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 49° for a distance of 2.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 350° for a distance of 2.9 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $98^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 1.5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $343^{\circ} 45'$ for a distance of 2.6 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 67° for a distance of 2.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 12° for a distance of 4 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $53^{\circ} 15'$ for a distance of 3.5 miles;
 thence on a bearing of $14^{\circ} 30'$ for a distance of 4.3 miles;
 thence on a bearing of 323° for a distance of 2.8 miles;

The Minister of Health (Alhaji the hon Waziri Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, this is a Bill that I think should gain very easy passage through this hon. House. Everybody will remember that for a good many years there have been agitations from the people of the Niger Delta areas about neglect of their area by both the Regional and Federal Governments. Some of these agitations are, I think, justified, because of the very nature of the Niger Delta area—the physical conditions and its geographical position. It is a very difficult area indeed and life is not worth living in certain parts of it. During the Constitutional Conferences and particularly during the Minorities Commission a decision was taken to create a Board that would see to the development of this area. A great deal of satisfaction was felt by all lovers of Nigeria.

There is the question of lack of transport in that area, difficulties connected with farming and difficulties of movement from one place to another. The Board which has been created is really going to face a great deal of difficulty, but I know that with goodwill on the part of the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments, all these difficulties will be overcome. We are very grateful to the Prime Minister for the expedition with which he has set up this Board and the very wise choice of its membership.

I do not think this is a Bill that calls for much criticism. It is a very welcome Bill indeed and I support it whole-heartedly.

Senator Professor Eni Njoku: Mr President, Sir, in welcoming this Bill, may I hope, Sir, that the further provision which is now being made for the Board will enable it to undertake a thorough survey of this area. I believe that such a survey is fundamental to any developmental plan which the Board would like to put forward. The land and water resources of this area are practically unknown. Although a lot of work has been done, a lot still remains to be done. I must confess that I have a particular interest in such a survey because I believe that a good ecological survey of that area will reveal a number of interesting facts which are at

present unknown to those who study the science of water-logged areas like the Niger Delta. The ecology of the sort of plant life found there and the sort of animal life which exists there has a number of features which, in my opinion, may advance our knowledge of science. Therefore, quite apart from the practical utility of the survey forming a proper basis for planning, I believe that if such a survey were properly handled it would do a lot to advance our knowledge of conditions prevailing in that area and such advancement would be, in my opinion, a most important reason why the survey should be proceeded with.

I hope, Sir, although it is not a matter for this House but a matter for the Board, that the Government will use all their powers to persuade the Board to carry out such a survey and, if possible, to give them the resources by which they can carry it out.

I support the Motion.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale: I rise to support the Motion. Although I am not acquainted with the problems of the Delta area, nevertheless I rise to support the Motion and I base my reasons on what I have read on the faces of the Members coming from that area at the time the hon. the Prime Minister was moving the Motion. I have noticed that they wholeheartedly accept the Motion and are very glad indeed to see that this Motion is moved. For that reason, I think it is very important that this Motion should be passed and supported wholeheartedly by Members.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3-36 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that the Appropriation (1961-62) Bill be read a second time.

Honourable Members will, I am sure, have had a full opportunity to study the Sovereignty Budget Speech which I delivered in another place some three weeks ago. I do not believe that this honourable House will expect me to repeat at length all that is available in the published speech. It is, nevertheless, my duty to assist the House in its consideration of the Budget by providing a brief account of the economic problems of Nigeria as they appear to the Government and of the important proposals for meeting them which have been reflected in the Sovereignty Budget.

Our major task at the present time, when the current Economic Programme is drawing to a close, is the planning of our first Independence Programme. We must be clear about our objectives; we must so strengthen the economy that it can withstand the stresses and strains to which it will be subjected once the new Programme has been launched. We are planning with, I believe, boldness and imagination a comprehensive plan of development for the five years 1962 to 1967. It is our firm resolve in this Government to achieve by this plan a large increase in the country's prosperity and a real and lasting improvement in our people's standard of living.

This new five-year plan will need finance on a massive scale. The Federal Government alone has generated a capacity to spend some forty million pounds a year on capital development. This is a rate of expenditure which we must endeavour to increase if we are to attain our objectives. Many tasks confront us: the expansion of our Agriculture and Industry; the Hydro-Electric Project on the Niger; The Ashby recommendations for meeting our Educational and Man-power needs; the extension of the country's Transport and Communications system and, very important, the strengthening of our Armed Forces.

It is my principal task to consider how we can find the vast sums of money needed for all these projects. Our Government believes and, indeed, has always believed, that first of all we

must look to the domestic resources of Nigeria for this money. That is why hon. Members will find that in my published Budget Speech I laid great emphasis upon the need to mobilise Nigerian resources and upon the steps which we are taking to secure this mobilisation.

We are seeking to encourage all forms of saving. For the small investor there are the facilities of the Post Office Savings Bank, but we hope to make this form of investment more popular. We propose to introduce as soon as possible an issue of National Savings Certificates. Proposals have been laid before Parliament for the establishment of a National Provident Fund. We propose to continue with an ambitious series of Development Loans. I say ambitious, but not over-ambitious, because the House will, I am sure, have noted with pleasure the distinct success of the recent loan operation. This was an indication of the confidence shared by institutions and the public in the policies of the Federal Government. From now on it is our intention to set up a comprehensive campaign for making all of us savings conscious.

Much as I stress the need for mobilising local resources, I do not wish to give this House the impression that the inflow of foreign capital is without importance. Undoubtedly it has a valuable part to play in both the public and the private sectors of the country's economy. Provided foreign capital fits our needs and bears no troublesome strings, it will enable us to accelerate our rate of economic progress. It is certain that if we spurn foreign aid we shall slow down our economic growth.

In this connection, the Government attaches great importance to our Economic Mission which will leave our shores at the end of next month. We believe that this Mission will do much to increase the awareness in the world of Nigeria's economic potential. It will provide a means of exploring the possibilities of expanding trade between Nigeria and the countries visited, the means of increasing the flow of investment capital from overseas and the scope of technical assistance schemes. I hope that by the time the Mission has completed its work we shall have a much better idea of the extent to which foreign resources will be available to help in the financing of the new plan.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

(v) Head 39—Ministry of Health : There was excess expenditure under ten Sub-heads, the only significant one being Drugs, Medical Equipment, etc., of £99,193. Savings under other Sub-heads reduced the net excess expenditure to £79,526 ;

(vi) Head 57—Legal : Excess expenditure was incurred under four Sub-heads, the only significant one being the Revision of the Laws of Nigeria of £10,374. Savings under other Sub-heads reduced the net excess expenditure to £4,982.

Finally, Sir, I would like to point out that Government has taken the earliest possible opportunity to present this Bill to this House. It is impossible to be certain of the amounts of unauthorised expenditure during a year until the accounts for the year have been finalised. So far as the 1959-60 accounts are concerned this stage was reached in November 1960. This is the first meeting of Parliament since then.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator M. Sani O. B. Okin : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Bill but the Minister of Finance should be more vigilant in seeing that this House will not be called upon again to approve Supplementary Expenditure for the same year 1959-60. If there are more to be approved I suggest that the Minister of Finance should bring them before this House so that we can have them approved at the same time.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the Order of the Senate this day, immediately read the third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the Bill for a Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Act, 1961, be read a second time.

This is a Bill in which we seek Parliament's covering approval for urgent and inescapable supplementary expenditure. However, I

would like to make it clear that this Bill is in a different category from the Bill in respect of the financial year 1959-60, which has also been presented to Parliament at this meeting. The 1959-60 Bill covers excess expenditure which was brought to light when the accounts of the Federation for that year were closed. The present Bill, with one exception, will cover expenditure which has been specifically authorised by me in accordance with the provisions of the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, or expenditure on essential services, which the responsible officers have reported since Parliament last met, would have to be curtailed unless a further appropriation could be approved.

In all cases the curtailment of this expenditure would have been contrary to the public interest. Ideally, of course, I would have hoped to secure Parliament's approval in advance, but in present circumstances occasions must inevitably arise when expenditure has to be authorised when Parliament is not sitting.

The only exception to the two categories of expenditure I have mentioned is the vote for bicycle advances under Sub-head 63 of Head 35. The reason for this vote is very fully explained in the footnote to the Head in the Draft Supplementary Estimates. As hon. Senators will see, this vote is a mere tidying up operation.

The details of the Supplementary Estimates themselves are both brief and plain and there is little I need say about them. I will, however, mention the following.

Head 24—Police—on which additional expenditure was inevitable. Hon. Senators are aware of the excellent work done by the Nigeria Police during the Western Region election, the Independence Celebrations and the regrettable happenings in the Benue Province.

Regarding Head 25—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—we have already heard much on the need for Nigeria to strengthen and extend her representation abroad on a scale befitting the greatness of our nation. Additional expenditure under this Head has enabled us to give effect to this policy.

On Head 35, comparatively large sums are required for services which, in the interests of accounting convenience, are administered by the Ministry of Finance on behalf of all

Ministries and Departments. The reason for the additional amount required for passages is partly a large increase in the number of persons travelling overseas on official duties since independence and partly the result of some delay in the introduction of tourist class air travel for civil servants, resulting from the need for prior consultation with the staff associations. This vote and the vote for Children's Separate Domicile allowances is, of course, as hon. Senators will appreciate, not susceptible to close direct control by the Accounting Officer, since the vast majority of disbursements arise from the approved conditions of service for members of the Public Service.

The extra charges in internal postal, telegraph and telephone services reflect the growing scale of public business and will of course, be balanced by an exactly equal additional amount under the Posts and Telegraphs Revenue Head.

Finally, Sir, hon. Senators will note from the Financial Statement on page 2 of the Supplementary Estimates that even after allowing for this Third Supplementary Appropriation of nearly £1,600,000, we can still look forward to making a contribution of some £17 million to the Development Fund from our 1960-61 Recurrent Budget. This is an outcome of the financial year which gives me and my Colleagues great pride, reflecting as it does the strength of the finances of the Federal Government.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion and to commend it to hon. Senators without any further debate.

Mr President, Sir, I was myself a member of the Regional Finance Committee and also a member of the Sokoto Native Authority Finance Committee. I know very well how difficult it is to control expenditure for a given year. This is more so in this case because of the immense progress and development being carried out in Nigeria. Therefore, Mr President, I beg to support the Motion and to commend it to hon. Senators without debate.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Mr President, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance bought me over by mentioning the work done by the Police in Tiv Division when there were riots there. He said that this supplementary expenditure is part of the money expended in sending over the police to Tiv Division. I think I was an eye-witness to the fact that the Police did very good work and they deserve all the praise given them.

Besides, all this supplementary expenditure was incurred during or immediately after we had our independence, and as far as I am concerned, any money spent during or after independence, provided it is not embezzled is money well spent.

Senator Sanni O. B. Okin : Mr President, I rise to support the Motion. The Minister of Finance made mention of Independence Celebrations and I think this may have to be submitted every year. I do advise the Minister of Finance that provision should be made for current expenditure in the Estimates so that we will not be called upon at the end of the year to have supplementary expenditure approved for the year 1961-62 which should have been approved during the year. Therefore I suggest that provision should be made for annual expenditure in connection with independence.

Mr President, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the Order of the Senate this day, immediately read the third time and passed.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANISATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the International Financial Organisations Ordinance, 1960, be now read a second time.

The International Financial Organisations Ordinance governs Nigeria's membership of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finances Corporation and the International Development Association. The objects of these organisations

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

are well known and I need not recount here again their functions and our own contributions thereto. Nigeria is now a full member of the first three bodies and we have already submitted an application for membership of the newly formed International Development Association.

The object of this short Bill is simply to correct two minor mistakes which have occurred in Sections 4 (2) and 5 (1) of the principal Ordinance. In the first case, the phrase "of Article II" is to be inserted in the fifth line of Section 4 (2) and in the second case, reference should be made in Section 5 (1) to "section 3 of Article IX" and not to "Article II" of the Fund Agreement. These are very minor amendments which do not affect the substance of the legislation and the institutions concerned have accordingly confirmed that Nigeria's membership is still valid. But all the same it is essential to enact the necessary amendments as soon as possible.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo Osagie) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Mr President, Sir, the observation I have to make is not really based on the Bill itself but concerns the way and manner Bills are sent to us. Now, the Bill that the Minister of Finance has just read was received by us this morning. I will show you, Sir,—(raising a paper packet)—this is the bag that I found in my pigeon hole this morning with all the papers put inside since the 1st of April. The result is that many of the things that are being said this morning are all mixed up in this bag and I have not been able to sort them out.

When this sort of thing happens, it is difficult for us to follow very carefully the Bills and motions that are discussed. After all, as I have often said here, when we leave our homes we come here to useful work, but how on earth am I going to wade through this bag to find the Bills referred to, to read through them immediately, to take part in the debate and to offer useful suggestions which we are supposed to do here, Sir? I think only extraordinary people, like the Minister of Finance, can do that!

What I suggest, therefore, is that if this Government really wants us to be of assistance to them in many of these things, they should make arrangements to despatch our mails at least once a week. After all, we are in Nigeria and it does not take more than four days for mails to be despatched to any part of Nigeria to-day—

Some hon. Senators : You are wrong.

Senator Asemota : At least if they are despatched once a week and the mails for the last ten days are kept here, I think that will assist Senators to receive their mails in sufficient time to study them so that when we come here we will be able to contribute intelligently to the debate instead of just saying "Ayes, Ayes". That is my observation, Sir.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I am sure that hon. Senators will agree that a big man of the stature and position of the hon. Asemota deserves to receive such a big packet from the Government. (Laughter). I think it is very complimentary for him to receive such a parcel, and I wish him more luck.

In any case, and speaking quite seriously, hon. Senators will agree that they receive regularly Federal Government Gazette notices where these Bills are published and we hope that Senators will take the trouble, when they receive copies of the Gazette, to study the Bills and not wait until they come to receive parcels from their pigeon holes. If that were done, with very great respect, Sir, I am sure that the hon. Senator would have read this Bill in the Gazette as published before he came to Lagos.

Senator Professor E. Njoku : Mr President, Sir, I would like to say a few words on one aspect of this Bill and that is the staffing of these international organisations. It is very heartening to find that Nigeria is becoming a member of these various organisations, but I would like to urge the hon. Minister to bear in mind the fact that these organisations require staff. As we become members we must also be able to provide some of the staff required for these organisations. The point is important because when we apply to any of these organisations for assistance nationals of other countries who are members of the staff have to process the applications.

I know that the staff will be unbiased and will process the applications fairly but we must make our own contribution to the staffing of international organisations. I know that we have our own internal problem of staffing but all that I am urging is that we should not wait until we have filled all the posts in our civil service before we start making contribution to the international civil service.

It is very pleasant to note that we have already made some contributions. We all take pleasure in the fact that one of the international civil servants who have played an important part in the Congo is one of the Permanent Secretaries to the Federal Government. That is a good beginning but I am only sounding a note of warning, Sir, that we must not, as usual, limit our objective mainly to nigerianising our own civil service and forget that at the same time we should make some provision for making our own contribution to the staffing of these international bodies. Because it would mean that if applications come from us they will definitely be looked at, perhaps, with greater sympathy and will be expedited if we have some of our own men on the staff of these organisations.

I say all this knowing how seriously we are pressed at home for staff. But all that I am asking is that we should not wait until we have finished staffing our own civil service before we start thinking of these bodies. As soon as we can find Nigerians of ability in economic and monetary matters we should train them so that they can be able to take jobs in these international organisations. This point is no doubt already in the mind of the Minister but I would like to emphasise it, Sir.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Senator for the observation made as regards staffing of international bodies. Naturally, the staffing of international organisations of this kind is always a matter for great concern to the international organisations concerned and they endeavour, time and again, to throw their nets as widely as possible in order to get the necessary staff.

We are very proud that at the moment we have one or two Nigerians serving in such international organisations. I have been informed by my hon. colleague, the Minister

in the Commonwealth Relations Office, that invitations have been sent to Nigeria for recruitment of qualified staff for these organisations. These invitations have been sent to the different Regional Governments to see whether we can get some of their staff, as hon. Senators will agree that it will not be in the best interest of Nigeria for anyone who has not known anything about the civil service to be stamped and sent to the United Nations Organisation. He may not do credit to this country. Therefore, we feel that we should try to look into the public service of the Federal Government and those of the Regional Governments, and where it is possible to send some of our people to serve we will be happy to do so. Nevertheless, we also feel that as we begin to pursue our training scheme and we have more people coming into the public service we should make them available for such services overseas.

I am deeply grateful to the hon. Senator.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

TREASURY BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Treasury Bills Ordinance 1959 be read a second time. The proposed amendment is a straightforward one and its effect is to raise the amount which the Federal Government can borrow on short term by the issue of Treasury Bills.

With your permission, Sir, I will read the relevant Section of the Treasury Bills Ordinance 1959 which this Bill proposes to amend. Section 3 (f) of the said Ordinance provides that: "The Minister of Finance is hereby authorised to borrow by the issue in Nigeria of Federal Government Treasury Bills, and the Central Bank of Nigeria, when authorised in writing by the Minister of Finance, may for that

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

purpose issue in Nigeria, within the terms of the authority and subject to any direction given by the Minister, such Federal Government Treasury Bills together with such further Treasury Bills as shall be required to pay off at maturity Treasury Bills already lawfully issued."

But section 3 (2) limits the use of this authority by stipulating that: "That principal sums represented by any Treasury Bills outstanding at any one time under the provisions of this section shall not exceed ten per cent of the estimated revenue of the Federal Government during the year then current."

The proposed Amendment seeks to delete the word "ten" and to substitute the word "twenty" so that Treasury Bills up to 20 per cent of the estimated gross annual revenue of the Federal Government can be outstanding at any given time. Thus when the estimated gross revenue of the Federal Government in a given year is 100 million Nigerian pounds the Federal Government will be able to borrow 20 million Nigerian pounds through Treasury Bills issues in spite of the 10 million Nigerian pounds allowed under the 1959 legislation.

I would like to explain briefly, Sir, why the Federal Government like other modern Governments issue Treasury Bills for the investing public and finance institutions to take up. The commercial banks and other finance institutions, business organisations and individuals may have temporarily idle liquid funds. In the past such surplus funds in Nigeria were either transferred to London for investment in Treasury Bills in the London money market or they were held as cash here without any yield. But to-day, thanks to Treasury Bills, they can be invested in local securities for a period of 90 days. There is no need any longer for any institution wishing to invest in short term securities to go to London. This is one of the positive steps the Federal Government has taken to develop a local money market in order to promote a sound financial structure in independent Nigeria.

Now Treasury Bills are issued at a discount that is less than the nominal value. A £100 Bill may be issued for £96 but the lender will be paid £100 when the Bill matures. The proceeds from such Treasury Bills accrue to the Federal Government, who during the life of the Bill, applies the money realised from the

issue of the Treasury Bills to its own use and in this way minimizes the effect of fluctuations in Government receipts. Thus at the beginning of the financial year when Government receipts are low the Government issues a larger volume of Treasury Bills in order to get more money to fill the temporary gap, until Government revenues are high when the amount of Treasury Bills issued is reduced accordingly. In this way the amplitude of fluctuations in Government income due to uneven flow of revenue receipts is reduced. Under a Treasury Bills regime, there is no need for Government to maintain a large working capital which is expensive. This is good business. I wish to emphasize, Sir, that Treasury Bills are instruments now commonly used by all modern Governments as part of their generally accepted financial apparatus.

Hon. Senators may wonder why the Federal Government now proposes to raise the upper limit from ten *per cent* to twenty *per cent* within a year of the introduction of Treasury Bills in Nigeria. There are two reasons for the proposed change.

Firstly, the Federal Government recognizes the wisdom of treading slowly but steadily when handling intricate financial matters. The limit of Treasury Bills was, therefore, deliberately set at a low level to ensure that the early stages of the Treasury Bills markets were carefully and properly managed. I am proud to say to-day that the Treasury Bill market has come to stay and is now firmly established. We enjoy the full confidence of the investing public in this field to such an extent that we can now regulate the volume of short-term borrowing to suit the cash requirements of Government.

Secondly, there is a distinct possibility that the Federal Government may on-lend part of the proceeds of Treasury Bills as short-term credit or as ways and means advances to Regional Governments at their request. Such Regional Governments would apply the short-term funds to their own use to even out short-run fluctuations in their revenues in the same way as the Federal Government does.

May I remind you, Sir, that short-term borrowing through our Treasury Bills is cheaper than borrowing on similar terms in London, and there is no doubt that the short-term credits which the Regional Governments

will get through Treasury Bills is the cheapest they can get anywhere. The Regional Governments can only enjoy the full benefits of this cheap short-term finance if this Amendment is accepted by the Senate.

The maximum amount which can be realised from Treasury Bills permissible under the existing ten *per cent* requirement does not meet the full needs of the Federal Government alone. Besides there is every indication that the market can bear more than the present maximum. The first short-term Bills of four million Nigerian pounds were issued on April 7th, 1960 at $4\frac{5}{8}$ *per cent*; a further two million Nigerian pounds was issued on 5th May, 1960 at the same rate followed by three million Nigerian pounds issued on 9th June at $4\frac{9}{16}$ *per cent*. These have been subsequently re-issued over and again, on maturity, at varying rates to suit market conditions here and overseas so that the total outstanding at present is nine million Nigerian pounds.

The gross revenue of the Federal Government for the year 1960-61 was estimated at the beginning of the financial year at £95 million, so that the Treasury Bills outstanding represent by and large the maximum amount permissible under existing legislation. The latest revised estimated revenue is 105 million Nigerian pounds. But there is a "Special" Treasury Bill issue of two million Nigerian pounds which is being used by the Central Bank to re-imburse the Federal Government for its expenditure on the initial orders for the Nigerian currency. Unless the law is amended, therefore, it is quite obvious that requirements of the Regional Governments for relatively cheap short-term credit facilities cannot be met.

I do not think this is a controversial Bill. The proposed amendment will enable the Federal Government to co-operate with all three Regional Governments at their request in the field of short-term borrowing. Why borrow in London when you can borrow more cheaply in Lagos and lenders with temporarily idle cash resources are available? I am sure the answer is this Bill that is presented to this Senate.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator L. C. Daldry : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill which seeks to raise the limit of Treasury Bills which the Government can issue.

I can confirm, as a banker, that there are times when the supply of Treasury Bills has not been enough to meet the demand. Treasury Bills are a convenient method for the Government to borrow on short-term, but in a developed money market these Bills serve a much wider purpose. In fact, there cannot be a properly developed money market unless there is an adequate supply of Treasury Bills, because these Bills are a convenient method for the financial institutions to employ their spare funds.

It is not, for instance, always appreciated that Banks have not unlimited money to lend. They can only lend money which is deposited with them by their customers. Only a proportion of such money can be lent, and the question arises, what are we to do with the balance?

Obviously, money cannot be left lying idle and, therefore, it has to be invested in something which is safe and also something which is liquid so that the investment can be turned into cash quickly. Treasury Bills exactly fulfil this purpose and the money which Banks and other financial institutions are not lending can be placed in Treasury Bills and, if necessary, turned into cash at any time, either by being sold to another financial institution or being re-discounted at the Central Bank.

If there are not enough Treasury Bills on offer then the Banks have to send their spare money to London and, as the Minister has so rightly pointed out, that is not what we want to do now. We want to keep our money here in Nigeria but we cannot do so unless there are safe and liquid instruments such as Treasury Bills which can be bought.

Treasury Bills, of course, are also on offer to the public. This is reasonable, but I do hope that the Central Bank will keep a watch on this aspect and that the Central Bank will allocate Treasury Bills with due regard to the considerations which I have just outlined.

The minimum Treasury Bill which is issued is £1,000. This is really a very low figure for an instrument of this kind and if Bills were issued to the public in large quantities

[SENATOR DALDRY]

it would mean that money which is normally placed on deposit with the Banks would be diverted. If this happened to a large extent, then there is no doubt that it would curtail the Banks' capacity to lend, and that, of course, will be bad for the country.

I am not suggesting, Sir, for one moment that Treasury Bills should not be available to the general public. All I am suggesting is that there should always be an adequate supply available for the financial institutions so that they do not have to send their money to London.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support the second reading.

The President: Order, order. I think this is a convenient moment for suspension. Sitting is suspended for fifteen minutes.

Sitting suspended: 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 11.45 a.m.

Senator Chief T. A. Doherty: Mr President, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion and I speak as a lender, a borrower and a middle-man. As a banker I am one of those who lend money to the Government and I feel that this is a Motion that should be supported because it is a move in the right direction.

Without the issue of Treasury Bills, there can be no Money Market in Nigeria and without a Money Market in Nigeria we cannot make any progress in the financial world. In the world, we could never be heard, we could never be known in the financial world and as a nation, just emerging, we should fall in line with all the other nations of the world.

I am a Member of the Council of the Stock Exchange and I have always advocated that we need a Stock Exchange in Lagos or in Nigeria. I think I have advocated this for the past six years so that when it came into being, or was about to come into being, I was asked to serve on that Committee and later on the Council.

The Financial World consists of certain ingredients which every nation must possess. For a country to progress you have got to go beyond the stage of individual efforts, you have got to go beyond the stage of partnership, you have got to reach the stage of limited

liability company. For a public limited liability company to succeed, the man who puts his money in the public limited liability company wants to make sure that any time he wants to convert his investment into cash, he could always do so.

If there is no Stock Exchange, there will be no marketability for any limited liability company shares; therefore, it is most desirable that we should have Treasury Bills and a Stock Exchange as they are among the great ingredients of making a money market successful in Nigeria.

The only question I do not feel very satisfied about or about which I feel a bit of doubt in my mind is in raising the amount from 10 per cent to 20 per cent whether the Regional Governments will need the money or not. We have not started rightly enough as we have to need more and more money to meet Treasury Bills as they become due. In other words, are we going to a stage in which a debtor or a borrower starts with loans and borrowings from money lenders and pays 4d and then 6d and then he goes to Shylock and pays 1s on a pound as his financial position deteriorates?

Another thing is that I do not know at what rates of interest the Finance Minister will tell us to issue these Treasury Bills. I think we have started with very low rates of interest. If the interests are to be increased, then I am convinced beyond all doubt that it is because we are finding it difficult to meet these payments. That is why we want to increase the amount from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

The next point I would like to raise in connection with this Stock Exchange transactions is that we should ask and know who are the biggest investors in these Treasury Bills. We should also ask the Governor of Central Bank to make an effort to see that the correct people—not only the banks, more especially the expatriates banks, but also the other commercial people—he should use his position to see that our Corporations and the other institutions of Government gain from these Treasury Bills.

As a member of the Committee of the Stock Exchange, I really welcome this move and, the more money we can get into the money market and Treasury Bills, the better. I therefore support this Motion.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I am grateful to hon. Senators for the points which they have made on this question of Treasury Bills. I have given the reason why we want to raise it from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and the reasons are, in my view, self-explanatory. I said that the Regional Governments need short-term borrowings at lower rates of interest and that if they can get them locally there is no need of going outside Nigeria to do so.

Hon. Senator Doherty seems to doubt the responsible statement which I made here. I cannot come here to malign the Regional Governments if I am not certain of what I am saying. The question of finance in all the Governments of the Federation should be above politics and the fact that a Regional Government or the Federal Government itself seeks to make use of the facility of Treasury Bills does not mean that the Government is insolvent. I have given the full reason and the causes as being the practice with all modern Governments when I made my speech on the second reading.

The second point is that the rates of interest are always fixed at the material time that the Treasury Bills are issued and we have endeavoured to fix the rate of interest so that it may be attractive and to prevent people from sending their money overseas. Therefore, from time to time, the Central Bank will fix the rate of interest as it is considered appropriate at the material time.

As regards the denomination referred to by the hon. Senator Doherty, I must say this that I am sure hon. Senators will agree with me that what we have done is the best in the circumstances and in the position of our own financial resources in Nigeria. Whilst it is true that a man who owns £5,000 in London or in Europe cannot be considered by any stretch of the imagination as being a rich man or a wealthy man, yet in Nigeria, in our own villages, when a man owns £5,000 he is considered by all as being a very rich man; I think hon. Senators will agree with this. (*Laughter*).

I think, therefore that if a man can save a thousand pounds and put it into a Treasury Bill and is still able to live well, we ought to thank God for having such an individual. I think hon. Senators will agree with me that to begin with one thousand pounds now, even in

about four or five years people like hon. Senator Doherty, Senator Daldry and Senator Wusu will bring more money into Nigeria and can afford £5,000 and we all will be very happy about it.

It would appear that this country will develop financially to such an extent that it will be to the benefit of our people. We do not want to make this thing an exclusive preserve of only the rich men of the highest standard or calibre, but we feel it should be made available for the small man who has been able to raise as much as a thousand pounds and be able to put it into the money market and get something back.

I therefore ask hon. Senators to please let us make progress and pass this Bill.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu: Mr President the introduction of Treasury Bills in Nigeria has been one of my desires for a very long time. Sometime last year, when the Minister of Finance delivered his speech here on his Budget, I was one of those who subscribed to the arranging of a money market within Nigeria. I am happy that to-day my dreams as well as those of others last year have come to a reality. We have been able to raise some millions of pounds within Nigeria, within the last one year, which has put Nigeria in a better position, without her going out to the outside world and asking people to consider us as borrowers: he who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing! It is my pleasure to support it. I feel that the minimum of £1,000 as it is at the moment is too big to make a start for a small nation of ours. It is true, as the Minister of Finance said, that we are doing this thing to get our people interested in what we call the home borrowing Treasury Bills, but we have not been acquainted with this sort of thing for some time, and when making a start, I think we should be able to consider the low income group people.

As the Minister of Finance has just said a few minutes ago, perhaps thousand and one people will be interested to invest their money in Treasury Bills. A minimum of say £250 could be fair enough and this would enable them at least to buy many Treasury Bills but still remain within the limit of £1,000. According to the Minister of Finance, any Nigerian who possesses £1,000 is considered a millionaire in Nigeria while outside Nigeria, £5,000 or more than that is considered to be pocket money.

[SENATOR HUNPONU-WUSU]

Now, Mr President, a Treasury Bill is one of those instruments that we need to develop the economy and stability of Nigeria and I am supporting this Bill. However, I would ask the Minister of Finance to consider a poor man who can easily lay hold on £250, perhaps from his salary as a Member of Parliament or from other incomes. If such a person invests £250 or £500 in Treasury Bills, I think he should be accommodated.

Mr President, I support wholeheartedly.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the second time, and pursuant to the Order of the Senate this day, immediately read the third time and passed.

LAGOS STOCK EXCHANGE BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to prohibit the carrying on of the business of stock-broking in relation to stocks and shares and other securities granted a quotation by the Lagos Stock Exchange except by members of the Exchange, and to provide for the making of certain reports and statements on the activities of the Exchange by the Chairman thereof, be read a second time.

Sir, a member of the Stock Exchange had already anticipated this Bill, but nevertheless it is my duty to enlighten the House as to the details and objects of the Bill.

The aim of this Bill, Sir, is primarily to show the public that the Lagos Stock Exchange has been established with the approval and the full support of the Federal Government. It is envisaged that the Lagos Stock Exchange will function as an independent organisation, but in order to protect the interests of the investing public, the Federal Government will ensure that at all times the activities of the Stock Exchange are properly managed and controlled in such a way as not to jeopardize the particular interests of investors and the stability of the economy in general.

In order to assist members of the Stock Exchange in discharging their responsibilities fully, it is important that non-members are not allowed to deal in stocks and shares on

behalf of principals. The principal provision of the Bill, therefore, is to restrict dealing in stocks and shares on behalf of clients or principals to members of the Lagos Stock Exchange.

Mr President, Sir, I think there is no need for me to argue at length the case for establishing the Lagos Stock Exchange as the need is generally recognized.

May I point out at this stage that the most important problem in organising a Stock Exchange is to ensure that there is absolute public confidence in the activities of the Stock Exchange at all times. There must be no room for fraudulent stockbrokers to operate. Scandalous dealers and unscrupulous brokers must be excluded from the Exchange at all times and at all costs. But the need for avoiding scandal on the Exchange is greatest at the early stages. The Federal Government is fully conscious of its responsibility in this field and as you will notice from the detailed provisions in the Bill there will be the closest liaison between those who will run the Stock Exchange, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank.

To enable the Federal Government to be fully informed of the activities of the Stock Exchange, Section 5 of the Bill provides that the Chairman of the Exchange shall submit quarterly reports on the activities of the Exchange to the Governor of the Central Bank who will forward such reports to me with his comments. In this way, we shall be fully conversant with what is going on in the Stock Exchange market, apart from the personal day-to-day contact which my Ministry will establish with the officials of the Exchange.

Sir, this Bill shows that the Government has confidence in the future of the Lagos Stock Exchange, which already exists, but cannot carry on business without the approval of the Senate. The Bill is another wise move on the part of the Federal Government to build a sound financial structure in Nigeria and I commend it for the full support of the Senate.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Senator L. C. Daldry : Mr President, Sir, buying and selling of stocks and shares is something relatively new to Nigerians for the most part because until recently there were no

stocks or shares to buy or to sell. Businesses here were largely owned by one man or by partners, or else by large companies whose shares were only available at a Stock Exchange abroad. In the past, limited companies have not been inclined to issue shares in Nigeria because, first of all, they thought that the Nigerian was not investment-minded and, secondly, they had in mind that if shares were bought by Nigerians, and those persons wished to sell the shares, there was no Stock Exchange where the shares could be sold and an individual would have to find his own buyers, which is often not an easy thing to do. So, we had no shares because there was no Stock Exchange and we had no Stock Exchange because there were no shares.

This vicious circle was broken in January 1959 when the Nigerian Cement Company first made a proper commercial offer of shares in the orthodox way through the licensed banks. This was a success and has been followed by other issues, and now the next logical step is to be taken and a Stock Exchange is to be set up in Lagos. This should stimulate and encourage companies to offer shares to Nigerians.

I think this legislation is very welcome and I have only one comment to make. In section 4, legislation is designed to prevent operations except through the Exchange, and heavy penalties are laid down for those who ignore this provision; but section 7 exempts the Central Bank, in respect of Government securities, from operating through the Stock Exchange.

Mr President, it is normal for Central Banks to operate very extensively in Government securities. The Bank of England operates on a vast scale in Government stocks, and it operates through the London Stock Exchange and employs a broker to act for it; I wonder why it is not the intention for our Central Bank to do likewise. It seems a pity if the extensive business done by the Central Bank will not be passed through this new Stock Exchange.

It may be that, although the Minister has thought it desirable to put this in the Bill, it is nevertheless the intention in practice that the Central Bank will operate on the Stock Exchange, and perhaps the Minister will be kind enough to make some comments in his reply to that point.

One of the surest ways, I think, to build up an orderly, progressive and contented society is to have the ordinary man and woman owning a stake, however small, in the cumulative wealth and business of the community. We cannot all own property and we cannot all own businesses, but even the ordinary wage earner can own shares if the shares are available. In the past they were not available, but in the future they will be and all new ventures should be encouraged to issue shares here to Nigerians.

One of the criticisms of the large expatriate concerns in this country has been that they are "expatriate". There is no Nigerian capital in them. I hope that many of these large concerns will now arrange to have their own shares quoted on our Stock Exchange here in Lagos so that if they wish to do so Nigerians can buy shares in those companies. (*Hear, hear*).

It is possible for large companies incorporated abroad to have their shares quoted on the Lagos Stock Exchange on payment of a small fee. I have pleasure, Sir, in supporting the second reading of this Bill.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, when a man who is very knowledgeable in matters of this kind has spoken I think it is rather foolish for anybody else to speak. So, if I just fool about, you will understand.

When I was at school, and we were taught the arithmetical process of stocks and shares I was just doing it as a mere mathematical exercise. I never thought that in my lifetime we would have a money market operating in Nigeria. So I consider myself extremely lucky.

There is one aspect of this Bill which I would like to stress. It is a new thing in Nigeria and Nigerians must be made to take a real and lively interest in it. We can only do so successfully if we have Nigerians who are suitably qualified to take part in the Stock Exchange business. In this regard, therefore, I appeal to the Federal Government to award scholarships to deserving young men to go and study money market operations in England so as to be able to take an active and intelligent interest in it.

I think this is a step in the right direction and no reasonable Nigerian can quarrel with it. I support the Bill.

Senator O. Somolu : Mr President, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the introduction of this Bill. The Bill is most welcome and there is not much that anybody can say against it. But I would like to call the attention of this honourable House, and of the hon. Minister of Finance in particular, to the provision of section 6 which, I think, deserves some comment from me, and an assurance that the Government will look into it.

Section 6 says, "Where the application of any person to be admitted to membership of the Exchange is rejected by the Council of the Exchange in accordance with the Articles of Association, the Chairman of the Exchange shall forthwith forward to the Minister through the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria a written statement informing him of such rejection and of the reasons therefor".

I am not a financial expert ; I hope, therefore, that Senator Daldry will forgive me if I trespass on his preserve. However, I think I am right in saying that in the United Kingdom, with particular reference to the London Stock Exchange, where an institution or an individual makes an application to become a member of the Stock Exchange and his application is refused, with reasons he has the right of appeal. He can even go up to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In this case, section 6 makes no provision at all for an appeal by a person, or an institution, who is refused membership.

Supposing such a person has genuine grievances, supposing he has good reasons to become a member, I hope that by section 6 the members of the Stock Exchange which is to be established, although I know they may all be honourable gentlemen on whom we could rely, will not attempt to form a sort of manœuvre. This is the only point I wish to bring to the notice of the House and to the hon. Minister of Finance in particular.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. In doing so I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for introducing this Legislation. This is what we have been expecting to see for a long time. A Stock Market is the market where the citizens of this country can exercise themselves. As the last but one hon. Senator has said, we learnt something about stocks and shares in school, but

we did not know that this would be introduced in this country during our life time. It is true that many other things have been done by many of us here in school which we least expected to materialise in our time but which are now materialising. The Stock Exchange business is a new thing in this country. We are happy that it is being introduced now that we are independent.

I think it is very good to introduce it so that our people can exercise themselves. Moreover, they will be able to see that what is being done in the civilised countries abroad is brought to our own country. I know that a stock market is a very interesting thing. If you happen to have seen one of them in any overseas countries you will see that they all have a similar and very interesting process.

I referred to this in my contributions to the Governor-General's Speech, and I am glad that it has now been introduced. I hope it will be a successful thing in this country. I beg to support.

Senator Chief T. A. Doherty : As a member of the Committee of the Stock Exchange, all I have to say is to express my support, and the support of the Committee, for this Bill. I think it is one of the things we all look forward to see in this country.

Our fathers did save on an individual basis. Everyone of us here will remember the days of the old people when they saved and carried on business individually and when they died their business died along with them. If they had such institutions like the Stock Exchange and if companies were formed, I am sure most of us in this House would have been better off because our businesses would have stood on a firmer foundation. Anyhow, we hope we shall be able to do that for our children.

As a member of the Council, I am not supposed to criticise the Bill. Unfortunately, a point has just struck me which I think I should just mention before we go into Committee. Clause 4 says that any person who is not a member of the Stock Exchange and who purchases or sells shares shall be liable to some fine. I think it should be made clear that it is only when that person or that firm acts with a motive of profit that the penalty of a fine shall be imposed. But so long as one does not make profit, I do not think it

is fair that such a person should be penalised for that. I will move that amendment in the Committee.

I certainly endorse this Bill and support the Motion and thank the Government very much indeed.

Senator Dr A. A. N. Orizu : Mr President, I rise to support the Bill. I do not specialise in wasting effort, that is why I do not think it is necessary to make long speeches over something that somebody agrees with in principle, and over something that has been so well done by the people who worked on it.

The only emphasis I want to lay here is on the question of participation, because that is what is going to worry us as a free nation. Whatever will be the condition, and whatever may be the economic principles behind any particular item, we have to bear one thing in mind, that any programme that does not consider first the interest of the people concerned is wrong. Therefore, whatever may be our difficulties in facing this thing, let us make sure that Nigerians have been given an opportunity for fuller participation even more than foreign institutions, no matter how beneficial that will be to us. That is the only warning I wish to give.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I am very grateful to hon. Senators for their contributions to this debate, which have included some words of appreciation to the Government and to my humble self. All I have to do, Sir, is to reply to some of the important points.

I think it was Senator Daldry who queried a section of the Bill which seems to make people feel that this is going to be an exclusive preserve of certain privileged people who will deal in stocks and shares. If my understanding is correct. I think Senator Doherty also referred to that and said he was preparing an amendment to the Bill based on that. All I want to say is that it is not the intention of the Government that this should be a limited liability company exclusive only to the initial members. Nor is it the intention of Government that there should be only the Lagos Stock Exchange in Nigeria.

All that we are doing is that we are being very cautious that at the moment we should not allow the body to admit too many members who will go about the country selling shares, or perhaps companies that do not exist. We all know what some of us can do in this country; therefore it is necessary to limit it to a few Nigerians whose integrity is not in doubt.

I am not suggesting that there are not many Nigerians who can be relied upon: there are many who can be relied upon, but we need a few to begin with, especially at this commencement of the foundation of the Lagos Stock Exchange, to gain the confidence of the people generally and of the Government in particular. When that is done, there is nothing to stop us from having an Ibadan Stock Exchange, Port Harcourt Stock Exchange, Kaduna Stock Exchange, Benin City Stock Exchange, may be Isale Eko Stock Exchange (*Laughter*), and so we will have those in time.

I am confident that Members will all agree with me that we are making a good start, and when this starts to bear fruit, then we shall begin to expand the membership.

That brings me to the point made by my hon. Friend, Senator Somolu as regards section 6 of the Ordinance. Well, I am sure that as a lawyer, he has argued for me when he said that if an application is rejected the Bill should provide for the report on the rejection to be submitted to the Minister of Finance (who, in Nigerian circumstances, is the Chancellor of the Exchequer) through the Governor of the Central Bank. In other words, that if the case that is made for the rejection is not satisfactory, then the Minister of Finance will ask that the application be not rejected.

The only thing I really must admit is missing there is that members of the public ought to be made aware that they have the right of making representations to the Minister of Finance. I think that is inherent in that section, because if a report can be made to a higher authority, naturally the person affected has a right to make representation to that higher authority.

Now, Sir, another point has been made about illegal dealing. With respect, I cannot agree with Senator Doherty that there is somebody who is going to sell stocks and shares

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without making profit. If we allow anybody to go out of the Stock Exchange to sell stocks and he says he is not making profit, you will soon find in Onitsha market people selling stocks and shares, and in Bida. I think we must control it to begin with, and not make it a football pool in every nook and corner of Nigeria.

Senator Nzerem made an important point, supported by the hon. Senator from Bida. He said that it is interesting to go overseas to watch stock exchanges, how people just leave their houses, sell stocks and make money—they do not need to go to the farm to cut palm nuts or cocoa or sell groundnuts before they make money. They use their brains. It is an interesting thing to watch.

It is true that Government can award scholarships for the B.Sc. (Econ.) for people to study these things, but the practicability of it is a different thing. To watch its operation and see how it is done by trained people is a different thing. I think, with the permission of my colleagues sitting around me (I have not consulted them) I am in a position to say that I see something reasonable in that suggestion; but I do not agree that scholarships as such should be awarded for this. I should recommend to the hon. Prime Minister that businessmen who are Members of the Senate or the House of Representatives, or businessmen in Nigeria should be given the opportunity once a year to be sent by the Federal Government to the Stock Exchange in London to see what is happening there (*Applause*). Perhaps the President of the Senate may like to watch it some time. (*Laughter*.)

I will strongly carry this suggestion to the hon. Prime Minister and, as Senators know that he is a democrat, I am sure he will soon see that he puts it into practice. (*Applause*.)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Senator Chief T. A. Doherty: Sir, I beg to move in line 20, after "person" insert "and for profit". I think I have explained what I mean by that, because it is very vague. As

it is now, it is very wide and it might be interpreted adversely. I do not think it is fair. I think the Government should make sure that only when a man wins pools and makes profit and fails to render the profit should he be penalised.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say I had given my reasons before and I rise to oppose the amendment. Who should determine whether it is sold for profit or not? You know that in this country that there are even money lenders who may lend you 15s and they ask you to write a receipt for £1, and they then ask you to put there that you agree that no interest is charged for this money! And so, hon. Senators will agree that this goes on from day to day.

Therefore, if we allow this amendment to go through, I am sure that they are going to say "Look, give me a receipt that I have not made a profit". That is not going to help us at all.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Senator L. C. Daldry: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not sure whether I made myself quite clear to the Minister when I spoke about this Clause on the second reading. This Clause 7 allows the Central Bank to deal in stocks and shares outside the Stock Exchange; it need not put its sales or purchases through the Stock Exchange. Section 4 prohibits anyone else from doing that. Everyone must buy and sell through the Stock Exchange and nowhere else, except the Central Bank which, under Clause 7 can do that by itself apart from the Exchange.

All I meant to convey was that if the Central Bank is going to have extensive operations it seems a pity not to use the Stock Exchange. I dare say that the Minister feels it necessary to put this provision in, but I wonder whether in practice it will be the intention of the Central Bank to use this Stock Exchange. I hope that in practice it will be the intention.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say that I am not in a position, without technical advice, to say why the Central Bank has been excluded from the provisions of Section 4, as is provided in

section 7, but if my memory serves me right, since the Central Bank is not a banker for individuals but a banker for banks, it seems to me that they will not compete with the Stock Exchange in dealing with the members of the public as such.

But it is also intended, in case circumstances arise that will enable them to deal with, say, other banks or so, that if the Stock Exchange is not functioning at one material time or so, that the Central Bank will come to the aid of the Exchange. In other words, I want to say that it is my considered opinion that the provision for the Central Bank to operate as such is to supplement the Stock Exchange and not to take over its business.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I beg to report the Bill from the Committee without amendment and, in moving that it be read the third time, I would like to add again that the Clause referred to by hon. Senator Daldry is an amendment Clause. There is some force in what he has said ; I promise him and other hon. Senators that I will have consultations on it and if it conflicts with the working of the Stock Exchange I might at a later date propose an amendment accordingly.

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

EXTERNAL TRADE LETTERS OF CREDIT
(CONTROL) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to make better provision for the control of certain commercial documents be read a second time. The basic purpose of this Bill is to protect Nigeria's good name by removing opportunities for fraudulent practices by a few of our unscrupulous businessmen.

As I mentioned in the Budget Speech, there have been many instances of traders and other individuals setting themselves up as discount houses, or similar financial institutions. Often those businesses have borne impressive names,

although they have had no premises other than the bedrooms of the sponsors. Their assets have been virtually *nil* yet they have issued letters of credit covering substantial imports from overseas !

And here, I would like to crave the indulgence of the President to tell hon. Senators stories about what have happened in Nigeria. A businessman opened his own bank in Lagos in his own parlour. Then he had his business in his parlour and his bank in his bedroom. When he placed orders he placed the orders in his business premises in his parlour, and then issued letters of credit from his bedroom as a bank in Nigeria. When the goods were shipped they were shipped to himself and the letters of credit for claiming the goods from the Customs were also for himself.

But he was not clever enough. He wanted to avoid paying Customs duties and then put in fictitious invoices to enable the goods to pass without payment of Customs duties, and that is how he was caught, in his own net. But if we were to allow such people to order goods in this way, it would be difficult in Nigeria for good businessmen to do business.

The second one was that somebody ordered plenty of cement, as a matter of fact a full ship-load of cement from Russia. One morning in Lagos was reported that a Russian ship was in Lagos port with a full load of cement and with all the documents. Letters of Credit, everything, for this quantity or that quantity of cement. The ship was already in port and then they were looking for the man who had ordered this cement. He could not be found anywhere in Lagos. This, as a matter of fact, was carried on for about a week and we could not lay hands on the person and the Government had to see whether it would be possible, in the name of our country, to buy the cement over and sell it somewhere else, to enable the sellers of the cement to get their money back.

You will find that unless we do this type of thing it will be spoiling the name of Nigeria abroad and that is why we have brought this Bill.

The letter of credit plays an important, indeed vital, role in the financing of international trade. It enables commodities to be bought and sold by importers and exporters

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living many thousands of miles apart. Once there is lack of confidence in the reliability of the letter of credit, the machinery for the financing of foreign trade is in jeopardy.

Unfortunately there have been many instances of local discount companies failing entirely to meet their obligations under letters of credit. Indeed, there has often been no intention whatsoever to meet them. The whole operation has been fraudulent, both in conception and execution. I will not trouble the House with the many varieties of fraud and near-fraud. Suffice it to say that, apart from foreign suppliers incurring losses with little or no hope of recovery, the commercial reputation of Nigeria has suffered.

This type of activity is bound to damage the credit-worthiness of Nigeria and in this Bill we seek to put these fraudulent operators out of business. They have no place in the trade of independent Nigeria.

The provisions in the Bill are straightforward, section 2, subsection 1, stipulates that no company, partnership or individual shall give an undertaking or a promise in writing that he will finance payment of goods or services shipped to Nigeria on account of a resident in Nigeria without having such an undertaking or letter of credit confirmed by a licensed bank. When a bank endorses a letter of credit, such confirmation is as good as if the bank itself had issued the document because the bank automatically assumes responsibility for meeting the payment, whether or not the importer who originated the document defaults.

This provision will introduce an element of control and stability into the issue of these documents. No bank would confirm a letter of credit issued by an unreliable person in view of the consequences for the finances of the bank.

But there are cases where the reputation of a discount company is not in doubt at all. It would be manifestly unfair in such cases to require the company or partnership concerned to obtain a banker's confirmation. The business of discounting bills is conducted on very narrow margins of profit. Banks charge commission for confirming letters of credit and it would be unfair to require genuine discount companies, operating on these narrow margins, to pay such commission.

Subsection 2 of section 2 of the Bill is therefore an exemption clause which empowers the Minister of Finance, after due consultation with the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, to exempt any company, partnership or individual from the requirement of confirmation. We will consider for exemption those who, by their activities and the resources which they command, have established a sound and unimpeachable reputation. Moreover, if anybody so exempted abuse this privilege, the permit could easily be revoked. At all times, the public interest will be our primary consideration when dealing with applications for exemption.

Subsection 3 of the Bill provides the penalties for anybody who issues a letter of credit without obtaining permission from a licensed bank or the necessary exemption permit. The penalties laid down are stiff and I trust they will be sufficient to act as a powerful deterrent to anyone intending to flout the law.

Sir, honourable Senators will notice that the provisions in the Bill cover only the external trade of the Federation. Although Parliament could pass similar legislation to regulate internal trade, especially inter-Regional trade, there does not appear to be any need at this instance to widen the terms of the Bill to cover trade within the Federation. In the first place, it is not the practice to make use of documentary credits of the kind under consideration for financing internal trade, and in the second place, if letters of credit came to be widely used in financing payments of goods in internal trade, there is little possibility of firms in Nigeria being misled by letters of credit by dubious institutions. The trade in Ikorodu or Benin, in Abakaliki or Owerri, in Bida or Kaduna is not likely to be misled by the high sounding names of some dubious "discount company" in Lagos.

This Bill signifies a most outstanding step taken by the Federal Government to ensure that Nigeria's financial and trading relationship with the outside world is of the highest standard attainable. I commend the Bill for the support of the Senate.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha : Mr President, Sir, I would like to associate myself with this kind of Bill. I have my brothers who are ordering goods in Port Harcourt. It was not the idea of these people to cheat the Government. It was those officers who are working in W.A.A.C. at Port Harcourt who tried to direct the traders. "This is the way that you write your letter of credit to overseas" and thereby dividing the money. If you order goods worth £1,000 you pay £500 through the bank and then, after all, you post another secret letter to overseas for about £500 after the goods have been shipped, and they have got to pay them.

That is what is going on at Port Harcourt and that is why you see all these things going on. Those officers are not for the Government, they are out to pocket money for themselves in order to be rich.

Therefore I would like the Minister of Finance to get hold of the officers and tell them where they go wrong, because it is not the idea of the traders to cheat the Government, it is the people who are working for the Government who are cheating the Government.

I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to do this, and as soon as he does it, then everything will be well.

The Minister of Finance : Mr President, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Senator Ugwuocha for the account of the investigations he has made in relation to his brothers in Port Harcourt. (*Laughter*). I was waiting to see whether he was going to speak about his brothers in Aba and Owerri. (*Laughter*). In any case, Sir, I think the point he has made is very well taken by all reasonable people and you all know that the Federal Government is doing everything possible to stop these dishonest officials and businessmen.

I think that, during the argument on this particular Bill or another Motion in the House of Representatives, the Government Chief Whip, Alhaji Bello Dandago, said that the hand of the man who receives is at the bottom and that the hand of the man who gives is on top. Unless he drops it, the one below will not take it. (*Laughter*). So whilst it is true that chief Government officials do take, the hands of the Chief's brothers, too, should stop going up. If their hands stop going up, the one at the bottom will not receive.

I am speaking quite seriously, and I am sure hon. Senators will have read in the Press and heard on the Radio that the hon. the Prime Minister feels greatly concerned and disturbed about these practices in the country, and has set up a high-powered Commission of Enquiry that has been sitting in the country—it is sitting in Lagos now—investigating a particular incident of this kind that happened in Port-Harcourt sometime ago. That shows you the determination of the hon. the Prime Minister and his Government to stamp out this fraudulent act, because it is not only spoiling the name of Nigeria abroad, it is making the Government to lose revenue that it requires. People order goods, make fictitious invoices, and then reduce the cost, say from £1,000 to £500 only to avoid payment of import duty. This type of thing has got to stop, since the age is past when people look at revenue collected as white-man's money. There is no more white-man's money here; it is all black-man's money; it is all Nigerian money, and therefore, those who are stealing it are stealing Nigerian money; and no good citizen would like to steal what belongs to his country.

I am grateful to the hon. Senator, and I can assure him that we shall continue to exert all energy to see that these fraudulent practices in our business life are stopped.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

COMPANIES INCOME TAX BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill for an Act to be known as "Companies Income Tax Act, 1961". This Bill is the second of the cognate legislation which I mentioned during the introduction of the second reading of the Income Tax Management Bill.

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The main purpose of the Companies Income Tax Bill is to codify and adapt or modify the existing provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1943 and the Income Tax Administration Ordinance, 1958 (in so far as they relate to Companies Income Tax) to dovetail into the provisions of the Income Tax Management Bill which deals in part with Personal Income Tax but overlaps with Companies Income Tax in certain matters. With the enactment of the Income Tax Management Bill and the segregation into separate legislation of the law dealing with individuals, the taxation of personal incomes will have been removed entirely from the scope of the 1943 Ordinance and of the Income Tax Administration Ordinance, 1958. What is left of those Ordinances will then relate exclusively to Companies taxation throughout Nigeria but :—

(a) material amendments will be necessary, arising from the Management Bill, for matters where company and personal taxation overlap, for example, for the deduction of tax on the payment of company dividends to shareholders, or for retirement benefits schemes ;

(b) other amendments are desirable on their merits in the light of recent developments and experience of the working of the Ordinance in relation to companies ; and,

(c) the Ordinance will, unavoidably, retain much that is irrelevant to company taxation.

It is therefore, desirable that a new code for company taxation should be drawn up, and that a law should be enacted concurrently with the Bills for the Management Act and for the taxation of personal incomes in Lagos.

Opportunity has been taken to tidy up many of the provisions of the existing legislation so as to remove double here and there and to introduce new provisions to give statutory force to concessions which have been found desirable in practice. One of the most important of these changes is in sub-clause 9 of Clause 30 which remedies a serious defect in the existing legislation by removing the deterrent of the cessation and commencement provisions where a non-Nigerian company proposes to hive off its Nigerian business to a locally incorporated and controlled company. Hitherto, the parent company was treated as having

ceased trading in Nigeria and the newly formed company as having commenced a new course of income.

Another important change is in Clause 33 which now makes it impossible for any director-controlled company with large profits to manoeuvre itself into obtaining the small company relief by paying directors' fees which are out of all proportion to the amount of service rendered, all with a view to reducing the company's net taxable profit. The Clause now restricts the relief to private companies and empowers the Board to treat as part of residual profits any part of a director's remuneration which appears excessive having regard to the service rendered to the company. It also enables the Board to raise an additional assessment where the relief granted to a company under this Clause has been dissipated in the way of dividends to its limited class of shareholders.

Clause 58 provides that no appeal shall lie from a decision of the Appeal Commissioners in the case of a company's assessment not exceeding £200. This will considerably reduce the amount of prolonged litigation involving very small amounts of tax. The Federal Board of Inland Revenue is however empowered to appeal to the highest court where it considers that a matter of income tax principle is involved, and the smallness of the amount will not be a bar.

Heavier penalties have been imposed for failure to render returns after a conviction by a court. The penalty is increased from £5 a day to £20 a day under sub-clause 67 (1). In the case of a deliberate fraud, the individual responsible may incur a fine of up to £500 or be imprisoned for up to 5 years under Clause 69.

I shall not continue to mention paragraph by paragraph the changes which have taken place as a lot of them deal with rephrasing of ambiguous sections in the existing Ordinance and generally bringing them into a more logical sequence. No major departure from existing practice has otherwise been introduced but rather anomalies have been rectified in accordance with practical experience gained over the past years. The Bill, as now presented, contains the laws as hitherto, amended and brought up to date where necessary and isolates under one legislation all the portions of the existing legislation

dealing exclusively with company taxation. We therefore now have in a concise form a piece of legislation that may be supplied to inquiring companies abroad who are interested in investments in Nigeria without bothering them with matters dealing with Personal Income Tax.

The result is a much improved company tax law which I very sincerely recommend for the approval of this hon. Senate. The only amendment which was made during the committee stage of the Bill in the lower House was the addition of paragraphs (e) and (f) to sub-clause 3 (2) of the Bill to increase the constitution of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue by the inclusion of one member who is not an official, and whose appointment is to last for three years. This amendment has been noted by the Clerk of the Parliaments for incorporation in the final print of the Bill.

I therefore trust that hon. Senators will give it their unanimous support.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the Order of the Senate this day, immediately read the third time and passed.

INCOME TAX MANAGEMENT BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to be known as the "Income Tax Management Act, 1961" be now read a second time.

The Bill originates from the accepted recommendations of the Fiscal Commission of 1958 that the Federal Parliament should enact an income tax law which will form a model for the regional legislatures in drawing up their respective laws for the taxation of individuals resident in their regions, who henceforth come under the jurisdiction of the

tax authority of the Region of their residence. The principal aim of the Bill is the avoidance of internal double taxation of individuals throughout the Federation, by prescribing a common tax year for all tax authorities, and prescribing for each source of income a common basis period to be taken for assessment in each tax year, and assigning each taxpayer to one, and only one, tax authority for each year of assessment on the basis of his residence on the first day of the year of assessment.

The Bills also seeks to ensure uniformity in the measurement of income by all tax authorities, without encroaching upon the constitutional right of each Government to exempt income or to fix its own scales of personal reliefs and tax rates. In pursuing these objects a conflict of interests between the various tax authorities is inevitable, and so in order to meet the situation without sandwiching the taxpayer between two contending tax authorities, to his own chagrin and the discredit of the whole tax system, a Joint Tax Board is proposed which will deal with all such cases.

There has been a general tidying up of certain anomalous provisions in the present income tax law, the more important among which are dealt with below:—

(a) Sub Clause (3) of Clause 3 removes the necessity for applying complicated residence tests to the large class of itinerant workers of the lower income group, by allowing them to be assessed in any region where they are found, subject to their being given credit for tax paid in any other region for the same year.

(b) Clause 8 clarifies the existing position by, for example, defining the derivation of employment income during absence from Nigeria on leave and retaining in charge the emoluments of Nigerian officials working in countries outside Nigeria, where those countries exempt the emoluments of such officials under the Double Taxation Arrangement or diplomatic usage. It also incorporates the standard Double Taxation Arrangement provisions for temporary visitors working for overseas employers as well as for employees of a Nigerian employer who exercise their employment outside Nigeria.

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(c) Clause 19 brings into charge any waiver or refund of a liability which has already been allowed as a deduction in computing income.

(d) Sub-clause 5 of Clause 20 makes possible the operation of the so-much-desired Pay-As-You-Earn scheme by placing employment incomes on a current year basis. It also makes such exceptional incomes as bonuses or commissions the income of the day of payment, and provides that terminal emoluments paid after the cessation of an employment shall be treated as the income of the last day of employment.

(e) Clauses 24 and 25 repeat the existing Income Tax Ordinance provisions for treaty agreements to be made with overseas countries in respect of double taxation, and for carrying those agreements into effect. Sub-clause (6) of Clause 24 makes all existing agreements applicable throughout Nigeria. New agreements will fall to be made, as desired, by the Federal Government pursuant to its Constitutional powers in the field of foreign affairs, on the advice of the Joint Tax Board.

(f) Clause 28 makes it possible for one Tax Authority to disclose to another any information affecting a taxpayer, and empowers the banks to disclose to the Inland Revenue bank interests exceeding £15 a year. This will enable the relevant tax authority to combat the present menace of tax evasion by the non-disclosure of sources of income of this nature or even their very existence. I am satisfied that this power will not adversely affect the development of genuine and honest banking in Nigeria.

(g) Clause 31 makes decisions validly reached by one tax authority with a taxpayer—for example, as to the residue of unrelieved capital expenditure—binding on the other tax authorities.

Sir, for purposes of convenience many matters previously scattered over the pages of the main body of the existing Ordinances have been assembled into schedules to the Bill. The matter covered by each of the six schedules is as follows :—

(a) The First Schedule makes detailed provisions for the determination of residence.

(b) The Second Schedule lays down rules for determining the incomes of trusts, estates and settlements.

(c) The Third Schedule collects into one convenient form all the incomes exempt from tax.

(d) The Fourth Schedule sets out the rules for ascertaining what deduction may be allowed for pension and provident fund contributions.

(e) The Fifth Schedule repeats with modifications the provisions of the existing depreciation allowances on fixed assets.

(f) The Sixth and last Schedule is a list of all the Double Taxation Arrangements which have been made or adopted by Nigeria with other countries.

Sir, in recommending this Bill for the approval of this hon. Senate, I must emphasise once more that this Bill is an umbrella legislation within which each tax authority may enact its own regional laws affecting personal income tax. It completely omits such matters of detail as personal reliefs, rates of personal income tax, etc., which each tax authority is competent to fix in accordance with the needs of the Region. The Bill affects companies only in so far as it stipulates what is income, what allowances are to be given for capital expenditure, etc. I therefore propose to lay before you two cognate Bills with the respective titles of "Companies Income Tax Bill, 1961" and "Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Bill, 1961" which I shall speak about in detail during the second reading of each.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Hon. M. Waziri Ibrahim) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the Order of the Senate this day, immediately read the third time and passed.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX (LAGOS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that a bill for an Act to be known as the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Act, 1961, be now read a second time. This bill, Sir, is the first of the two related piece of legislation

needed to complete the new income tax code to which I made reference during the introduction of the Income Tax Management Bill earlier in the day.

In accordance with the Nigerian Constitution, which makes personal income tax the exclusive jurisdiction of the Region of each taxable person's residence, this Bill refers only to residents of the Federal territory of Lagos, and in addition to being complementary to the Income Tax Management Bill, 1961, it is referential to certain portions of the Companies Income Tax Bill, 1961, which have been specifically omitted from this Bill in order to avoid unnecessary repetition where they apply equally to individuals as to companies.

It re-enacts most of the existing law with modifications where necessary. Noteworthy among the departures from existing law is the introduction of an income rate of between ten shillings and three pounds per head as set out in Table 1 of the Second Schedule, for all taxable individuals. For those with incomes above £300 per annum, this income rate is additional to the income tax payable, but for those with incomes not exceeding £300 no income tax is payable in addition to the income rate.

Another major departure from existing practice is the separate assessment of husband and wife. Each taxable person is treated for tax assessment purposes as a separate entity. This removes the ridiculous position whereby husbands ignored the statutory requirement to disclose their wives' incomes—mainly because the wives would not tell them how much those incomes were—and yet the revenue was in no position to detect the omission.

More practical provisions for personal reliefs have been made in the present legislation. Clause 18 grants a basic personal allowance of £300 to every person, whilst Sub-Clause 19 (a) grants a married man, who maintains his wife, an additional £100. The basic child allowance (which may now be claimed for any child genuinely maintained by a taxpayer, regardless of whose child it really is) is increased from £40 to £60, whilst an additional relief of up to £190 can be claimed in respect of the excess of the actual cost of school bills over the basic £60 for each of up to four children. Under Sub-Clause 19 (d) the maximum relief of £100 for a maintained dependent may be claimed even if

the dependent relative's own income is as high as (but does not exceed) £300. This compares with £150 limit on a dependant relative's income at present.

Certain provisions aimed at counteracting the present dilatory tactics of some unscrupulous tax payers in delaying payment of tax on the pretext of an objection to the assessment have been introduced, without depriving them of the right to appeal and obtain a redress. The penalties position has also been strengthened. A specific example is the increase of the penalty for late payment from 5 per cent to 10 per cent and that for fraud from a fine of £200 and imprisonment for six months to a fine of £500 and imprisonment for five years.

Clause 64 which empowers tax collectors to enter premises peaceably at reasonable times to obtain information and Clause 65 which gives them protection against vexatious litigation as a result of the lawful discharge of their official duties, were criticised by certain Members in the Lower House, on the grounds that they were too wide. But the majority of the Members supported them, rightly pointing out that they were essential for the proper discharge of an unpopular official duty.

Geared to the increased personal reliefs and the income rate already discussed are the revised rates of income tax, details of which are set out in Table 2 of the Second Schedule. The combined effect of these variations in reliefs and rates is that taxpayers with very small incomes pay slightly less tax now than under the existing laws while those at the top of the income-ladder pay slightly more, unless they have large families. In addition, everybody, including the single woman who formerly enjoyed a privilege denied her male counterpart, now contributes something, however small, to the revenue of the nation in proportion to his or her means.

Sir, the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Bill which I here recommended for the approval of the Senate is a practical piece of legislation which not only brings existing income tax law up-to-date, but also brings greater fairness into play. It spreads evenly the income tax burden and gives every citizen, male or female, the satisfaction of having contributed his or her share towards the general well-being of the

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Nation. I am sure that hon. Senators will acclaim it as has been done by the general public since its release in the Lower House.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Hon. M. Waziri Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator A. E. Ukattah: Mr President, Sir, I do not intend to oppose this lofty Bill because it sets out very useful measures for ensuring efficient collection of tax. But what I really intend to do, Sir, is to ask a very simple question, and that is whether there is any arrangement by the Government to give some allowance to unemployed people in this country. I think, Sir, that the time has come for that because, to my mind, I feel that when a person is not employed, and he is asked to pay tax, it simply means that he has to find ways to evade it. If someone has no job, and the Government asks him to pay tax, well, he either gets the money on interest basis somewhere or devise means of escaping from it. I would, therefore, like to know, Sir, what arrangements the Government is making to ensure that an allowance is paid to people who are unemployed in this country, so that they may all pay their taxes without suffering undue hardship.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, I think the Government has taken a very timely action to save this country from tax evasion, particularly in regard to the introduction of the "Pay-As-You-Earn" system. This is very laudable indeed, because not only does it ensure that all those in regular employment pay their tax, but it also gives them the necessary relief. When one has to pay a lump sum at the end of the year, one always finds it very difficult to do so.

I am not sure, however, whether Government has given sufficient tax relief for those who have large families. We usually describe people with large families as those who have three or four children, but there are people in this country, Sir, who have up to eight children and more, and all by one wife. I do not know whether Government will consider such genuine cases and give them further relief, particularly in Lagos here, where they have to battle with high rent and high cost of living.

It is good to make arrangements for Government to get as much as possible, but Government should also think of those who have large families, and the way they have to maintain their families.

The tax relief proposed in this Bill, in my opinion, does not go far enough. Apart from that, I do not see anything to quarrel with in this Bill.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief E. Ugwuocha: Mr President, Sir, in supporting this Bill I have to make the following observations. It has been mentioned in the course of the Minister's speech that all hon. Senators and hon. Members of the House of Representatives will have to pay their income tax assessments in Lagos. But what I fear is the question of double taxation. In this connection, I would like to make particular reference to those of us who come from the Regions. After we have paid our taxes in Lagos there is still the possibility of our having to be assessed when we return to our Regions and the assessment there is invariably higher. I would, therefore, like the hon. Minister of Finance to clarify this point. I have no other objection to this Bill.

Sir, I support it *in toto*.

The Minister of Health (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Mr President, Sir, I have always been impressed by the good sense in this hon. Senate. I mean, Sir the good sense with which hon. Senators have been contributing to debates, and their sense of responsibility. I was particularly impressed this morning by the way in which hon. Senators have passed the Bills. Some time ago, I said that it showed the maturity of the people who have been chosen as Senators. I was not just praising hon. Senators but I was only telling them what they deserve.

This morning Senator Asemota raised the question of not giving sufficient time to hon. Senators to study their papers. I quite agree but the hon. the Minister of Finance has explained that if hon. Senators had been reading the *Gazettes* sent to them they would have seen all the Bills. In any case, what has impressed me most is the confidence the hon. Senators have in the Lower House, they have passed a number of bills; taken also a number of bills which we have brought to

them from the Lower House after sufficient explanation has been given to them. Most of these bills are really straightforward and I am happy that they have given their assent to them.

Quite honestly, Sir, I just cannot express the feeling of appreciation I have for hon. Senators. They do not argue unless they find that it is really necessary for them to argue and that is how elder statesmen anywhere behave. They have come to the full expectation of what we think of them. I would recommend to this hon. Senate to continue to treat bills from the Lower House with the same sense of responsibility.

During this Session some important motions will be brought and I am sure that hon. Senators will give their assent to all the bills which will come before this House. The Government of the Federation has nothing but the best of intentions towards this country and I can assure the hon. Senators that the bills which are brought before them are designed in the best interest of the country. (*Hear, hear*). We want to do everything possible to develop this country and when we bring any bill or motion before this hon. Senate—we do not say that we are infallible—we bring it with the sole intention that such a bill or motion has nothing but the interest of the country. We do expect hon. Senators to criticize us naturally and we expect wise words from them as elders of the country, as people from whom we expect all the words of wisdom. We would also cherish their words of advice.

I want to say, Sir, on behalf of my Colleagues in the Council of Ministers and all Members of Parliament that we do appreciate the sense of responsibility, and the sense of maturity with which this hon. Senate has been debating motions brought by the Government from the Lower House. We very much appreciate it and that is what is expected of them.

Our country has now got to the stage which may be termed as that of full maturity to take part in deliberations in any international organisation and you in this hon. Senate have very much encouraged us in the Council of Ministers, in the House of Representatives, by the ready consent you gave us to go forward

to all international meetings and conferences with the full assurance that we have got approval of the Upper House of our country.

Please remember, then, each time you pass a Bill brought from the Lower House you encourage us; you are giving us approval that what the youngsters have done over there is in accordance with your wishes. I pray that you will continue to bless all the Bills brought in this House in the same manner.

In the Bills which the hon. Minister of Finance has presented this morning you have quite rightly observed that there is nothing wrong. In the one you are now debating there is nothing wrong. If there is anything wrong, I am sure you would have told us and we would have accepted it in good faith because we do not at all expect discourteous criticisms from you at all and so far, as I have said, you have come to our expectations. May God guide you and all of us in the Lower House so that we may discharge our duties in the interests of our country, Nigeria, and in the interests of humanity in general.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Mr President, Sir, those of us who have read through this Bill will agree that it is not a controversial one. The only observation I have to make is to appeal to the Government.

From my general knowledge of affairs there are many people residing in Lagos who will come under this Ordinance and who, in accordance with this Ordinance, will have to pay their tax in Lagos, but who, unfortunately, Sir, will be living around Lagos. What I mean by around Lagos is just some few inches out, they may be in another Region. That being so, Sir, they will be liable to another sort of taxation as exists in that other Region where they live. This matter is a real cause for anxiety in this Federal territory of Lagos. Many members of the working class have been seriously affected by the present order of things.

As particularly the working class, Sir, will now be paying their tax regularly, I should suggest that it should be possible for the Federal Government, in consultation with any other Government of the Federation of Nigeria which may be involved, to ensure that

[SENATOR BEYIOKU]

once a man has paid his income tax in Lagos where he works and where he earns his income, there should be no cause for anybody to molest him simply because he lives some yards or inches away in an area which is declared to be another Region.

I want to say, Sir, that those of us who visit places like Ajegunle, Mushin, Somolu and see how people are very much disturbed—even when they produce their tax receipts showing that they have paid their taxes in Lagos people still have to worry them and harass them—do really feel very sorry for the people. I would like the Federal Government to take notice of this situation with a view to ameliorating the great inconveniences which these people are experiencing. Otherwise, Sir, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, my hon. Colleague, the hon. Minister of Health, has spoken already on this Bill and on other matters with which I agree fully. All that is left for me to do is to reply to one or two points which may look a bit dubious raised by hon. Senators.

If I may start from where my hon. Friend, Senator Chief Ugwuocha stopped, the purpose of this Bill is to relieve anyone of the burden of double taxation. In order to make it non-complicated all that is required is that you will pay your tax where you reside, that is the Region of your residence. Otherwise that complication cannot be avoided, and I hope that my hon. Friend has nothing else in his mind. If it is the simple question of taxation in Lagos I can assure him that the Board of Inland Revenue will not tax any worker in Lagos if he is not resident within the Lagos boundary.

This particular Ordinance is meant for people to pay their taxes in their Regions and my hon. Friend—I think if I am wrong I stand to be corrected—was talking of double taxation. The purpose of this Bill is to avoid that double taxation and hon. Senators who draw their salaries here will no more pay taxes on them in Lagos but will pay them in their Regions of residence. (*Applause*).

My hon. Friend, Senator Ukattah, in his characteristic way, raised one question of allowance to unemployed. I do not really understand what he means by allowance.

Are you suggesting allowance for depreciation or allowances to be paid to unemployed people?

Senator A. E. Ukattah: Allowances to be paid to them.

The Minister of Finance: We are talking about something one should pay to Government and you are asking us to pay something to people. Is that not funny?

Mr President, if my hon. Friend wants allowances to be paid to unemployed people I will ask him to bring a Private Member's Motion to this House, but the Bill which I have presented to the House is for people to pay something into the coffers of the Government.

Next, there is an important point made by the hon. Senator Ukattah which was raised somehow in the Lower House, and I would like to seize this opportunity to clear it and also to make it public property. I am grateful to the hon. Senator for raising the matter.

He has asked the question why someone who has no job, that is an unemployed man, should be taxed. I want to assure him that this Bill is for Lagos. Here I do not play politics nor speak against any Region. From the date of operation of this Bill no unemployed person in Lagos who has no income will be taxed. (*Hear, hear*). I want to repeat that this is an Income Tax Bill. That is, as far as Lagos Region—if I may call it so—is concerned all those people who have income will pay tax. It is an Income Tax Bill, I do agree with you completely.

If a person has no income from where should he get the money to pay? What is meant by income taxation is that you earn something as a result of your labour for which you are paid, and it is for you to take something out of that and pay to the State in order to enable it to run the day-to-day workings of Government. But if a man is struggling to earn a living and has no income—even finding it difficult to make two ends meet—and you tax him two pounds and three pounds, I think it will be unfair. I want to seize the opportunity to say that this new Law does not make it possible for Government to tax any person without income in Lagos.

What have we done? We have also given the possibility to people who do not earn so much to pay very less. For instance, if you

look at the Schedule, if you earn £100 or less per annum, you pay only 10s-0d tax in the year. I am sure that hon. Senators will agree that no Government has done something better for the common man than what this Bill proposes to do and I am sure the happiest man in the House to-day is the Deputy President of the Senate in whose domain we all are and to whom we are all paying our tax. (*Laughter*).

Senator M. Muhammadu Sani Dinyadi : Mr President, after listening to the hon. Minister of Finance's speech, I wish to make certain comments. I would like to say that it is very commendable that the Federal Government has adopted this policy of taxation and I would appeal to the Regional Governments to follow suit. So that when the Federal Government adopts a policy they should advise the Regional Governments to follow it (*Hear, hear*), for people of the same country should not take different ways.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of State (Senator Dr M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

On the Motion of Adjournment, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to make a short Business Statement for the convenience of hon. Senators.

Tomorrow, the 26th of April, business of the Senate on Government Motions will be :—

First, the Establishment of a Fourth Region.

Second, International Tin Agreement.

Third, Educational Development, 1961-70.

Fourth, Draft Standing Orders of the Senate of the Federation.

Then, Sir, they will be followed by the presentation, Second and Third Reading of the following Bills :—

National Provident Fund

Pensions Special Provisions

Nigerian Citizenship

Electoral (Transitional Provisions)

High Court of Lagos (Amendment)

Royal Style and Titles

Registration of Business Names, 1961

Sheriffs' and Civil Process

Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment)

Emergency Powers (Amendment)

Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres (Amendment), 1961, and finally,

Adjourned Debate on the Second Reading and the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1961-62

It is hoped that after the business of the House tomorrow the Senate will adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of State (Senator Dr E. A. Esin) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha : Mr President, Sir, the point I have to raise is about the bound Official Report (*Hansard*) of this Senate. We have not been able to get one since last year. It was recently that the *Hansard* was being given to hon. Senators, and we have had about four or five from the House of Representatives. I wish to know why it is so.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : Mr President, Sir, I do not understand the hon. the Minister of State (Army) when he said that after the business of tomorrow, which is the Second and Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill the House will adjourn *sine die*. May I know whether I get him correctly?

Mr President : Will the Senator proceed.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : Well, if that is so, I do not understand why, because the Appropriation Bill itself will take almost a week to be debated in this House, as practically every Senator in this House will have something to say. It is so voluminous, Sir, that I do not see how it is possible for this House of Senate to debate the Appropriation Bill and complete it within a week. So that when it is said that the Second and Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill will be done tomorrow and that the House will adjourn tomorrow I do not know whether I get him correctly I want that to be clarified before I continue.

An hon. Member : Please continue.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : Because with all these Bills which were debated just now—

Mr President : Will the hon. Senator assume it is so and proceed.

Senator Dahlton Asemota : If it is so, Sir, if such a situation should arise, I think we should have been asked to send our opinion from our homes, which would be easier,

[SENATOR ASEMOTA]

because if we come all the way here and rush through the Appropriation Bill in a period of only a few hours, I think, it is too expensive, and it will be less expensive if the Government writes us at our homes to send our replies about what we think about all these things. But to come here, Sir, and debate the Appropriation Bill, I would probably occupy about forty minutes, because, in fact, I have several important things to point out to the Government.

Besides, most of us in the House of Senate are learning. We are just settling down gradually. If we are conversant with the procedure it will not matter much, but as we are at present it is certainly going to take us time. Nevertheless, we have great interest, and, in fact, we all have certain things to say about some important items in the Estimates and we want the Government to take cognizance of our deliberations. In doing so we may even like to refer to last year's Debates and see what implementations the Government made on the strength of our advice then.

But if we are going to be told that we are going to debate the whole Budget, which took the House of Representatives about 28 days to finish, and finish it in one day, I think it is right for us to send our replies. I really cannot understand it. I would like that to be clarified, because it is not only a sheer waste of money to bring us here and rush things through, but, I think, it is quite annoying to our own conscience that we should come here and just sit down for a few minutes and then go away. We then say we accept whatever you say.

Mr President, Sir, on the other hand, we do not want to make you unpopular and create a situation whereby you will have to tell us that we have only got five minutes more to speak on a subject when, in fact, a Senator may not have spoken for more than four minutes earlier. It looks to me very ridiculous. There are three important issues in the Estimates which we want to tackle.

We want to impress our people and the Government on the important subjects in these Estimates, and, I think, it is right for us to ask that we should be given the opportunity of debating important matters which we consider necessary in the Estimates. That is my point, Sir.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Mr President, Sir, I would just like to repeat what the hon. Senator who spoke just before me has said. No Senator would consider it good if we should adjourn tomorrow. It is unthinkable. Why are we here? Why should we be here only for a few hours? The Business Statement made here now by the Minister of State gives us a clear indication of the volume of work lying before us, and, if I can remember well, judging from the Standing Orders now in use, a Senator has the Floor for thirty minutes, and if we are to debate the Budget which covers a wide field, which has to do with everything about the national economy of the country, and we are to examine the economic policy of the Government, how can we rush through the whole thing?

I cannot understand that. Already there is public opinion against this type of thing we are asked to do, coming here for two days and going away. If you look you will find that the salaries of Senators and that of the Members of the Lower House have been increased from £800 to £1,000. I have nothing against that, but—(Laughter).

Mr President : Order.

Senator Ukattah : It is not because a thousand pounds is too much for a Parliamentarian in this country that I am saying this, but that we have been here for too short a time. We would like to be here throughout this week. We want to work. That is my point. Going away tomorrow or even on Saturday is too soon.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Digiya : Mr President, Sir, I rise to correct my hon. Friends, the hon. Senators who have just spoken. I am very sorry to disagree with all that they have said. We are here as Senators and not to play politics.

We are here as the watch dog for what is going on in the Parliament, in the Lower House. If we are satisfied with what they have done, no matter whether we stayed two hours or three hours, provided what they have done is correct we should approve it. We are not here to play politics. We are not here to criticize the Government but we are here to make sure that that all that has been passed from the Lower House is correct, and is in the best interest of the people of this country.

I understand that in other countries' Parliaments, Senators or Members of the House of

Lords do not need to be asked whether they are in favour of a proposal or no the contrary. The usual word used in putting question is, "contents". This indicates that what is required of Senators is to say whether they are contented with proposals from the Lower House or not the length of time taken by the Lower House to finish their work does not matter. They may spend long time over a proposal which we may pass in a very short time.

Now, on the question of our staying here, we may remember that people fly to U.K., to America, to China, to Russia and to all other parts of the world for one hour's meeting. They fly for days and they spend a lot of money. They sit down in a National Meeting for half an hour or two hours, the meeting then ends and they disperse. Still we take it that they have done their duties and the money is well spent.

We are not here to waste time, just to show the country that we want to work. We are not here to talk and talk for nothing. We are here as the watch dog for what is going on in the Lower House. If we are satisfied that what they do is correct it is our duty to approve it. It may take us long or short time to do so. It may be two hours or three hours. It may be one day; it may be two days. It may be twenty days and, if necessary, it may be a hundred days.

Mr President, I oppose the speech made by the two hon. Senators.

Senator H. O. Abugu : Mr President, Sir, different people have different views. I rise to oppose the original view made by the last speaker. Already, somebody has said that public opinion outside is against us, that we come in a few days, we go away and then demand more pay. In a sense I do not see with the people who criticise any increase in our salary. After all, it is important people who do important work. (*Laughter*).

If my breath will carry me further, I think when the House of Representatives was about to adjourn last week, somebody suspected that the House was being adjourned because of the Northern election. I would have no objection because I come from the North myself. My party is in the field. I would rather go and help them campaign but then (*Interruptions*). Mr President, if we really want to do what is expected of us, I see no reason why we should

be expected to go over in two days all the work which has been done by the Lower House in three or four weeks. It is true, Mr President, it is not very good at all. We are appointed to be the watch dog of the House there and therefore we are a leading example. I therefore appeal to the Government to recast their Time-Table, at least to take us up to Saturday so that we have time to go through this Bill.

We hear of another Motion which was passed in the Lower House about the Mid-West Region. I think that Motion is coming up and some of us will like to have a say about that particular Region and other Regions. Twenty or thirty people spoke on it when it was debated in the Lower House. We would like to have a say on it too. So, Mr President, I am appealing to the Government, through you, to recast your Time-Table so that we can adjourn on Saturday.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : Mr President, I am really just on time on the Motion of adjournment for tomorrow. Are we going to be recalled to do the rest of the business or are we going to finish tomorrow? That is the point I would like clarified. I am sure other Senators here would like to speak on the Budget. Are you going to rush us unnecessarily through the debate? I have no objection to going tomorrow if we finish the business. I would like to go even now if we finish, all the better, but let us see whether we can finish tomorrow. We are not expected to stay as long as Members of the Lower House because the Budget will not be committed to the Committee. If we are given an opportunity to say our minds about certain things and finish the point, I have no objection to going soon.

Senator N. Orizu : Mr President, Sir, on the Motion for Adjournment, I think I would like to say these three points I have on all these questions being raised now. Somebody there has said something about salaries of Members; we are not discussing that now, but I want to make a passing mention. We all want to lay example for the country and naturally, the only way to lay example is by practice. The only way to practicalize our sense of economy to the workers of this country is to make sure that we do not give the impression that we want too much for what we do. So it will not be possible for me at any time to be in favour of too much increase of my salary.

[SENATOR DR ORIZU]

But, I am afraid that we are wasting time trying to criticise the hon. Minister for having mentioned that we may adjourn tomorrow. If we remember what he said exactly, he said if we finish tomorrow, the House will adjourn, that means we have finished our jobs. I feel that it would be a wrong thing for us to begin now to impose guilt on ourselves because man, a psychological animal, if you begin to talk about your being guilty and of public opinion being against you, you will bring public opinion against you without a cause.

We have done nothing wrong and if anybody is wasting his time here, I am not. If the country feels that it is a waste of time for anybody to travel about a thousand miles to come here a man who has worked for this country for more than two decades, still coming here to stay for two or three days to pass Bills in peace without bringing the Congo here, without bringing Ghana here, if we can make our Parliament a peaceful one so that we agreed with our Government and our Lower House, if it is a waste of time that we are able to be peaceful, then I am not wasting my time here. I do not want anybody to go out making the public to begin now to say that they are against us. For doing what?

I think that what we have done is that we have introduced a new system in one of the African good Governments. The Abubakarian regime, that is this cabinet has been introduced through our own ingenuity, a calm Government that can move at its own pace. I do not think it is gentlemanly to be disagreeable in agreement. I think it is all intelligent to be agreeable even in a disagreement so that when we have to agree, we will not call our agreement based on a well-organised Government a waste of time. It takes a lot of time to bring peace and to make a peaceful Government. We are doing something because we are giving the country a peaceful Government.

Now, about this question of going tomorrow or not going tomorrow, what I want to emphasise is this: my understanding is that if the business finishes tomorrow, we shall have to adjourn. And I do not believe anybody is going to ask any hon. Senator who has the right to speak for 30 minutes to sit down; he ought to speak. Therefore, as somebody said here before, let us not play politics here at all. We do not need to play to the gallery. Some of us are really good orators so that we can really speak

in such a manner that tomorrow morning we find our names appearing in the newspaper headlines. That is not the question now; we are hon. Senators. Our real job here in this country as I know it, our real job here and in any Parliamentary democracy, whether it be a Federal Government or not, our real job is to watch the Lower House and know exactly when something is practically wrong; something that the whole nation has voted against, then we will make head-way; we will say 'no, you cannot move us.' But this is not necessary when there is nothing wrong. I beg to say that this argument is now a waste of time.

The President: Order, order. I will call on the hon. Minister, but I want to make known to the House that I will allow you time to speak to your hearts' content. (*Hear, hear*).

The Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Thank you very much, Mr President, for giving me the opportunity to explain to hon. Senators, and I am sure after my explanation, they will appreciate that it is not necessary to prolong the debate on this Motion for adjournment.

This Government has never, at any time try to curb debates or to limit a debate in this hon. Senate on any measure which the Government has brought before you and I would like to remind hon. Senators of the Constitutional limitation here in the Senate with regard to most of the Bills which are now coming before us. This is a Budget Session of the Federal Parliament and most of the Bills which have been brought before us here are finance Bills for which we have only a 'delaying policy' and on which we are not going to commit ourselves. So that most of the measures which have taken the Lower House a great many days to pass, will naturally take us much less time.

But, I would like to assure hon. Senators that it is intended to suspend Standing Orders tomorrow so that if hon. Senators still wish to talk at great length on the measures which we put before you, we will have a late night sitting and we may sit till the following day according to hon. Senators' wishes. I can give you this assurance that Government will not limit your opportunities to debate the measures which we are going to put before you. (*Hear, hear*).

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu: Mr President, Sir, I am very sure I am not going back to say what hon. Senators have already

said. What some hon. Senators have said this afternoon are very embarrassing; they are embarrassing and uncompromising.

During the first opening of this hon. Senate, the then President told us that we are the leaders of this country and I believe that we should take it in that sense that we are the leaders of this country. The purpose of our coming here is to see that whatever is debated in the Lower House receives our considered opinion and we should express our views on them where necessary. We may make some scrutiny and where we see things have been properly debated and agreed upon, it is our duty to pass it with commendation and not to come here to exaggerate or to show or grammatical perfection (*Laughter*). I think some of the hon. Senators want to be happy or to be saying 'hear, hear' as the Members of the House of Representatives. (*Laughter*). It is not for us to come here and speak as Members of the Opposition or as Members of the Government. Here we form a team and we form a team because our duty is to try to see that we make this nation one, and the oneness of this Federation must always occupy our hearts. (*Hear, hear*).

We are not here by election; the other people are here by election and at any time they try to fool the people that voted them in they will be made to answer. We are here to support what the people in the other place had done and we must keep it going whether we are from the West or from the East. We do not come here to criticise ourselves. If anybody tries to quarrel, I do not think he is worthy of the position he occupies in this hon. Senate; it is the duty of the people in the House of Representatives to do so, but it is our duty to work towards the unity of the country which is very necessary. It is our duty to work in a friendly manner and to try to educate the people not to fight themselves or to abuse themselves.

If we can go tomorrow, I do not think it is necessary to impart bad motives on the part of the public or anybody. Do they know that we are adjourning tomorrow? (*Prolonged laughter*). It is what people try to do just to invite enmity on the Minister. (*Laughter*).

I am very sorry if I am going wrong, but it is because I am misdirected by some of my Friends. I pray that whatever might have been the circumstances of some of the speeches of to-day, we should take it as just something

for which God will pardon us and make us do our best so that we can vote on anything which is good without a division.

Senator T. F. Olamijulo : Mr President, Sir, I thank you for giving me this privilege although we are all in a hurry to go home. I would like hon. Senators to note that as all the previous speakers have said, especially the Minister of Health, we are elderly people and we should be treated as such. Honesty is the best policy. For us to be informed that we have to finish the debate on the Bills and so on one day without any other reason, I think the Government is not honest enough. I say so because if the Government is frank by telling us that there is something going on in a certain Region and as such we should hurry up and finish, then I think it will be reasonable but for us elderly people to be informed that we have to finish one day, I do not think it is good at all and I do not think we should accept that without any controversy as such.

While I do not agree with the saying that we should do this or we should do that so that we may not be persecuted at the same time, I feel we should try to do something for whatever we earn. If we are satisfied that our work here justifies what we earn, even if there are loud outcries, that is all right. But I think we should be treated with honesty and frankness. I do not think a day like tomorrow is quite ample for us. Asking us to sit at night will still be rushing it. There is something underneath and as such I feel that if there is no time this Session, let the Minister be honest and allow us to come when there is time for better debate.

Whereupon Oba Adeniji Adele rose in his place and claimed to move, That the question be now put, but the President withheld his assent.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : I support the last speaker but in doing so, I have few observations to make. I think we are now diverting from what we are. The hon. Minister has just explained what was not heard in the first instance. He is in a position to move this Motion and if he says that it will be one hour, that is all and that is what we are to do. If he says go away, that is all right. If we finish within one hour, we go away and I think we should not be worrying ourselves with all these. I think we are diverting from what he says. We should not weigh the Budget as to what manner it was

[SENATOR ABUBARKA BALE]

produced. Why should we be troubling ourselves? I beg you hon. Senators to hold your peace now as one hon. Senator has said and wait till tomorrow and see how much we can do.

Thank you, Mr President.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : Mr President, Sir, I disagree with some of the views that some of the Senators have made here. In fact we have come here as elderly men. We do not come here to rush things. It is no good for us to raise alarm when there is nothing to fear. The taste of the pudding is in the eating. When we come here tomorrow and continue the debate on the Appropriation Bill and if this carries us to a day or two or three, then we go on normally. I see no reason why we should be quarrelling whether not to continue tomorrow or on Saturday. We may not limit the days but the days will limit themselves when we come to the debate. Thank you.

Senator Chief A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Mr President, Sir, I also want to thank the hon. Minister of Health for the compliments he paid to the hon. Senators. I want to assure the Members of the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet for that matter that as far as this honourable House is concerned, the Government should have no fear as to our not being able to discharge the honourable duties imposed upon us (*Hear, hear*).

We are aware of our responsibilities and we know the importance of the Senate in the constitutional set-up of this country. We know our rights to delay bills and we know our rights to send bills back but we know that what is expected of us is to make constructive contributions to the general working of the Government. We are not expected to be obstructionists and we assure the Council of Ministers for that matter that at no time will this honourable House be found to be playing the part of obstructionists (*Hear, hear*). Anytime we find it necessary from our own conscience and in the national interest, to exercise our rights to the full and make our influence felt by the Lower House and the Cabinet, we shall not hesitate to do so. And when we do so, we are sure the Government itself will rightly and justly respect our feelings. So, I have to thank the Minister again for the great compliment,

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : Mr President Sir, I see that the time for us to adjourn has been fixed. However the Minister should note that the Members of this House do not like such an arrangement whereby we come here only to meet for two days and adjourn. Nevertheless, if there is a reason for this, we should bear it patiently. But let it not be a matter of routine, let it not continue in this way because after all, as elderly men, we have seen bills passed in the Lower House. We are not to sit down and look and just say 'agreed'. We are hundred per cent behind the Ministers. We have to advise the Ministers where we feel advice is necessary; point out certain things which we feel have not been well done in the Lower House. We have to be constructive in a way and we should have time to do all these. It is not a matter of rushing through.

I agree with most of the speakers but I am sure that the representative of the Government in this House has taken note that the feeling of this House here is to scrutinize matters: hon. Senators want time to go into these matters and they want time to offer to the Government whatever little advice they can offer to rectify matters. Actually there is no need for us here to say so much on this Motion. All we have to do really is to think out how to set matters right. If there is any circumstance which may bring about the matter of adjourning tomorrow, I think we should agree to that. But let the Minister understand that we do not want this to go on. We are elderly men. We were politicians before we became elderly men. Before we came into this House some of us were in the Lower House or in one or the other of the Regional Houses. Therefore, I feel whenever we want to have a debate on any matter affecting this country we should be given the full opportunity to express our minds.

Mr President, with these few observations, I support the Motion.

Whereupon Senator Sanni O. B. Okin rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes past four o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 26th April, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

NOTICES OF PRESENTATION OF
PUBLIC BILLS

NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND (as amended
in the House of Representatives) BILL

The Minister of Labour : *Second Reading*
—This day.

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Establishments : *Second Reading*—This day.

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BILL

The Minister of Internal Affairs : *Second Reading*—This day.

ELECTORAL (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS)
(as amended in the House of Representatives)
BILL

The Minister of Internal Affairs : *Second Reading*—This day.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT)
BILL

The Minister of Justice : *Second Reading*
—This day.

ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES BILL

The Minister of Justice : *Second Reading*
—This day.

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : *Second Reading*—This day.

SHERIFFS AND CIVIL PROCESS BILL

The Minister of Justice : *Second Reading*
—This day.

PORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Transport : *Second Reading*—This day.

PIERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Transport : *Second Reading*—This day.

BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS AND REMAND
CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Internal Affairs : *Second Reading*—This day.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That the Proceedings on Government Business be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that, at 7 p.m., Mr President shall suspend the Sitting until 9 p.m.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the proceedings on Government Business be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that, at 7 p.m., Mr President shall suspend the Sitting until 9 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Mr President, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION OF 4TH APRIL :
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOURTH REGION

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I would like to draw the hon. Senators' attention to the following Resolution that was passed in the House of Representatives on the 4th of April, 1961 : "Establishment of a Fourth Region—That this House approves a proposal for an alteration to section 3 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria for the purpose of establishing a fourth region within the Federation of Nigeria consisting territorially of Benin Province in Western Nigeria including Akoko Edo District in Afenmai Division, and Delta Province in Western Nigeria including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area".

[DR MAJEKODUNMI]

I beg to move, That this House do concur with the honourable House of Representatives in the said Resolution.

This Motion, Sir, was introduced into the Lower House as a Private Member's Motion and the Federal Government decided to accept it for the following very good reasons. First, the majority of the people in the area wish it; secondly, the Legislature of the Region out of which the new State is to be formed has passed a resolution in its favour, and thirdly, the new State when it is formed will be economically viable.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that the majority of the people in the Mid-West area are desirous of having the separate State. In fact, the agitation for the creation of this State has been consistently and persistently carried out over the past decade. The Commission which was appointed to look into the fears of minorities in Nigeria and to recommend measures which should be taken to allay those fears had this to say about the Mid-West State (page 29 of the Willink Commission Report). I quote, Sir. "Here, we are confronted with a curious situation in that three separate main interests appeared before us each represented by counsel and each pleading for a Mid-West State". I would like hon. Senators to take very great note of this part of the Report: "Three main separate interests each pleading for the creation of the Mid-West State".

Now, Sir, who were these three separate main interests? According to the Report, these interests were the Action Group Party the Western Regional Government and the Mid-West State Movement. I would like to add, Sir, that the leader of the Mid-West State Movement at that time was also the leader of the N.C.N.C. Opposition in the Western House of Assembly. Therefore here we have a situation where, not only the people in the area where this new State is to be created wish for it, but we have also both the Government and the Opposition uniting in pleading for the creation of the Mid-West State.

When this Motion came before the Federal Government, it was subjected to very careful consideration and it was decided that before it was accepted two further very important

factors would be taken into consideration. These factors I have referred to earlier, that the Legislature of the Region out of which the new State is to be created passed the resolution in favour, and that the new State when created will be economically viable. Naturally, no one would like to have a new State which would be an economic responsibility on the other Regions of the Federation, but in this instance the Federal Government is satisfied that this new State, when created, will be economically viable.

One of the considerations which were taken into account in arriving at this decision would be found first, Sir, in the report of a debate which took place in the Western House of Assembly, First Session, 6th July 1956. Chief Awolowo, the then Premier of the Western Region, said (I quote): "It may be, on the other hand, that the State when created has not enough money to meet its expenditure, but the people wanting the State have a strong desire to produce the revenue to meet the expenditure. In that case I consider the State to be financially viable and in this instance the Mid-West can be said to be financially viable".

Whatever doubts there might have been about the economic viability of the Mid-West State at the time these questions were considered have now been completely erased by the recent discoveries in the area of petroleum oil in commercial quantities. These are the reasons which led the Federal Government to believe that the State, when created, will be economically viable.

That brings me, Sir, to the attitude of the Legislature of the Region from which the new State will be created.

On the 14th June, 1955 the following Motion was unanimously passed in the Western House of Assembly. I quote:—"That this House prays Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to make necessary constitutional arrangements at the proposed conference in 1956 to give effect to the creation of a separate State for Benin and the Delta provinces." This resolution was duly forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Honourable Senators will agree that this was a momentous decision made by a fully responsible and enlightened legislature and it could not be ignored. In fact, it was not

ignored because, on the 12th December, 1955 a letter dated 12th September, 1955 was laid before the Western Region House of Assembly conveying the Secretary of State's reply to the request which had earlier been sent to him. In his reply he said that he had noted the request of the Western House of Assembly for the creation of a Mid-West State and that he had directed that action be taken accordingly, in due course. With your permission, Sir, I will read the letter which was laid before the Western House of Assembly :—

“397/56

Governor's Office,
Western Region,
Ibadan.
12th September, 1955

Clerk of the Western Region Legislature,
Western Region,
Ibadan.

Creation of Benin/Delta State

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 153/75 of the 29th June addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government and to inform you that the Motion enclosed therewith was duly forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

“The Secretary of State has now replied asking that the House of Assembly be informed that their request for the creation of a separate Delta Provinces has been noted and I am directed to ask if you will please take action accordingly, in due course.

“Copies of this letter are endorsed to the Chief Secretary to the Government and to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, for information.

*Signed : P. S. G. Flint,
for Acting Deputy Governor”*

It will be seen, Sir, that on this question of the creation of a Mid-West State all the parties concerned—the Action Group, the Western Regional Government, the Mid-West State Movement, the N.C.N.C.—have done all that is constitutionally possible for them to do to bring about the creation of a Mid-West State ; and I must say that they have exhausted the constitutional resources available to them.

Our constitution provides for the creation of a new State at Section IV, subsection 3. “Alterations to Section III of this constitution for the purpose of establishing new regions

out of other territories shall be effected only in accordance with the following procedure :—

“A proposal for the alteration shall be submitted to each House of Parliament and if that proposal is approved by a Resolution of each of those Houses, supported by the votes of at least two-thirds of all the Members of that House, the proposal shall then be submitted to the Legislative Houses of all Regions and if the proposal is approved by a resolution from each Legislative House of a majority of all the Regions, or by a resolution of each Legislative House of at least two Regions, including any Region comprising any part of Nigeria that will be transferred to the new Region under the proposal, Parliament may provide for the alteration.”

Sir, the first step in this process has already been taken. The House of Representatives has unanimously passed a Resolution seeking to alter the Constitution of the Federation to provide for the establishment of a new State, the Mid-West State, and that House now seeks the concurrence of this honourable Senate to that Resolution.

I have no doubt myself, that in view of all the circumstances which I have narrated and the unanimity of views on the part of all concerned, that the Senate will not withhold its concurrence.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Mr President, Sir, I think to-day should be regarded as one of the most important days in the annals of the history of this country. (*Hear, hear*). The fact is that, not very long ago, (on the 1st October, 1960), we gained our independence and here we are again to-day in the Senate. We are called upon to give our blessing to this very important Motion.

As I said earlier when I was referring to the Speech from the Throne, I deplore that His Excellency did not make any reference to the question of the creation of States in his Speech but my fears were relieved when I heard that the creation of States was being debated in the Lower House and here we are to-day. We are called upon to give it our blessing.

[SENATOR ASEMOTA]

But the creation of States should not really be regarded as a principal issue. It is a major stage of development. It is a development which I think if we look at from territorial points of view, and putting political bias aside, we will find that it is a blessing to this country.

I refer to the time when Nigeria was one, when we were budgetting for £18,000,000. but when we were regionalized, the very first year we shot up to £36,000,000. This year how much are we budgetting for? £52,714,930 This is because we regionalized; and here is an opportunity for us again to further develop this country. It is a step on which we should congratulate the Regional Governments, the Federal Government and everybody who had a hand in this matter of States. They are people with progressive ideas; they knew what was meant; they knew the benefits and every other thing connected with it, and so, I am very happy indeed that this Motion has come before us.

As for viability, I think the British Honduras can hardly be expected to be bigger than the Mid-West, and yet, they have been self-governing for several years. After all, we in the Mid-West have all sorts of resources that we can rely upon, and I have no fear that anything will happen to us. Over and above we have an indefatigable Minister of Finance who comes from the Mid-West (*Hear, hear*) and if there is any reason why we should look for money, I think he is there for us. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Senator : Is he going to give you our money?

Senator Asemota : Well, he has a magic wand, and if there is any reason why we should look for money, I think we can always get it. At any rate, I do not envisage any difficulty that will make us appeal to the Federal Government for assistance.

I do not want to take much of your time, but would only like to add that this is a Motion which is not really political; it is a progressive Motion and I think every Senator should be pleased that we have been called upon to take part in giving this important Motion our blessing.

Sir, I fully concur with the Motion.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : Mr President, Sir, the case for the Mid-West state is a very strong one. The people of the area want a new state and they should have it. We all know the history of that ancient city of Benin and the districts around and we know that the demand is historically justified.

My fear, however, is that in creating this new State the Federal Government and the Regional Government will certainly lose some of their best brains. I want an assurance from our able President, our Minister of Finance, and other Senators that they will not leave us when the State is created.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Dr N. Orizu : Sir, I do not think that we need to waste much time on this Motion. I was much worried however when I heard that our indefatigable Minister of Finance was asked to turn our money over to the Mid-West State. I hope that is not going to happen.

Certain elements in this matter were enumerated by the Minister of State, and those elements, I think, constitute the corner stone upon which the Senators will depend to give their blessing to this Motion. The first is that, according to the Minister, in July 1955 the Western Regional Government approved this procedure that they wanted to create this State, and wrote to the Colonial Secretary as such. The second is that the State is viable economically, and more so now that, according to the Minister, there is petroleum production in the area. The Minister also said that the Commission mentioned three opposing elements that in this particular issue agreed with one another, the Action Group and Western Regional Government, the Mid-West State Movement, and the N.C.N.C. for that matter. Then the people and chiefs of the Mid-West also agreed.

The House of Representatives has agreed. And there, a new element comes in, the N.P.C. I am talking as a representative of the "father" House of the Federal Government. We have to make everybody agree before we do anything. Apart from the N.C.N.C., the Mid-West Movement, the Action Group and the West Regional Government, the N.P.C. has also agreed by their action in the Lower House; and upon

all this, the Federal Government gave its assent. Above all, it has been observed that as far as we have gone, every constitutional measure has been ascertained to be correct, and in my opinion, it is only if we want to dwell in platitudes that will waste any further time on the matter. It is only proper that the Senate should give its blessing to this Motion.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator M. G. Ejaife : Sir, my heart is full of joy over this particular Motion. I have no doubt that the Senate of all places will ensure unanimity in the passing of this Motion this morning.

I would like to begin from home by congratulating myself, because as long ago as 1949 and 1950, when we had the revision of our Constitution, and we met at divisional, provincial and regional levels, and even at Ibadan at the central level, I, of all persons, was most radical in trying to proclaim the necessity for groups to be entitled to self-determination. I made such a radical point then that someone pointed out that people do not learn how to swim in the heart of the ocean. I told him that we had to learn to swim by swimming, but he retorted, "Yes, but you do not learn to swim in the heart of the ocean, you learn to swim in shallow waters and gradually you go into deeper waters".

I was very radical from the start to the extent of wishing that even the Delta province alone could constitute a Region, but that has quite obviously been modified to read that the Benin and Delta Provinces should be allowed to constitute a Region.

I congratulate the Mid-West leaders for their consistent agitation and effort in trying to ask for the Mid-West Region because I know how very consistent and how loud they have been in their appeal for a separate Region in these two provinces—Benin and Delta. But still more are we to congratulate the Western Regional Government and the Yoruba leaders of the Action Group, because no matter how much the people of the Mid-West barked, or talked, unless the Government of the Region passed a Motion to the effect that a separate Region should be created, no further steps could be taken. I therefore think that it is very magnanimous of the

Yoruba leaders and the Action Group leaders, and the Government of the West to have initiated a Bill as long ago as 1955. I think it speaks well of that Government and it is an act which should be emulated and imitated by the Governments of other Regions (*Hear, hear*).

I also like to congratulate the Federal Government. I have no doubt that many people outside the Western Region and outside the Mid-West Area thought that, when the leaders of the Mid-West were agitating, it was all politics. People thought they were just playing politics with the Mid-West because the Action Group came out and said they wanted a separate state created for the Mid-West people; the N.C.N.C. came out and said the same thing, the Government passed the motion and the people outside did not understand what it was all about, no doubt because they thought it was all politics and it was very vague.

I am always worried each time I come to Lagos about this Motion not being on the Order Paper. Then, I began to doubt whether or not our leaders and the Federal Government were not going to let us down. You can then imagine my joy (even though it was not mentioned in the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne)—imagine my happiness when I was told that it was not only going to be debated but that it was going to be passed in this House. One man after another came to ask whether it was not going to flop and whether or not there was not going to be any sabotage; but in the end it was given an easy and unanimous passage.

I cannot see what on earth can stop the passage of this Motion in this House. I think that all the constitutional and historical reasons in support of the Motion have been very ably enumerated by the Minister of State who moved the Motion. I think we should, however, not lose sight of the fact that this Motion is a very great blessing to the Federal Government; in fact that is why I said that the Federal Government should be congratulated.

I would also like to congratulate the N.P.C. who we thought would probably not appreciate it. I think they have been very magnanimous, and I take this opportunity to congratulate them very much and to wish them all the blessing which they wish us. I think that one of the blessings which will follow this Motion arises from the fact that at present

[SENATOR EJAIFFE]
federalism in Nigeria is not exactly what I think it should be, and I think that all true lovers of Nigeria will be very happy that this fourth Region is going to be created, for more than one reason.

One of the reasons is that the more progressively we regionalise, the more room there will be for fuller participation by the Regions and the truer and better the Federal Government will be. Until a single Region cannot outnumber or dominate two other Regions put together this country cannot be fairly said to be truly federal in structure. I am sure that with the creation of more Regions in the country this will be assured. I am extremely happy indeed that this Region is going to be created.

Mention has been made of viability of the fact that apart from Lagos and Port Harcourt all the other ports that matter are in the Mid-West—Sapele, Warri, Burutu, Forcados and the port of Koko. All these ports bring in millions of pounds in customs duties. Although that is a Federal subject, I have no doubt that since these ports are the ports through which much revenue is derived this Region will also benefit considerably from the revenue collected from these ports. I think that this Motion should not delay us. With all my heart I support the Motion.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff: Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. If I am not wrong this Federal Government is a Government formed by the people of this country for the people of this country. This Motion is non-controversial. It is the wish to the majority of the population and I wish it is adopted by this House.

The Motion was well examined by the Western House of Assembly and they have requested the approval of this House. It is only constitutional that this matter should be brought to the Federal House. Therefore, Sir, I do not think we should say anything except—"O.K., go ahead". (*Hear, hear*).

There is one thing I would like to point out. I wanted to speak earlier but the President of the House did not see the effort I made to speak and during that lapse of time all the points I would have mentioned have been mentioned by hon. Senators; so, I do not think I should waste the time of this hon. House.

But, there is one thing which I would like to mention, it may be out of the way, but still I should tell this House about the Waziri of Bornu, Shettima Kashim. If I remember he was returning after a meeting of the Senate to Maiduguri but on his way unfortunately he had a car accident. He was a Federal Minister, if you can remember, and he was a Regional Minister at Kaduna. I feel it is proper for this House to send a letter of sympathy. I am very glad to say that he is definitely improving—

The President: As hon. Senators know, I do not like to interrupt unnecessarily but the last remarks are certainly irrelevant. I promise the hon. Senator that if at the moment of Adjournment he raises this, I will allow the House to speak on it and probably end with sending a telegram to Senator Shettima Kashim. I myself have sent him a telegram.

Senator Zanna Sheriff: I thank you very much for your fatherly advice. Although, I may be making a mistake, I still feel that apart from the individual telegrams sent to him, it would be better if we sent a collective one. Sir, I am withdrawing that point and, I wish the State every success.

Whereupon the Minister of State (Senator E. A. Esin) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo: Mr President, Sir, we have not expressed our views on this Motion and—

The President: Order, order. I think Senators know exactly what to do. I am going to put the Question, That the Question be now put, you can negative it, you can force a division on it and let us know, but I think my duty is to put the Question.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to. Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.

The President: As there has been no dissentient voice, it will no doubt be the wish of the Senate that the Resolution be recorded as having been passed '*nemine dissentiente*'. As, however, the Constitution, section 4 (3) (a), requires a two-thirds majority for a Resolution such as this to be effective, I direct that the Clerk do take a Roll-call.

The Clerk then took a roll call.

Present

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II
 Senator Chief T. A. Doherty
 Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku
 Senator Chief Ojon
 Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu
 Senator M. B. Chukwubike
 Senator Chief P. E. Nakoku
 Senator P. C. Ndu
 Senator J. K. Nzerem
 Senator Chief Z. C. Obi
 Senator Dr A. A. N. Orizu
 Senator Chief E. U. Uka
 Senator A. E. Ukattah
 Senator Chief R. A. Umoh
 Senator H. N. Udoh
 Senator H. O. Abaagu
 Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale
 Senator Malachias Bawa
 Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba
 Senator Sani O. B. Okin
 Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi
 Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff
 Senator Alhaji Sani Ungogo
 Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu
 Senator Hassan Rafindadi
 Senator Dahlton O. Asemota
 Senator M. G. Ejaife
 Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo
 Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu
 Senator Chief T. A. Odotola
 Senator P. A. Ogundipe
 Senator T. Olamijulo
 Senator O. Somolu
 Senator Professor E. Njoku
 Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi,
 Minister of State
 Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin, Minister of
 State
 Senator the hon. Nuhu Bamalli, Minister of
 State

Absent

Senator Mrs Wuraola A. Esan
 Senator S. Eyitayo
 Senator E. A. Lagunju
 Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye
 Senator L. C. Daldry
 Senator Shettima Kashim

Senators Present 37.

Senators Absent 6.

Resolved, nemine dissentiente, That this House do concur with the honourable the House of Representatives in their Resolution, That this House approves a proposal for an alteration to section 3 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria for the purpose of establishing a fourth region within the Federation of Nigeria consisting territorially of Benin Province in Western Nigeria including Akoko Edo District in Afenmai Division, and Delta Province in Western Nigeria including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area.

STANDING ORDERS

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives which, with necessary adaptations and modifications, has hitherto regulated the procedure of the Senate shall cease to have such effect and that the Standing Orders contained in the Draft, a copy of which was laid before this House on 25th April, shall be the Standing Orders of the Senate.

Since the establishment of the Senate, Sir, the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, with such adaptations and modifications as are necessary, have been the Standing Orders of this House. In accordance with accepted procedure, the draft Standing Orders will stand referred to the Standing Orders Committee who will make their report to this House in due course.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin): Sir, I beg to second.

The President: Under Standing Orders, the Motion stands referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION OF 20TH APRIL:

SECOND INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Senate to the following Resolution which was passed in the House of Representatives on the 20th of April, 1961: That this House approves the participation of Nigeria in the Second

[DR MAJEKODUNMI]

International Tin Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Government White Paper (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1961), and agrees that a sum not exceeding half a million pounds should be set aside for the purposes stated in the White Paper. Sir, I beg to move that this House do concur with the honourable the House of Representatives in the said Resolution.

Nigeria has been a producer-member of the International Tin Agreement since it was founded in 1954. The purpose of this Agreement is to achieve stabilisation of the price of tin and the corresponding stabilising effect on the tin mining industry. This Agreement has achieved its purpose since it came into operation in 1954. Before then there used to be a very wide variation in the price of tin but as a result of this Agreement fluctuations have been kept within narrow limits. For example, before the Agreement came into operation the price of tin varied from £1,250 a ton in 1951 at the time of the Korean crisis to the low figure of £506 a ton in 1954.

During the period when the Tin Agreement was in operation the price fluctuation was between £640 per ton and £823 per ton. I am convinced that without the existence of the Tin Agreement the Nigerian tin mining industry and especially the smaller producers would not have been able to withstand the impact of low prices arising from free competition in the large sale of tin which Russia placed on the market in 1957 and which was the immediate cause of the imposition of restriction. Nigeria is a relatively high cost producer and the effect of a completely free competition at the time of surplus production would have meant that many of the smaller producers would have, at least, temporarily to cease operation. Once a mine is so abandoned it takes time and effort to bring it once again to an economic level of production.

Hon. Senators will be glad to know that the price of tin is now at the high figures of £850 per ton and I hope that this would mark the beginning of the long period of prosperity and security for the mine operators and the mine workers in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do concur with the honourable the House of Representatives in their Resolution, That this House approves the participation of Nigeria in the Second International Tin Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Government White Paper (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1961), and agrees that a sum not exceeding half a million pounds should be set aside for the purposes stated in the White Paper.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION OF 20TH APRIL:

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 1961-70

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I rise to refer to the Motion passed by the House of Representatives on the 20th of April, 1961, that this House approves the Federal Government's proposals for educational development as set out in the White Paper on Educational Development, 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961). Sir, I move that this House do concur with the hon. House of Representatives in the said Resolution.

The Report of the Ashby Commission entitled 'Investment in Education' was published in September last and laid on the Table of this House. People throughout Nigeria have been awaiting the views of the Federal Government on this Report and their proposals for educational development. These are now laid before you in this White Paper. In considering the Ashby Report the Federal Government has worked very closely with the Regional Governments. All the four Governments, after very careful consideration, have accepted the recommendations of the Commission in principle as a statement of Nigeria's needs. I have every confidence that this House will concur.

I need not repeat the ideas which lie behind the Commission's recommendations but the aim is to see that Nigeria is properly served by her own citizens in the various key jobs, in commerce, in industry, in professions, in the armed services and in all the multifarious activities which are necessary to allow Nigeria to play its part in the modern world. The

Commission's targets of high level man power were ambitious and they were far sighted in the way in which they tackled the problems that lie before us. It may seem surprising, therefore, that in certain respects we have lifted our sights even higher. On reflection, I think this House will agree that times are changing so rapidly and Nigeria's rate of expansion is such that our needs will be even greater in ten years time than were foreseen by the commission. It is for this reason that the Federal Government has decided to aim at an even larger output of students from Secondary Schools and Universities, from Technical and Professional training institutions with particular reference to the need for Agriculture.

There is one other important respect in which what the Federal Government proposes differs from the Commission's recommendations. I refer to the development of primary education in the Northern Region. The Commission proposes that we should aim at twenty-five per cent of the children in that Region attending primary schools in 1970. The Federal Government considers that in the interest of the economical and political well-being of the country as a whole such imbalance between education in the various Regions should not be tolerated. Our object must be that the North should approach parity with other Regions in the Federation and to have less than fifty per cent of children of school age in the North in 1970 will not be acceptable. The Federal Government will do all in its power to assist the Northern Region in reaching this higher target.

The cost of implementing the proposals in the White Paper, both capital and recurrent, is extremely heavy. It will call for a supreme effort. We are confident that the people will solidly be behind their Governments in the development of education as they have been in the past. We are also much encouraged when our friends in various countries overseas have shown such great interest in our aspirations. Many offers of help have already been received and this White Paper will provide a pattern and a framework within which practical offers of assistance can readily be given.

I also feel sure that hon. Senators will do their best in inspiring the people in their Districts when they disperse from Lagos to have a sense of urgency and that they would

also make known the plans which the Federal Government has made to provide their sons and daughters with worthy educational facilities.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Senator M. G. Ejaiife : Mr President, Sir, I think there ought to be no difficulty in persuading the Senate to concur with this Resolution because I value the investment in education as the greatest possible investment. Fortunately, I think all of us have been presented with copies of the Ashby Report and I think we know what it is all about.

There are one or two points I would like to make. In the West, probably it is not necessary to go and preach the gospel because already the people are wide awake and are imbued with the proposals. I will now speak about the proposals of the Federal Government. There are one or two things I would like to mention. The Ashby Report recommends that special high schools be set up for sixth-form education. I think it would have been more economical to encourage the existing secondary grammar schools by increasing the number of secondary grammar schools that have sixth-forms. If we set up separate high schools, there will be a kind of ivory tower, and I think there is a tendency for government institutions to be very expensive. At the moment we know how many times the cost to government is of each educational institution which is entirely government. Take the case of the King's College. I think the King's College must be costing the government at least twenty times what, say, the Baptist Academy does even though the two colleges may produce the same number of boys every year.

I think it will be a wiser measure to take such money from government and give it to voluntary agencies and develop the existing schools to sixth-form standards. Increase the number of boys' and girls' schools that have sixth-form classes rather than ear mark money and build high schools which will cost many times more.

Another suggestion I would like to make is this. I appreciate the point made by the Minister that the North must be encouraged to keep in step with other Regions in matter of

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]
 education. I am very much concerned, myself, that there is such great disparity in education, at least education according to Western standards. I know that the North is very highly educated according to Arabic standards. But, Sir, according to Western Standards I think there is great disparity between the standard of education in the West and the East on the one hand and in the Northern Region on the other. I would suggest that the Federal Government, in consultation with other governments, encourage the existing schools, particularly the secondary grammar schools to make provisions in the schools for a certain number of boys from the North every year. I think that was attempted a few years ago by the West Regional Government. Principals of secondary grammar schools received a circular to the effect that every school should provide at least three places for children from the Northern Region so that the rate of secondary grammar school education there might be expedited. Unfortunately the point was not appreciated at the time and the offer was not accepted by the North.

I am sure that now that things are moving very fast it should not be difficult to persuade the North to accept such an offer. I believe it will serve the country very well. If we arrange that each grammar school in both the East and the West should provide at least three places in every class for the sons and daughters of the Northern Region I think that will be one of the ways to tackle this problem of disparity. Apart from that I lend my full support to the Motion.

Senator Professor E. Njoku : Mr President, Sir, on a previous occasion I did say how very much I looked forward to the laying of this White Paper on the Table of the House. I would like to say how very pleased I am to find that the Government has accepted the main recommendations of the Ashby Report, and it has even gone, on some points, a little further than the Report stated.

The Ashby Commission is one which has made a very important impact, not only in Nigeria, but also abroad, particularly as its membership consisted of people from three different countries. There were distinguished people from Nigeria, we had distinguished Americans and also distinguished British educationists at this Commission. It is not, therefore, surprising that they have produced

a document which is regarded in other parts of the world at the moment as a prototype of the sort of blueprint which all developing countries ought to produce in order to pinpoint the sort of target they ought to aim at educationally.

I would like to say that I welcome particularly those aspects of the White Paper which seem to me to relate to the question of common standards in University education throughout the country. I have in mind the proposal to have a National Universities Commission, and the proposal to have an all Nigeria Academic Council. I believe, Sir, that the aim of education, particularly University education, should be to unite the nation and not to divide it. Unless we are very careful about our planning and our standards we sometimes may find that instead of uniting the nation education may in fact divide it. I am, therefore, pleased to see that an effort will be made through the bodies to which I have referred to ensure that Universities work together and accept a common standard. Whether a Nigerian gets his degree from Ibadan or Ife or Zaria or Kano or from Enugu or Nsukka or Lagos, we must ensure that he will feel proud of having had a higher education in Nigeria irrespective of from which University he has got it.

The only way in which we can ensure that is to make the Universities come together and plan together, detect their common problems and try to solve them. I believe that we should borrow the best traditions from any country in the world. Having borrowed those traditions we must attempt to weld them together into a Nigerian system of higher education. We can borrow the best system from America, from Britain, from Russia or any where else in the world. But we must ensure that we try to knit them together into one system which will serve Nigeria and which will have a Nigerian flavour to it. At the moment we know that a number of Universities are going to be founded and it is essential that we should start from the beginning.

The hon. Minister of Finance said something about the Economic Mission which he and the representatives of the other Governments are going to take abroad and he referred to the fact that they would be projecting abroad the unity and faith of Nigeria. The faith of Nigeria which we have and the unity of our

country which we cherish and which we want others abroad to realise, I would suggest it is even more important in educational matters than in matters of economic affairs. It would be a very good thing if our Ministers of Education went on a Mission abroad and project equally this unity and faith in education so that they will not be making approaches abroad independently and competitively about our educational problems.

We should realise how many Universities we want, and we know what specialities we want each of them to have, because although I have talked about general and uniform standards, we do not envisage that our Universities should be identical. They will vary and they will specialise in different studies. But there will be a fundamental link and understanding between them. Indeed, as the Ashby Report points out, we should make every effort to make them complementary so that what one University does not provide another will provide it, and between them they can serve all the educational interests of our country.

We realise from the White Paper that for some part, at least of these educational Programmes, aid will have to come from abroad. The Minister of State has pointed out how very willing people abroad are to help us. I find, myself, that one of the most important things about this Commission is that the Commissioners having produced this Report did not sit down, they did not even wait to know whether the Federal Government will accept it, they have gone ahead to contact agencies and governments which they think will be interested in helping us. I know what a tremendous amount of work they have done already. If people abroad are going to come to our help, it will be easier to do so if they know that they are contributing to a co-ordinated plan of education within our own country and I hope that as soon as these proposed bodies can be set up, they will address themselves to the important task of co-ordinating their plans, filling in gaps here and there, each university trying as much as possible to provide what may be missing from the others.

I would like to say a few words about staffing of these universities. We are proposing new ones at a time when all over the world the university education is being expanded. In Britain, in America, they are all building

new institutions which all require staff. That means that it will be even more difficult for us to recruit staff for these institutions which we are setting up now and it is all the more important therefore that we should not ourselves compete disastrously with each other for staff because there are very few staff available. That also underlines the fact that we must lay plans here and now for training our own Nigerian graduates to be able to take up positions in these universities as soon as possible.

If a young man is going to become a junior lecturer in a university, he requires a certain standard which means that unless we start very quickly, there will be a time lag before we can get enough of our own Nigerians to start even the junior positions in these universities. We must be bold and make our plans as boldly as possible. I realise, Sir, that the Government does give scholarships for post-graduate education but I must confess that there was one aspect of this year's announcement which disturbs me a little. Under the heading of post-graduate scholarships the announcement said that these scholarships will normally be on the Commonwealth scholarships scheme. Senators will note, Sir, that under this scheme, various countries in the Commonwealth offer scholarships to Nigerians tenable in their own countries and we reciprocate by offering to people from the other parts of the Commonwealth scholarships tenable in our own universities. I know that the number being offered by these other countries in the Commonwealth is quite high and if we took advantage of all of them, we would probably do quite well, but I feel that we ourselves must try to push forward other supplementary means of adding to the number which other Commonwealth countries provide.

There also seems to me one other unfortunate feature in these proposals. I have recently been attending an international conference in the United States and I met Nigerian students there and they drew my attention to this provision, that post-graduate scholarships should normally be on the Commonwealth scholarships scheme. It does mean, Sir, if you examine it closely, that these young men will probably fall between two stools because the United States of America is not in the Commonwealth. It is not therefore offering

[PROFESSOR ENI NJOKU]

Commonwealth scholarships for which these students can apply. We ourselves are offering Commonwealth scholarships to non-Nigerians to come to Nigeria, which means that unless we make some other provisions, this particular class of students will not be catered for.

I hope, Sir, that the use of the word "normally" in the particular clause I am referring to means that there are other provisions made for including these students. I know that some of them are doing very good work, the institution I went to is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston which is one of the most outstanding technological universities in the world. There are Nigerians there and I think that those of them who do well deserve encouragement so that they can also take their place in our universities. The same thing applies to Harvard and to many other outstanding American universities.

So, I would like the hon. Minister of Education to look into this matter and ensure that as many promising graduates as possible are given the opportunity of obtaining post-graduate qualifications. We often want them to come back quickly and to occupy positions in the Ministries where they are very badly needed and therefore we do not often sympathise with a young man who after having had three years at Government expense, wants another three years to do post-graduate work. But I suggest, Sir, that where the young man is found to be promising and his teachers think that he is fit to do higher studies, we ought to give him every encouragement.

Finally, Sir, I would like to hope that the Government will push on as vigorously as possible with the proposals for the national high schools. I notice that the Government suggests that the Ashby target of 7,500 students in 1970 is too slow and they are raising it to 10,000 which I entirely endorse, but if we are going to achieve that student number then we must begin now to increase our sixth form work. It takes probably a year to build a school and unless provision is made and implemented quickly so that we can have a much higher number of sixth form students and national high schools, we may find that we cannot achieve this target however well intentioned it may be, at this moment.

I support the resolution, Sir.

Senator T. F. Olamijulo : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this Motion on Education because it is very essential that we must have sound education in Nigeria but at the same time, we should be liberally minded.

Nigeria to-day is yearning for national unity and one of the essentials needed is sound education. Hon. Senators may also agree that money cannot be well utilised without good education. It is very good to note that the Federal Government is thinking in terms of assisting the North but at the same time, I should think, not playing politics, the N.P.C. is faced with the great task of giving good education to the vast number of people and as such I suggest that the North be broken into small bits. For example, let us compare a father with many children with a man who has a few. While the former fights tooth and nail to maintain his children, the latter may have little or no difficulty in keeping his children going and feed them very well and take care of them. If you have very many children and are very serious about their education, you will find they are very well cared for and are brought up well.

If we are asked to assist the North with regard to education then we should think very seriously about breaking the North into bits, if we are going to be serious ourselves and if we are going to be fair ourselves. Those for whom the North is to care for are very many and cannot be cared for properly.

I was very glad when I heard that the Action Group was the first to see that the Mid-West is cut—

The President : Order, order. We are talking about education, not more states.

Senator Olamijulo : I am sorry.

The President : Will the hon. Senator proceed.

Senator Olamijulo : I am very sorry that I have gone to that extent but the point I was trying to make is that I want us to help the North and see that they are very well cared for, but at the same time, let them feel that they have a lot to do themselves. Not only that religion is very good but, at the same time, let them care for Western civilization, and see to it themselves. I fully support the Motion.

Sitting suspended : 11.33 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : Mr President, Sir, I rise to say something about the Ashby Commission Report. The Report says the membership of the Commission was drawn from three great countries—America, Britain and Nigeria. This actually meant that the report on education for Nigeria was going to be very broad in its outlook. Another thing is that the Commissioners themselves felt that they should not just take the cautious outlook which the present Budget of the Government demands but that they should take a very broad and bold outlook in the discharge of their duties so that they will be able to present an educational report that will be worthy of the name of Nigeria. The Commissioners did their work free of charge for the country which means, that it was a free service and one that would be very well done.

Now, I come to the Report itself. It is stated that the free primary education produces adequate number of pupils for secondary schools, although it is stated that in one region the number of pupils produced is still inadequate for secondary schools in the country within the next ten years.

I feel however, that unless something is done by the Government, unemployment will start to rear its head even with boys leaving primary schools. The point is, not more than about one-third of the boys or pupils leaving primary schools now can secure admission to the existing secondary schools. I would therefore appeal to the Government to consider ways in which both primary schools, by that I mean the secondary modern schools where they exist, and commercial schools can have very broad education in such a way that pupils leaving such schools can find employment. This should be possible if it is made compulsory for pupils attending commercial schools or vocational schools to study two or three main languages of Nigeria. This will enable primary school leavers, I mean the secondary modern school leavers and pupils in commercial schools to get employment in other parts of the Region.

It will be an advantage to a Yoruba boy who has to look for employment in the Northern Region if he can speak Hausa in addition to his mother tongue. It will be so also with the

boys from Ibo land wishing to take up employment in the Western Region, especially in the commercial firms where a knowledge of Nigerian languages will put him at an advantage. For this reason, I wish the Government to consider introducing our main languages as compulsory subjects in the commercial schools and if possible the Government should take the responsibility of paying those who will teach these languages. It will help to strengthen the unity of Nigeria if the Government does everything in order to permit the teaching of our main languages.

I come to secondary education as contained in the Sessional Paper. It is very gratifying that the Government has promised to do everything to encourage sixth-form education not only in the Federal territory but also in the Regions. It will be very interesting to see, when the time comes, these national high schools being situated in all parts of the Regions, so that boys and girls from the various Regions of Nigeria can meet there to share common education, common tradition and common experience. I would say that this will play a great part in encouraging the unity of the country. Even in this Senate, my meeting with people from different parts of the Federation—from the North, East, and shall I say, the new Mid-West Region—has so widened my outlook that it has swept off some of my suspicions about people. In the same way, these national high schools, we hope, will help greatly in unifying our Federal Government.

Training and supply of Teachers : The Report has shown that barely one-third of the Teachers in primary schools are adequately trained or qualified for their work while not more than half of those teaching in secondary schools are adequately qualified. Whatever training scheme the Government may have in hand, I would assure this House that there will continue to be an exodus of teachers if conditions of service of teachers are not improved. I have seen a young man who has a degree, an honours degree in Botany or Zoology, preferring to do administrative work in the Civil Service to teaching. One would have imagined that such a young man could have been better qualified to teach Botany or Zoology in a secondary school, but he prefers to be an administrative officer in the Civil

[SENATOR OGUNDIPE]

Service because the conditions of service for these people are better than those for the teachers. Therefore, I would strongly suggest that Government should by all possible means pursue some scheme of improving the lot of teachers as stated somewhere in the report.

University Education. One would have suggested that there should be one Federal University College in each Region in addition to the Regional University Colleges so that the University College, Ibadan, should remain a Federal Government University College, while the University of Ife, is Regional; and the Nigerian College, Enugu, should have a Federal University College status; the University of Nsukka should remain Regional; the Nigerian College in Zaria should be a Federal University College, and Sir Ahmadu College should be a Regional University College.

The proposal to improve medical education in the country and not to spare any effort is very highly welcome, especially now that, I quote "Medical education will cease to be bound by the requirements for medical practices in the United Kingdom and modified to emphasise future Nigerian problems". This is very important because, as you all know, the whole of the country suffers and it is in the health of the people that the prosperity of the country lies and there should be no economic growth in the right proportion if the people are not in good health. For this reason, I greatly appreciate the plans of the Federal Government to improve medical education so that every University in the country should have its own school of medicine.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Finally. . . . (*Prolonged laughter*).

The President : Order.

Senator Ogundipe : Well, I should agree with the Minister of Finance and, finally, the proposal to improve agricultural education in the country as well as the veterinary school at Vom which should be made a sort of a standard place of learning about animal husbandry for the whole country is laudable. Apart from this, it is quite true that the amount that will be spent in the next ten years is very colossal, in the order of £75,000,000, but we shall all agree that investment on education is the greatest and probably the most valuable investment that the country should afford.

With these remarks, I support the Resolution.

Senator Abubakar Bale : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion now on the Floor and in doing so I shall not hold my deliberations at length; I will be very short. My amendment to the development is : now that the Federal Government is preparing to extend education in Nigeria, military training in our schools should not be overlooked. I know that in the schools, physical training is being practised, just to keep the boys fit, but it is now time that we should have military training as a special subject in the classes, especially in the upper classes as is being done in overseas countries, so that boys, before they leave school, are fit to take up military work as a career and do any military work required of them by that time. This will help to produce boys with standards suitable for admission into the Military School at Zaria. If this is done, I think it will expand the military activities in Nigeria far quicker than the present system.

I remember in one school in England the classes, I think the upper classes, were having military practice with uniforms and everything and before they leave school, they know everything concerning military work; so that whenever they are required or called for, they had already had courses in military work.

In the last world war, recruitments were carried on in every corner of the country. If we start this now, I think it will be far advantageous to our country and I make this point to the Government that steps should be taken to include military training in the syllabuses of our schools and in this new development plan for education. I am extremely glad that nobody has been given special concession in this matter.

Everybody knows that there are many things in the North as far as education goes, but with the Federal Government assistance, I think we will achieve more and our children now going here and there will have something to do; this will reduce hooliganism in the country because these boys have no jobs and they just run after lorries in the motor parks. There are a tremendous number of them. These children get used to such open life, and when they grow up they behave as they like. But with this Educational Development Scheme these boys will be greatly helped, and I think the North especially will be greatly assisted.

But at the moment the primary schools in the North are all in the hands of Native Authorities, and it is a handicap to the expansion in education. I think the Federal Government should start from the bottom to develop education, otherwise it will not be possible to produce children who will be suitable for admission into the universities that are now being established. The Native Authorities are not financially sound, so Government should help them by building more primary schools in their areas so that children can have the opportunity of being adequately prepared for entry to the secondary schools and other higher educational institutions.

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

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Mr President, Sir, I do not intend to speak for a long time on this matter. All I would say is that I have to congratulate the Government on the foresight in reporting this very important issue. And I have to congratulate the Minister of Education and his team of experts on the merits of the Report. I do not like to praise anybody to his face, and, of course, the hon. the Minister of Education is not here. But for purposes of official record, I think it is worth mentioning here that this go-ahead Minister of Education, hon. Aja Nwachuku, has indeed succeeded very well in his Ministry and the Report we have here before us is a case in point. In fact, it is an educational monument, not only for the Federal territory, but for the country as a whole.

I have a few things to say about the merits of the Ashby Report. Now, before doing so, I have to place it on record too that the Commissioners themselves deserve the congratulations of this country. Of course, if you look through the membership of the Commission you will find that no one will be surprised that the Report has been so very well polished. It is indeed a document of experts.

In the first place, let me mention what I think is the greatest merit of the Report, and that is the fact that it has tried to fill the gap in our educational standards, a gap that had been created by the evil of regionalising education. You will see that most of the recommendations here make it imperative that the various Governments of the Federation will have to come together, and by coming together the

evils of regionalising education would appear to be wiped off. When education was regionalised, there were many people who shouted against it because they knew the evils attendant on that type of thing: educational standards would suffer, and examination and teaching standards would suffer. Now, the recommendations here before us seem to wipe off all these things.

Secondly, the Federal Government is going to give grants to some institutions established in the Regions. That is another opportunity for children from the various parts of the country to come together in these institutions. After all, Nigeria is Nigeria, no matter where one may be, and it is a good thing that somebody from the North can go over to the East, and somebody from the East can go over to the West, and so on. And in all these Federal Government grant-aided schools all over the Regions, the children of this country will have their education in any part of the country. That is an ideal thing.

Now, there is a point here which relates to the plight of the Nigerian teacher. The Nigerian teacher has been relegated to the background, there is no doubt about that. Because of the way he has been treated, he has been deprived of every right of existence. This Report has stressed the importance of giving the teaching profession every due consideration: everything will be done now to ameliorate the conditions under which the Nigerian teacher has been labouring.

Mr President, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief T. A. Odotola : Mr President, Sir, I think this is a very straightforward Motion, and I do not think we need say very much about it.

All I would like to do is to congratulate the Federal Government on taking this very bold step. The education of the people of Nigeria is the responsibility of all the Governments of Nigeria. But in the past Voluntary Agencies and some other bodies had been burdened with such responsibilities. Now that the Governments have taken upon themselves to bear their own burden, I think all we have to do is to congratulate them and to ask them to get on with the scheme as soon as possible and not to make it a paper scheme.

[CHIEF ODUTOLA]

People have talked about the plight of teachers. I think anybody who talks about the plight of teachers is quite right. All of us here were taught by teachers, and I hardly know of any teacher in this country who can compete with our lawyers, our doctors and most of our businessmen. If the Government can do anything to improve the position of teachers, it will be very good for the people of this country. Many people, as some Members have said, are good at teaching, but they would not like to undertake the job because of the poor salary attached to it.

I remember when I was a very young boy in a secondary school, the Principal of my school asked me whether I would like to teach; I told him I would not like to, and because of that it took him about six months before he could give me my testimonial. I knew what the salary was and I knew that if I went out into another field I would get a better salary than he was getting. The same thing is happening in the country to-day. Anything that the Government can do to improve the lot of teachers will not only help the teachers, but the country as a whole.

Mr President, Sir, the only appeal I would make is that this scheme should be made a practical one and not a paper scheme. I support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : Mr President, Sir, I think it would be an unpardonable crime if I, as an educationist of many years' standing did not make my humble contribution to this very important White Paper. (*Hear, hear*) I have studied the Ashby Report very carefully and the only conclusion I could come to was that it was the product of master brains. There are here and there certain flaws which one could find, but on the whole it is an excellent report, and the Government deserves our congratulations. I think the Members of the Commission too should have the gratitude of the country conveyed to them. They have done a fine piece of work. They have built a monument in the educational history of this country which should go a long way towards solving our educational problem.

But there is one thing, Sir, —something I have talked about before. When we are talking about the man-power needs of the country in education we must not overlook

the fact that all over the country to-day people who have educational qualifications but cannot find employment. I remember somebody who went to India and said that he saw those with M.A. Degrees selling newspapers in the streets. I hope such a thing will not happen in Nigeria, because at the rate that we produce graduates in this country I have my doubt whether we can find employment for all of them in the course of a few years. So, while we are thinking of producing these men with higher educational and academic qualifications, we must plan persistently to be able to give them good jobs, because after all what is the need of getting people educated when you do not give them suitable employment?

See what is happening at our primary school level to-day. Everywhere in the country you will find your men who left the primary schools and even secondary schools roaming about the streets without any employment. So, we must try from now on to make adequate provision for these people who will be turned out of our educational institutions to be suitably employed.

There is one thing about this Report which makes me very happy. I was going to criticise the Government for the non-provision in the current Estimates for one of those inter-Regional secondary schools about which we spoke so much last year, and which everybody, including the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance, agreed were necessary for strengthening the unity of this country. But in the Ashby Report, which the Government has accepted, provision has been made for higher educational institutions to be established in the Regions which will draw students from all the Regions of the country. This is a very good gesture and the Government should be congratulated for it.

As many speakers have pointed out, this White Paper on Educational Development is going to be a great monument in this country for the advance of our educational programme and I have nothing but praise for it.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : Mr President, Sir, I give full support to this Bill. The point is that if you look through the Report you will find that it is something worth praising. I have very few observations to make.

The first is that while we are thinking of establishing schools, we must have one thing in mind. These schools are going to be staffed by teachers but what kind of teachers are going to teach in these schools? We want to produce suitable teachers to teach in these schools; we want to raise the standard of living of these teachers; we want them to be respected; we want them to be capable of thinking.

Mr President, Sir, if you look round now you will find that Doctors were taught by teachers; if you look round you will find that all the Lawyers were taught by teachers; and when you look up to the teachers you will find that they are in a very pitiable position. A teacher that taught a doctor, to-day the doctor comes out and finds him as a normal Grade III Teacher of very, very long standing. What provision has been made as regards ameliorating this state of affairs? Teachers of normal grades—Grade II or Grade III—are the people who take the initial educational planning in Nigeria to-day. Unless we give very good attention to this, Sir, I am afraid it will not be very good. The purpose of this country to-day is not dependent on a Lawyer, it is not dependent on a Doctor, it is not dependent on Legislators mainly; everything is dependent on teachers. All are in the hands of teachers. I am speaking from experience.

If I wish to influence my area to-day I would simply go back. The other day, when we were talking about coming here for a short time, working in the Senate for a few days and going back, people thought that we were wasting our time and possibly that we were not worthy of the money we are getting. Exactly as I get back home I want to impress the people in my area; I want to make them understand what the Government is doing. I have visited the colleges, gave them appointments, and gave the teachers and pupils lectures. And you want to see the marvellous influence I have among them.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Congratulations! (Laughter).

Senator Chief Umoh: If you go over to the schools and speak to them you will see what effect that will have. If the teachers are well looked after everyting will turn out to

be very well. So, I think, in addition to this, teachers should not be left to themselves. There should be a kind of inter-Regional refresher course during the year so that teachers will be up and doing. We should try to see that we bring educational standards into a kind of uniformity. If the Government is giving scholarships, as it were in this case, the Government should not think, for example, that the Eastern Region is all right; that it has plenty of schools and plenty of graduates and so forth; or to look to the Western Region and think the same thing. But I am telling you that the educational standards in the whole Regions are not all the same, all along. It is not the same all over the country. There are certain areas that have never smelt, for example, the scholarship of the Federal Government.

I am sorry I have to make a particular reference to my own Province. There is no one yet that has got a Federal Government scholarship there, and I appeal to the Federal Government in this respect that the people from my area, especially the youths from my area who apply for Government scholarships should be given greater attention. First priority should be given to areas that have not been well brought up.

Leaving that aside we go further. When establishing, say, secondary schools in the Eastern Region, or giving consideration to existing secondary schools in the Eastern Region, I would like the Federal Government to pay attention to the most deserving regions in the way of greater need for higher education. I want that to be taken into account.

I think this Report is going to bring a lot of changes into Nigeria to-day and I only wish the Federal Government to co-operate with single-minded enthusiasm with the Regional Governments to see that everything is brought into uniformity as regards education.

And with these few remarks, Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do concur with the honourable the House of Representatives in their Resolution, That this House approves the Federal Government's proposals for educational development as set out in the White Paper on Educational Development, 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961).

NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled the National Provident Fund Bill as amended by the Lower House.

The concept of the establishment of a National Provident Fund was born three years ago with a view to introducing a scheme of general benefit to workers in Nigeria as soon as possible after achievement of our independence. Ample opportunity has been given over that period for Regional Governments, employers and workers to comment on the proposal and there has been thorough consultation with all these and other bodies interested.

Our only social security measures at present are the Workmen's Compensation Scheme; limited provision under the labour Code for sickness and maternity leave; pensions for public servants; and a small number of private employer Provident Funds and similar schemes.

Most of the workers have no provision for their old age. Even in the private schemes that purport to deal with this, they tend, naturally, to provide only for those workers who stay with the firm a long time and if a worker leaves the firm before he has served the qualifying period, he generally loses at least part of the benefits. There is therefore a need for some form of social security protection that will ultimately be extended to all workers and under which a worker will not lose his entitlement merely because he has left the service of a particular employer. In a national scheme, the rights will continue so that when the worker retires he will receive the cumulative amount due to him from all his employments and not just from the last one.

The Bill provides for the coverage of all workers except pensionable officers in the Public Service and similar categories of persons.

Contributions are to be made by both employers and workers of threepence for each complete five shillings of wages. The maximum wage on which the deduction is to be made is £40 per month. Interest will be added to members' accounts annually or at specified periods.

The main benefits to be provided are lump sums representing the amount of the worker's and his employer's contributions plus interest and are payable when the worker reaches the age of 55 or retires from work whichever is the later. There is also provision for payment to permanent invalids; persons emigrating from Nigeria; and to the survivors of a worker who dies leaving an amount in the Fund.

Provision is made for sickness benefit out of the worker's own contributions; but the Minister is given power to defer the introduction of sickness benefit until he is satisfied that there is an adequate system of medical certification. As there are schemes for paying some workers during sickness we should not pay money out of the Fund, if a person is already receiving payment. There are therefore provisions in the Bill designed to prevent duplicate payments.

The Fund is to be administered by a self-accounting Government department under the Minister of Labour, but as it will be administering public moneys, general financial control and management will be subject to the Minister of Finance under the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958. The accounts of the Fund will also be subject to the usual provisions relating to the audit of public accounts. There will be a small *Professional Investment Committee* of three persons to supervise investments; these will be an officer of the Central Bank, an officer of the Ministry of Finance, and the Director of the Fund. They must be available in Lagos to be called at short notice to consider purchase or sale of, or investment in, stocks that may become available from time to time. The Investment Committee is a purely professional body that will be concerned with making investments speedily as stock comes on the market and must be able to weigh up quickly the relative values of different investments.

The Minister of labour is to be advised on matters connected with the administration of the Fund by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of Governments, of employers (some of whom will represent Regional Governments as employers) and of workers.

Existing provident funds and similar schemes of employers may continue but may be adjusted to take account of the contributions to the National Provident Fund.

Now, a few words about the timing of the introduction of the Scheme. It would be courting disaster if we attempted to introduce the Scheme all at once and for everybody. The administration would almost certainly break down. We therefore contemplate introducing it a step at a time but the exact date we can start is dependent on many factors such as the acquisition of suitable buildings, the delivery of mechanical accounting machines, and last but by no means least, the recruitment and training of an adequate staff. There has been much preparation on this, but it will take time and the earliest date on which we can start is 1st October, 1961. Provided everything goes according to plan, I propose to take steps under the Act when it is passed to bring it into force on that date for the workers in the Public Sector.

The next step would be three months later to bring it into force for the workers of private employers with 400 or more workers. Three months later we should bring in employers of 10-399 workers. After that, we should need a period of experience and consolidation before extending it to the workers of employers with less than 10 workers. At this stage it would be premature to forecast how soon we could bring in employers of five or even employers of one.

The scheme is a major step in the social advancement of the country. It will be the first step on the road to social security for the workers and should enable them to feel that provision is really being made for the time when they are no longer able to work. In the meantime, the investment of the Funds as they accumulate should be one of the means by which further expansion of the economy can take place, thus providing even more opportunities of employment for the workers of Nigeria.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Senator Chief A. F. Beyioku : Mr President, Sir, as a matter of fact I have to welcome this Bill. It is one of the social Bills and social measures which I know the Government of this country has been trying to project, and

this Bill along with some other Bills of this nature should aim principally at guaranteeing a reasonable standard of living at old age, guaranteeing that lack of money does not aggravate illness during the period of illness, and guaranteeing that loss of work does not turn an individual into some sort of national liability. The Bill in its essence has tried to answer some of these requirements but, all the same, Sir, a Bill of this nature cannot be expected to be perfect at the beginning.

I would like to start with the Advisory Committee. According to this Bill, the Advisory Committee will be composed of five representatives from the Federal and Regional Governments, three representatives of the Regional Governments as employers, two representatives of employers and five others to represent the workers. So that, Sir, on the Advisory Committee we shall have *ipso facto* about ten people representing employers and only five representing the workers' organisations. It could be argued that the five representatives of the Federal Government are there also as representatives of employers and the other three are representing the interest of the Regional Governments; but after all, it is an admitted fact that their main interest will be to protect the interests of the Governments as employers so that should there be any division or conflict of opinion, necessarily the employers will have it their own way.

In this connection, I will suggest that either the number of the Regional, Federal and the employer representatives be reduced or the number of workers' representatives on the Advisory Committee be increased.

I would like to say that I like the definition given to casual workers as people who normally have been working for a period of less than three months. I only want to take this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Minister of Labour and to the Federal Government for that matter to ensure that some unscrupulous employers do not take advantage of this to continue to terminate workers' appointments. We know what we experience from these employers. They will say that a man is going to be employed for three months but when the man shall have been employed for two months his appointment will be terminated, and then what is going to happen?

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Now, Sir, fourteen days do not constitute a breach. Then, after a month this employer will turn round and say "All right, John, I will consider you; you had better come along". As a result, this man will never have a continuous service for three months. Even some public corporations do it; it is not unlikely that you find some government departments doing it. I am, therefore, appealing to the Government to see to it that all employers keep to the spirit of this Bill in its general application.

It is observed that employers with less than ten employees will not be affected immediately by this Bill. I know that they will really present a problem but, all the same, in that category we have many Asian and African employers and, Sir, if there is any one set of employers in this country who care less about the welfare measures and social securities of their employees it is the Asian employers and, with apology, I say that there are some Nigerian employers who just think of their pockets and their pockets alone. I feel in this direction that right from the word 'go' some consideration should be given to this aspect of the working class with a view to ensuring that workers engaged by Asians, Syrians and Nigerian employers are actually covered. I know that there are some lawyers who employ some clerks and all they do is to make these clerks carry their brief cases to court and so on without caring much about their pay.

Another aspect is about the Investment Committee. This Committee, according to the Federal Minister of Labour, is water-tight and there is nothing in this Bill to connect the Investment Committee with the Advisory Council. It is supposed to be an independent committee but I feel, Sir, that to be able to have a general fair working operational interpretation of the Bill there should be a sort of liaison between the Advisory Council and the Investment Committee. In this connection I wish to suggest that the Chairman of the Advisory Council should be a member of the Investment Committee. Actually he must know what is going on and his advice to the Investment Committee will be very useful. I feel that perhaps the hon. Minister of Labour would like to take notice of that.

I would also like to suggest that, if it is possible, as we have some thousands of Nigerians who go to Fernando Po and some other

places—I know this is something of an international problem—their interest and their future should be our concern. I know that at Fernando Po there is what we call 'the deferred payment', that is, a certain percentage of the worker's salary is deferred for a period of time, but if agreement could be reached with the Spanish Government or other governments recruiting our labour attempts should be made to introduce similar Bills or to pay in one way or the other through our Embassy to this fund so that we may be quite sure that we are taking sufficient security measures for our people. I think that would be a very good idea.

I find that this Bill is silent about an employment benefit. There is nothing in this Bill to provide that a man who loses his job through no fault of his should be covered or entitled to some benefit. This is necessary because if a man loses his job through no fault of his—and we know in this country how very hard it is for the unemployed to get jobs and perhaps such a man has a family to maintain—something should be done to help him. But the Minister in introducing this Bill says that we may have to defer for some time the application of the sickness benefit. One important point is that anything that relates to the general welfare of the workers of this country is dearly attended to and that by the time the man comes to enjoy the benefit, if it is benefit at all, it ceases to be a benefit.

For instance, a man who retires from the Public Service and is entitled to pension and gratuity will have to stay at home in some cases for as many as ten months or even a year without any hope of getting either his gratuity or his pension. So Sir, if we are introducing this Bill with a view to ameliorating our inconveniences I think the position I have earlier referred to should be corrected. A man who is entitled to certain benefits under this Bill is perhaps sick. That is the time when he really needs the money, not when he is well. But the man applies in writing saying, "I am sick and here is my doctor's certificate so please give me my entitlements". What happens? The paper goes from clerk to clerk and from table to table and by the time the assistance is ready the man is in the grave.

I feel this situation should not be allowed to find its way into the operation of this scheme and therefore in advising the people who will

have to operate this Bill either as advisers to the Minister or as directors, because provision is made for a director and a deputy director, I think they should make sure that the people will be acquainted with the Advisory Committee and that they will be those who have the interest of the working class at heart and not people who will simply take the post as a job and then parade themselves as a director of this or that fund. I do not think that such people will help the operation of this fund. I do not think that will help the operation of this Fund.

The other point I want to refer to is that I find that the crew of any ship are excluded from the operation of this Fund. That may be good in one way but I still have to be convinced why this should be necessary. If there is, let us say, a man who runs a shipping trade and he has no Pension Scheme for his employees, he has no superannuation scheme for them and he has under him not less than forty or fifty or sixty people, should those people simply because they are the crew of a ship be deprived of any form of social security? I still have to be convinced about that, and then those of us who are around Lagos know very well that one of the most paying enterprises in this country to-day is that *Gbadigbadi* business at Elegbata where people hire out-board engines and then instal them in native canoes. A man may have about six or twelve and he has a crew of three or four on each, that is, he is employing about eighteen or twenty-four people. To start with the wages are very poor and these people continue to suffer. I still have to be convinced as to the necessity for the exclusion of these people or whether the Minister has in mind the introduction of any special conditions for that.

The next point I feel I should refer to is the Inspectors. This is a free and independent Nigeria and in all lines of our lives we want people who are really competent. The Department of Labour has done a lot and those of us who are directly connected with the operation of that Department, I would say, have been quite satisfied with what they have been able to do. But, if this Bill will be left with the Ministry of Labour to operate, I would suggest that there should be a progress scheme right from now to ensure that the Inspectors to be connected with the operation of this Bill will

be people who have a thorough and grounding training on the job, not just people who are posted there from one table—'you had better go there as Inspector'. At the moment in the Factories Ordinance as it is operating, there is still room for improvement as far as Inspectors are concerned and I would not just like this Fund which has to do with our old age to be affected as the Factories Ordinance is being affected now.

The next point on this Bill is the part relating to the employers who at the moment have some sort of scheme. When I read through the original report on which this Bill is based and then read through several ILO Reports on Social Securities, I find it very difficult to be able to make up my mind as to whether there should not be a sort of National Scheme. If these employers are running a Pension Scheme in the way that it is accepted and the Government accepts it as a Pension Scheme, something of the type we have in the Government—Non-contributory Pension Scheme—I would say it is quite all right, Sir. But if they are running a Contributory Pension Scheme we do not want them to be sub-agents to this Scheme. If you allow them to say—"Well, you had better carry on with your Non-Contributory Scheme and we will carry on with our own Scheme"—I am not quite satisfied that the objective will be fulfilled. I am not quite satisfied, Sir.

I do not know what the Minister of Labour has to say about this but, in my opinion, I should have thought that where we have a Non-Contributory Pension Scheme, this Scheme should be able to absorb all Non-Contributory Pension Schemes so that we can have a National Pension Scheme, otherwise the Minister of Labour should be able to impress upon all employers of Labour to introduce a Non-Contributory Pension Scheme. The Minister of Labour should be able to advise all big employers of labour, Africans, Europeans, the Ports Authority and others to introduce Non-Contributory ones and if the schemes are non-contributory then the employers could operate them by themselves, but if they are contributory tell them to come to the National Scheme and, if they come to the National Scheme, there will be national supervision, there will be no question of somebody cheating the other one, and under

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the national supervision they will be open to inspection by the Inspectors who will be appointed. Then the Advisory Council will be able to keep a close eye on the operation of that Scheme.

The last point I would like to speak upon is that I feel that in the case of sickness a man's entitlement would not be more than 3s-6d a day. In my view this rate of 3s-6d per day has been fixed so arbitrarily and I just do not know how it is related. I think the Minister will have to tell us something about that. I should think the question calls for full details; the rate a man will be entitled to I agree may be fluctuating or may be at some graduating scale but to place the maximum at 3s-6d, I will have to be convinced that that is what it should be.

By and large, Sir, the Scheme is welcomed because we must start from somewhere and, in my opinion, this is the beginning of social measures in this country with a view to promoting or creating in this country or making of this country a welfare state in the way we can understand it in a democratic world.

That being so, Sir, with the few observations I have made, I have the greatest pleasure to support the Bill.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : Mr President, Sir, I am happy to support this Bill because it is a social security measure which will go a long way in solving the problem of non-pensionable workers. Sir, the Bill as I understand it, provides for the establishment of a Fund through which the non-pensionable workers and the employers would contribute and which will provide such workers with benefits for their old age. This is very laudable, Sir, and I praise the hon. Minister of Labour for introducing this Bill.

I have only one more remark to make and that is that this Scheme should provide social security for all classes of non-pensionable workers. What I mean is that no group of non-pensionable workers should be left out of this Scheme.

Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

The Minister of Labour : I thank hon. Members of the Senate for the healthy contribution they have made to this debate. It is particularly gratifying to note that the Gentlemen of the Upper House have shown very keen

interest in the affairs and welfare of the workers generally in this country. I assure the hon. Gentleman who made mention of Fernando Po that he has made a very good point and I am assuring this House that we will look into it.

As regards the hon. Member who spoke about people who have contributed to the existing Schemes, I would like to draw his attention to this, that if he had read the Bill properly, he would find that the accounts will be taken on by the new Provident Fund Scheme. There will only be the question of adjustment. It is a bit technical and I can assure him that the old Schemes will not have priority over the current Scheme that we are running now.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and pursuant to the Order of the Senate yesterday, immediately read the third time and passed.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed ; 3.02 p.m.

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for an increase in the rate of certain pensions and for other purposes connected therewith be read a second time. This is not, I think, a controversial Bill. Its purpose is simply to make statutory provision for increases in public officers' pensions which were granted before the 1st of September, 1959 on the same lines as the Mbanefo salary increases which took effect from the same day.

Under the law as it stands at present, all pensions granted before the 1st of September, 1959, are related to the lower scales of salary which were in force before that day, while the pensions subsequently granted are based on the new salary rates and are therefore considerably higher. The present Bill will remove that anomaly by increasing the older pensions by percentages which correspond to those used in the Mbanefo salary revision.

There is, of course, no legal obligation on the Government to increase pensions already in payment when public officer's salaries were revised, but it has always been accepted by the

Federal Government that there is a strong moral obligation to assist pensioners in the same way as serving officers to meet the rising cost of living.

The recommendations embraced in this Bill were produced by an inter-Governmental Committee of officials who were appointed by the Federal Government for the purpose. They took account of the retiring salaries of each of the different classes of officers concerned and recommended an increase in the pensions awarded to them by 12½ per cent in the case of the higher salaries and 15 per cent in the case of lower salaries and annual allowances. These are the same percentages which were applied to the salaries of serving officers by the Mbanefo Commission. The recommendations of this Committee were considered by all the Governments of the Federation and in the National Council on Establishments, and were unanimously approved.

In order to avoid undue hardship on the pensioners, the Federal Government has already put the increase into payment on an *ex gratia* basis, and the purpose of the present Bill is simply to give statutory effect to the new rate of pensions. I am confident, Sir, that this Bill will receive the wholehearted support of the Senate as a necessary measure of relief to those who have served the Government faithfully and well in the past years. I have pleasure in moving its second reading.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, this is a very welcome Bill and I should think it does not need any long debate. The Government is a government of the people, and I would be surprised if the Government had not taken any such measure. We congratulate those who are responsible for it. After all we are being convinced from day to day that this Government has the welfare of its employees at heart and this is one evidence of it. I think everybody here should welcome this Bill and support it. I support it myself without any reservation.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi: Mr President, Sir, according to the last speaker, this is a very welcome Bill. The only remark I would like to make is that something must be done for

pensioners who are not Government pensioners, because every person in Nigeria is a citizen of Nigeria. When I say this I have in mind pensioners who have worked under firms and other establishments that are not Government. I support the Bill.

Senator H. N. Udoh: Mr President, Sir, I think if anybody is happy over this Bill I am one of them. I am one of those people who have fought through thick and thin for this measure. Someone said sometime this morning that the Pension Department is getting alive to its responsibilities and this is one instance of it. When those who had suffered in those hard days are privileged to live up to the present day, I think it will be very good if the Government will support them so that they will live a little bit longer. I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

Senator P. C. Ndu: Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I would like to appeal to the Government to see if there is any possibility of reducing the gap between the low wage earners and the senior service people of this country as they all buy from the same market.

I feel that this should be considered for if it is done, then the average worker in this country will be able to save enough money for his old age.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu: Mr President, Sir, I am sorry to put this as a question. I do not know if this proposal is made to include the workers or members of the local government councils—I mean the employees of the local councils. I say this because, according to the last speaker, both sets of workers buy from the same market or rather from the same source.

Therefore, if there is no provision for their inclusion I suggest that the Federal Government should have them in mind when future proposals are being considered. It is important that they should be included in any proposal or recommendation so that they may be encouraged to do their work quite satisfactorily. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I would like to thank the hon. Senator for the remarks he has made but, unfortunately, local government employees are not employees of the Federal Government

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and, as a result, the Federal Government cannot take steps to increase their pensions. No doubt, Senators will bring this matter before their own local councils when they go back to their areas.

Having said that, Sir, I now beg to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the Order of the Senate (25th April), immediately read the third time and passed.

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the law as to citizenship and to make further provision for registration as citizens of Nigeria be read for a second time.

Hon. Senators will see from this Bill that its purpose is to allow persons entitled thereto to claim citizenship by registration if the circumstances under which they were born or married come within the scope of this Bill. Similar provisions to those of this Bill exist in all civilized countries. Basically, we recognize that every citizen born under the Nigerian flag is entitled to Nigerian citizenship. However, there is a large number of citizens born in Nigeria before independence who, had they been in an independent Nigeria, would have been citizens. It is to give the same right to such persons as they would have had, if Nigeria had been independent, that this Bill is introduced. Similarly, alien women who marry Nigerians before independence are to be given the right of registration as citizens and the same thing applies to the widows of such Nigerians.

This is the inevitable result of our nationhood and as such I know that the Bill will have the support of hon. Senators. Members may feel concerned about the range of persons entitled to sponsor anyone under Section 22. I am sure that as time goes on Government will wish to extend this range of persons. I would like to point out that at present it is considered that those set out in Section 22 will suffice.

There is also a wise provision for the withdrawal of citizenship from a person who may have dual nationality and who by his own act takes advantages that are only extended to the citizens of that nationality.

The House will agree that this Bill is the last bit of the major tidying up that has to be done in order to get our laws regarding acquisition and loss of nationality in line with those of other civilized countries and as such I commend it to the House and beg to move.

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 10 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

ELECTORAL (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour: Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That the Electoral (Transitional Provisions) Bill be now read a second time.

When this Bill was introduced in the Lower House the Minister responsible moved an Amendment in the Committee Stage to give it retrospective effect from the 31st of March, 1961. On the whole Government does not like retrospective legislation but in this case it was necessary as the Senate would not be meeting until the 25th of April, and the Bill was required to give validity to the Eastern Region registration of voters which was due to start on the 24th.

In the Eastern Region most of the registration work is done by school teachers and any delay in registration would have resulted in the struggle of teachers on their own and the hold up of the work.

The Bill is simple, and has a life of two years but before that time I hope to introduce a new Bill which will make provisions for future elections. In the main, this Bill reflects the new status of Nigeria as a nation and substitutes as one of the qualifications of an elector the term 'citizen of Nigeria' for 'British subject' or 'British protected person'.

This Bill is in no way controversial and therefore I do not wish to belabour any point but to commend it to the Senate. Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the High Court of Lagos Ordinance, Chapter 80, be read a second time.

Sir, the volume of work handled in the courts has increased considerably in the last few months and it has been found necessary to amend this Ordinance to reflect the increase. The aim of the Bill is to increase the number of Judges from six to eight and I think the Bill is self-explanatory.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled 'Royal Style and Titles Bill' be read a second time.

Before Independence the formula adopted by the Queen with reference to her Commonwealth and other territories read as follows : "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her other realms and territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith". Since Nigeria attained independence on the 1st of October, it has become inappropriate that this particular formula should continue to apply to Nigeria and we have accordingly suggested a new formula as you will find in the text of the Bill. The new formula is in the Schedule and will read simply as follows : "Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Nigeria and all Her other realms and territories, Head of the Commonwealth". Sir I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAMES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill for an Act to make new provision for the registration of firms and persons carrying on business under business names and for properties connected therewith. The purpose of this Bill, Sir, is to get the public and persons who trade or are otherwise engaged in business under names which are not their own. The existing Ordinance was enacted some 35 years ago and was based on legislation then current in the United Kingdom. Its shortcomings have been apparent for some years and have been the subject of much correspondence with Regional Governments whom it was necessary to consult as the registration of business names is on the Concurrent List. The Regional Governments have expressed their agreement for the general principles of the Bill.

The existing Ordinance was also severely criticised in the Report of the Committee on aid to African Businessmen on the ground that it failed to give sufficient protection to the public. The Report referred in particular to the registration of identical and similar names, to the registration of business names by minors and to the registration of high-sounding names which stand to create the impression, particularly in the minds of foreign exporters that the firms are run by men of experience and worth. The Bill seeks to remedy these defects in our legislation.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 20 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

SHERIFFS AND CIVIL PROCESS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Mr President, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill for an Act to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Ordinance.

Under the existing law the Inspector-General of Police is the Sheriff for the whole of Nigeria and under him are police officers who are regarded as the bailiffs. With the increasing complexity of our law and of the cases handled in the courts, we have thought it desirable that as many of the prosecutions which often involve complex issues of law as possible should be handled in the future by trained Law Officers of the Crown, to effect this, we have proposed this Bill for two purposes: the first is to create the office of Deputy Sheriff who shall be an officer under the supervision of the High Court, thus removing the question of civil processes from the jurisdiction of the Inspector-General of Police.

The second change in the Bill is to create a new scale of salaries for bailiffs and thereby to require person of higher qualifications to undertake the work of bailiffs and those of you who have bailiffs in the courts will agree with me that these reforms are necessary and desired.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

Sitting suspended : 3.25 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.51 p.m.

PORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That an Act to amend the Ports Ordinance be now read the second time.

Last November when I was speaking in this House I said that the Chairman of the Ports Authority had assured me of his willingness and readiness to relinquish the post of his

Chairmanship of the Authority whenever he was called upon to do so, and I also mentioned on that occasion when I was moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Nigerian Railway Corporation Ordinance that I was contemplating bringing a similar Bill to amend the Ports Ordinance. Now, Sir, I am glad that I have come here to-day to redeem the promise which I made to the Senate on that occasion, and the main object of this short Bill is to provide for the appointment of a Chairman and to separate the office of Chairman from that of General Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority.

When this Bill is passed into law, Sir, I shall then be empowered to appoint a Chairman as distinct from the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, and the next Chairman, as I have already promised to this House, will be a Nigerian. (*Applause.*)

The Bill, Sir, as I said is short and simple, and there is hardly any need for me to go into details in dealing with it, but I think I ought really to say one or two words about some of the provisions.

The first provision with which I would like to deal concerns the Chairmanship of the Authority and the appointment of a General Manager. This will be found in Clause 3 (a) of the Bill. This new Clause introduces a new Section 21A which provides for the appointment of General Manager of the Authority who will be the Authority's Chief Executive Officer. Sub-section 2 of this new Section, that is 21A, provides that the General Manager shall be appointed by the Authority with the prior approval of the Minister. And Subsections 3 and 4 stipulate the powers and functions which the Authority shall delegate to the General Manager. This has been found necessary so that the General Manager and the rest of the staff can conduct the day to day affairs of the Authority without any hindrance.

Subsection 5 of this same Section provides that the General Manager shall not be a Member of the Authority but shall have the right to be present at all or any meetings of the Authority, except when any matter involving him personally is being discussed, and shall be furnished with copies of all notices, agenda and minutes of all meetings of the Authority. There is nothing new in this provision. This follows the general pattern of legislation of our various statutory bodies.

There is one other point, Mr President, which the Bill provides for, and that is to say, that we have taken this opportunity to bring in part of the provisions of the Piers Ordinance, and this Bill seeks to amend the Ordinance to enable the Ports Authority to be the Piers Licensing Authority within a port or approaches to a port. It is considered logical and desirable that the control of piers within port limits and approaches to them should be the responsibility of the Ports Authority. This responsibility will also embrace the issuing and cancellation of licences when necessary. This change in procedure will have great effects and will be in the interest of both the Authority and the users of the ports in Nigeria.

Now, there is one other point which I think I ought to mention, that is, the new Section 42F. This section empowers the Authority to make regulations relating to piers, and section 42G provides that any licence granted under the provisions of the Piers Ordinance in respect of any pier immediately before the coming into operation of the proposed new Act shall be deemed for all purposes to have been granted under the provisions of this Part. This seeks to invalidate all the existing licences that have already been granted, and it follows the usual pattern.

Now, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to go into any further details about the provisions except perhaps to make a short reference to the Schedule to this new Bill. The Amendment under (a) and (b) of the Schedule has the effect of granting a right to the Authority to enter upon any land relating to buoys and moorings. At the present the Ports Authority has the right and power to enter into any land and inspect or erect beacons only. This power is now being enlarged to include buoys and moorings as well as beacons.

The Amendment under (c) of the Schedule is designed to make it clear that the Chairman referred to in the Section is not the Chairman of the Authority but the Chairman of the Pilotage Board. There is a Pilotage Board which advises on the question of pilotage and other matters relating to navigation, and this has a Chairman. It is this Chairman that is referred to here and not the Chairman of the Authority.

The Amendment under (d) is designed to make it quite clear to whom the notice of

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

intentions to sue the Authority must be addressed, and that makes a little clearer that provision of the Ordinance.

I have to say, Mr President, this Bill is simple and short and does not call for much comment from me but I am quite sure that the provisions, especially those relating to the appointment of a Chairman as distinct from Chief Executive and General Manager, will be very welcome to the House. On the whole, the Bill is not contentious and I believe will receive full support of the House.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.
(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

PIERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr President, Sir, following the Bill which this House has just passed, a new Bill becomes necessary and I rise to move, That the Bill for an Act to amend the Piers Ordinance be now read a second time.

As Members would remember, the Bill which has just been passed has proposed certain amendments to the Piers Ordinance and in order to tidy up the Piers Ordinance, it is necessary to bring this amending Bill, and the object of this Bill is to make it quite clear that the Piers Ordinance does not apply any longer to Piers which are within the responsibility of the Ports Authority, that is to say Piers which are situated in the Ports or approaches to the Ports. This provision has already been made in the new amendment to the Ports Ordinance and it is therefore necessary, Sir, to effect similar amendment in the Piers Ordinance so that there can be no conflict between the two

Ordinances. This is, in short, the object of this Bill and the main provision of it is to be found in Clause 2 of the Bill. There is no need for any further comment on this.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile): Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.
(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS AND REMAND CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move, That the Bill entitled Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres (Amendment) Bill, 1961, be read a second time. This Bill has been introduced in order to allay the concern expressed by a certain Region that the Borstal Institutions Bill passed last year gave powers to the Minister to declare any place in Nigeria, whether or not the property of the Federal Government, to be Borstal Institution or Remand Centre. The Federal Government respects the rights of the Regions and brought this amendment restricting the places that the Minister may declare to be Borstal to land which has been set aside or acquired for the public purposes of the Federation. This Bill will set the minds of the Regional Governments at rest and as such I commend it and beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL: ADJOURNED
DEBATE ON QUESTION (25TH APRIL), THAT
THE BILL BE NOW READ A SECOND TIME

Question again proposed.

Senator N. Orizu: Mr President, Sir, we have a very little time and we have to speed up whatever we have on the Budget Speech.

The first thing I have to mention is that the last time we were here I spoke under the head 'Prime Minister' and I said that the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee should be formed. This country has entered into foreign relations, and there is no particular way in which Government can know public opinion or the way of having a connection with the Legislature in terms of foreign affairs, and I think that most of the Federal Governments or most of the Governments where you have a Senate, you only have a Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate. There was no provision made in the Budget for that.

This is the newest House of Parliament we have in the whole country. We have had the House of Chiefs in the North for a long time, so in the West and even in the East; we have had the House of Representatives for a very long time now, but there was no House of Senate in the country and I think the Senators should be privileged to travel to places like the U.S.A., Canada, India, Australia and other countries and have an idea of what their representatives have. There is no provision for that.

Last time, I promised that I was going to say something about the Police and here I shall speak about it and I shall suspend everything else that I wanted to say here to-night. It is true that the nigerianisation of the lower segment of the Police has progressed considerably, but this cannot be said of the super-scale posts, for example, the Inspector-General down to the Senior Superintendent. The position is, however, to-day, as follows: there are five Commissioners of Police and all are expatriates; there are seven Deputy Commissioners of Police and only one Nigerian, Mr L. O. Edet, has been appointed to the post; there are 18 Assistant Commissioners of Police of which only four are Nigerians, excluding one

supernumerary Assistant Commissioner post held by Mr C. O. Chude; there are 36 Senior Superintendents of Police and of these only two are Nigerians—Messrs J. Okoli and C. Nnodi; there are only five supernumerary posts held by Nigerians in addition to these deputy posts.

From the above figures, one will see that the usual flimsy excuse that there are no qualified Nigerians to fill most of these vacancies will only be accepted on the part of Nigerian politicians. It is necessary to find out how many of these people are justified as specialists in a country where people claim to be independent. Where every other section of the service of this country has been nigerianised, why are we afraid to nigerianise in the Police? Five Commissioners all expatriates; seven Deputy Commissioners all expatriates except one; 18 Assistant Commissioners all expatriates except four. From these figures, it will be realised that we have a great deal to do to nigerianise the Police.

I think that it is the function of the Senate to emphasize this fact because even the Security Officers in the Office of the Prime Minister, the whole offices, at least the high offices, are manned by expatriates. It is necessary for me to mention this not because I am criticising the Government, but because I think that probably Government is not aware of our awareness of this anomaly. It is a very serious question; it is a very, very serious question and, if you think we do not know, we know; and I am afraid something has to be done about it before we give it another shade of interpretation. As I said earlier on, I am not prepared to waste time here.

Another thing I want to mention is the Police Council. This is an important problem. There are excuses being given because I looked into this matter very well. The reason why we do not have Nigerians to take these posts is that Nigerian Policemen who are supposed to be in the upper segment are old, they are too old! If they are too old, what happens to the young ones? If the young ones are too young, what happens to their abilities then? I feel that these expatriates take advantage of everything. They have the advantage to be promoted to supersede the Nigerians who had long been in the Police Force. In our fight for independence, these policemen joined us and some thousands of them were killed

[DR ORIZU]

during riots of some kind; and really they have done a lot in this battle that they ought to share in the benefits.

I am not saying this to protect the Police but some of us have ideas of some of the atrocities committed in the name of the law. I am talking of Nigeria as Nigeria in her independent status. Nobody will expect in this country, in our own country, the whole Police Force to be filled by the expatriates. The Police is the security section of this country and I emphasise it again. I do not want to go into it at length; I wrote a lot about it; therefore, I am cutting the whole matter short, but we should look into this vital matter. We do riot like it.

I beg to support.

Senator L. C. Daldry: Mr President, Sir, this is an occasion when we not only have forecasts of the coming year, but we also have the final figures for the previous year. I am not going to spend time on the results of last year, but merely congratulate the Government.

The upshot of last year's Budget is that about £6½ Million Budget surplus plus more than £10 Million special revenue will all be transferred to the development fund. From the budgetary point of view, 1960-61 was a highly successful year and the Government and the Minister must be congratulated.

Turning to 1961-1962, the forth-coming year, we see from page 2 of the Memorandum on the Recurrent Estimates that, ignoring special revenues and Regional Allocations, the Minister plans to obtain the same surplus as the revised Estimates show last year that is £6½ Million and, at the same time, he plans to spend nearly £5 million more than last year. This obviously is only possible if £5 million more in revenue is achieved.

If we examine the revenue heads, comparing the revised Estimates for last year with the Estimates for the coming year, it shows very roughly that the Minister is expecting £8½ million more from Customs and Excise and Mining, but about £3½ million less will be obtained from other revenues. The difference between these two figures is £5 million and that is roughly the increase which the Minister plans to spend. We may say then from this brief analysis that the success of the Budget depends on two things: obtaining an additional

£8½ million from Customs and Excise and Mining and keeping expenditure down to £52½ million. Taking the second question first, it is unlikely that expenditure can be kept down from £52½ million; there must be Supplementary Budgets. In addition, the Minister had probably done a tremendous amount of pruning. I should not be surprised if he is about as unpopular with his colleagues as he is with the single girls in Lagos over the tax measures. (*Laughter*).

So, Sir, we come back to the necessity of obtaining £8½ million additional this year from Customs and Excise and Mining. The increase under the heading of Mining from the summary will be £4½ million. I am not qualified to say whether this is likely to be achieved or not, but let us assume that it will be. We are then left with the necessity to raise £4 million additional this year from Customs and Excise and if we examine page 15 of the Draft Estimate, it is clear that this is to come from general import revenue, that is to say from import duty. That is, to my mind, the core of the whole Budget—the necessity to raise an additional £4 million from import duty.

Sir, year after year, we are relying on obtaining more revenue from imports and year after year we are succeeding. How long can we continue? Not indefinitely, because we are now running into balance of payments difficulties.

Nigeria has her own national currency, and with that national currency we can buy anything inside Nigeria. But our imports come from outside Nigeria, and to pay for those we must obtain foreign currency. Where are we to find that foreign currency? Only from one source—from our exports.

It is an over-simplification, but it is basically true to say that we can only pay for our imports by exporting an equivalent amount or else running down our reserves. And that is exactly what we have done this year: we have not had sufficient exports to balance our imports and, therefore, we have had to draw on the nation's reserves, and the Minister has told us that we have done that this year to the tune of £36 million.

I have tried to make this point because every developing country like Nigeria goes through these same difficulties of an adverse balance of

trade. And there is, in my opinion, no need for alarm provided the adverse balance is mainly caused by the import of capital goods, plant and machinery, and so on, which will enable us in time to increase our exports again and thus bring the balance of trade into proper line.

Now we have been spending on capital imports for some years since this adverse balance swung over to the wrong side, but in 1960 we have had a note of warning: the Minister has told us that imports of consumer goods, not trade goods, have been rising by at least £24 million, and he calls it "almost a spending spree". Nigeria cannot afford to continue like this indefinitely because, if she does, in time the nation's reserves will be exhausted. And here is the dilemma of the Government—how to obtain more revenue from imports and yet at the same time damp imports down.

In December last year, the Minister did both these things. He increased tax on imports with the idea of both damping them down and raising additional revenue. But, Sir, there is a limit to what can be done that way. If the Government continue to raise import duties too high, there will come a time when imports will fall to such an extent that we run into what is called the law of diminishing returns, and instead of getting more revenue, we should get less. Also, if import duties are raised too high on imports which it is essential to have, then there will be cries all over the country for wage increases, and if we have wage increases, then we should probably have cost increases and so we may run into wages-costs spiral of inflation.

The main domestic policy of any Nigerian Government must be to raise the standard of living of the people. And in this country, as matters stand at present, this really means that imports must continue to rise. Standards of living cannot continue to rise unless imports rise, because as things are now, our standard of living can only be increased by more imports. And this is the main economic problem in Nigeria now—how to raise the living standards without allowing imports to become too high.

The problem is a very real and urgent one, but there is no need to panic about it. It is vital to consider it and deal with it firmly, and

not to rush into short-term solutions such as, for instance, heavy income tax, which would only reduce the standards of living—and that is just exactly what the Minister has not done, and he is to be congratulated for that.

I believe that there are two essential ways to deal with this problem on a long-term basis. The first one is to manufacture more goods here in Nigeria for use here, and the second solution, I think, is to attack the problem from the other end—instead of emphasising that imports must not rise, we should emphasise that exports must rise. In other words, we must try to export more. We can only manufacture more goods here and do things to increase our exports if we establish here new trades and industries. And I think that these things cannot be done with anything like the speed required unless we have a good deal of investment in his country from abroad. And that is why I was so glad to note in the Minister's speech his tremendous emphasis on the need for investment from abroad and the need to create a favourable climate for investment here.

But, Sir, while I feel that investment from abroad is vital, I also feel that it is equally vital that there should be Nigerian participation in that investment. Governments of the Federation are unlikely to have the funds available to set up new industries here, and therefore the programmes of new investment, to a large extent, must be drawn from abroad. We want Nigerians to share in all those things, and the only way that they can share is by buying shares in the new companies established here. You cannot buy shares without money, and that is why the Minister has emphasised so strongly the need to save.

I believe that the Government is tackling this balance of payments problem in the right way by its emphasis on a favourable climate for investment and its emphasis on savings and mobilising internal resources.

Recently, there was a loan issue—a Government loan of £10 million—and it has been fully subscribed, which is very satisfactory. But there are certain aspects about that which we ought to note. From the Minister's speech to the Lower House, we see that of the £10 million it appears that roughly £4 million has been taken up by the Central Bank and £5½ million was subscribed by the Marketing

[SENATOR DALDREY]

Boards, the Banks, the Provident Funds and other institutional investors. Only about £300,000 was subscribed by the general public—and this includes the Insurance Companies and the Co-operatives. £300,000 is not very much, and clearly the Government must educate the public to their duty because it does seem to me that it must be regarded as a patriotic duty to invest in Government stocks, and perhaps the issue of national saving certificates will help in this connection.

To return for a moment to the question of stimulating exports, I was very pleased to see the emphasis placed by both the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House on agriculture. In the general cry for industrialisation we must not forget that in this machine age industry very often does not provide very much employment for people. I have always felt that we must not forget agriculture here, and I have always felt that there is large scope for improved farming arrangements for crops in this country.

I have tried to analyse some of the difficulties, but meanwhile I would like to say that the Budget for 1961-62 which the Minister has presented is a sensible and carefully compiled Budget so as not to upset the economy or to increase the present difficulties. In particular, I congratulate the Government for their continuing restraint on the question of income taxation. To increase income tax very much at present is the one sure way of causing labour difficulties and inflation. The re-distribution of tax which the Minister has brought in this year seems to me to be a fair one and no one has any real cause to complain, except perhaps those single girls who are now not as fond of the Minister as they were! Their solution is comparatively simple—they only have to marry!

Now, Sir, I am not going to waste any time on the Capital Budget, although if we had more time I would have liked to say something about it. All I want to say in conclusion in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill is to emphasise what I regard as the two most important points made by the Minister in his Budget Speech. They are the necessity to build up here a favourable climate for investment and the emphasis which he placed on saving.

Once again, Sir, the Minister has presented to this country what I regard as a first-class Budget. There is no need, in my view, for Nigeria to feel daunted by her economic and financial difficulties. I am quite sure she will surmount them. (*Applause*).

Senator Abubakar Garba : Mr President, Sir, I rise to congratulate our *Chancellor of the Exchequer* in the person of Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh for the able way he presented his Budget Speech to this hon. House. He has undoubtedly shown before and after independence that he is managing the economic and financial affairs of this great nation skillfully.

Education has rightly been called the key to a developing Nigeria. The pace of our future economic, social and industrial developments will of necessity be directed by our educational expansions. Therefore, the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments should try to implement the Ashby Commission Report without any delay. We know that the Government has accepted the Report in principle and has already produced a White Paper. It is not its acceptance that we are after now, but its immediate implementation, though the Report is massive and expensive. I would also suggest that the Federal Government should give grant assistance to any Region which is financially unable to carry out its bold education programme.

To come nearer home, I am particularly referring to the North with a population which is more than double that of the South but has one child at school as compared to ten in the South. The gap is very wide indeed.

It is an admitted fact that we should Nigerianise the key posts in our Civil Service, but we have to realise that it is *now* that we need more expatriates to help us carry out our ambitious development programmes. We need them at least until they train and develop Nigerians as replacements.

The development of agriculture and industrial expansion are complementary factors to the economy of any developing country. It is true that the weight of responsibility for the development of agriculture rests with the Regional Governments, but I say with all the emphasis at my command that the greater weight rests with the Federal Government. The Federal Government has to develop road, rail, air,

river and sea communications. The Federal Institute of Agricultural Research has to undertake intensive experiments in breeding programmes which will provide high yielding varieties of both food and cash crops of this country so that the Regional Governments will put the results of research into practice. Since agriculture is the dominant industry in Nigeria, it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to improve it both in quality and quantity.

The Government's determined efforts to plan for progress leave no one in doubt that it has to find capital. We ought to congratulate the Government for its wise planning and for the fact that, of the very large sums of money devoted to the current Federal Economic Programme, over eighty per cent—I repeat over eighty per cent—has been found from Nigeria sources. This is very good. Though Nigeria is not yet in a position to find from its own resources all the money it requires for a reasonably ambitious plan of development, it is a proud occurrence that, by mobilising our own domestic resources, Nigerians can finance their development projects themselves.

We are not over-ambitious, as the Minister put it. For the moment, the Federal Government has to encourage outside interests to bring in both capital and manpower, but we ought to ask ourselves: From what external agencies should the capital be sought and on what sort of terms? We must answer this question lest we be controlled or dominated by outside interests.

The adverse trade balance of £50 million in the year 1960, as against, I think, £16 million in the previous year is certainly alarming. The Minister of Finance said that the large increase in the adverse balance of trade is due to an increase in the importation of consumer goods. If this is the case, it is time for the Government to reconsider its import policies. I would also suggest that the establishment of new textile factories should be effected and the expansion of those already in existence should be given the highest priority.

Sir, we welcome the Government's intention to send a Nigeria-wide Economic Mission overseas. We wish the Mission the best of luck. We pray that the Mission will return to Nigeria with the good tidings that our trade with any country they visit is a two-way traffic.

In conclusion, Mr President, we also thank the Government for the drastic changes in the income tax rate in the Federal territory of Lagos and we hope the Regional Governments will follow suit.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : Mr President, Sir, in supporting the Bill I pass my congratulations to the Minister of Finance. Looking through the Bill we are able to see that the whole thing is a great effort on the part of the Government to consolidate Nigeria, and I must also congratulate its efforts to ensure the safety of Nigeria by means of having and maintaining a large Army to guard the country. The Army is the foundation on which the security of any country is built. It creates fear and also secures the conscience of the country.

As it is, I have to deal with the Army, although there are very many things I should have liked to deal with. I have praise for the Army, and I wish to speak on many aspects of the Army. Firstly, the Security Officers; secondly, Staff Officers; thirdly, National Service Officers; fourthly, Contract Officers and fifthly licensed Officers.

I wish to bring to the immediate notice of the Government certain points which should be dealt with in the best interests of the country. This is not in any respect to criticise at all but I feel, as statesmen, we should leave no stone unturned in giving our fatherly advice to this growing nation.

I wish to make the Government visualize the Army as it is. When I spoke about the Army last time, I told the Government to concentrate somehow on the Army. I have gone into an extensive study of the Army myself, seeing its importance in the whole of this country.

The first thing I have to mention is the Security Officers. The Security Officers are the few officers in the Army who have to see about the security of this country. Well, this is a sovereign nation. How many of the Security Officers are Africans? How many of them are Nigerians? Not one! At least there should be some Nigerians among Security Officers.

Leaving that aside, I will go to the Staff Officers of the Army. We find that these Staff Officers are those who make policies in the Army; they make and interpret policies. Does

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the Government go into the interpretation of those policies to see that it suits both black and white? Among these people we have two or three Nigerians. They have not quite reached the rank of Staff Officers except two of them who are Lieutenant-Colonels. But Lieutenant-Colonels are not really in a position to participate in the formation of policies. They are what we might call a kind of isolated minority; two or three among the whole lot. What do we think they can do?

They do not participate in the employment of staff.

I wish the Government would look into this and see that it tries, as much as possible, to Nigerianise the Army, as I have already expressed.

I have to pass to the third point, that of National Service Officers. Taking into consideration the National Service Officers we find that these are from Great Britain. They are nationally commissioned and they have only local allowance from Nigeria, in a way. Now a National Service Commission is a matter of routine. These youths have to undergo eighteen months' National Service training before they can commence ordinary civilian life in their country. This is done for the security of their country. Therefore if there is anything happening in their country, they can, at any time, take up arms.

The point, however, is that after about 4-6 months' training in Great Britain they come over to Nigeria. They are not Regular Officers and, in Great Britain, they do not receive the salary of Regular Officers. When they come over to this country they are graded as Regular Officers and they receive Regular Officers' salaries, which is more than double the amount they receive at home as National Service Officers.

Now, going into this explanation, we find that these people do not have the salaries of National Service officers here. Their salaries here do not compare with the salaries of British National Service Officers at home. Here in Nigeria, after Independence, as I told you previously, they only came in and received their main Commission from their home; when they come here they are made officers and they are paid as Regular officers, after only 4-6 months' training in England!

There are Nigerians who have had experience in the Army for over seven years! And not only having had experience, but Nigerians from the same category of officers, too. They not only have the experience of seven years here in Nigeria but the experience of screening and all other jobs. They are sent overseas for that training and they come back to the Army. Therefore they are trained for a longer period than 4-6 months. They come back as qualified officers under British National Service Officers who are trained, not for the security of this country really, but for the security of the country from which they come. When British National Service officers come over to Nigeria their salary is about twice that of Officers of the same rank. Nigerians who have been trained for over one year or six months in England, and have had military experience in Nigeria for over seven years. These conscript gentlemen with very little military knowledge come here and see what happens!

Sir, can we not stop recruiting our national service officers from abroad? Do we not consider it a gross insult to recruit national service officers, when we here in Nigeria have the men? We have the materials. We can pick these officers in Nigeria, give them extensive training for about eighteen months and then send them into the Civil Service. In the event of an emergency, we could send for them to come and help in maintaining the security of the country. We wish, Sir, the Government to look into this and see what can be done to render immediate help. If you look at these soldiers, Sir, I can assure you that their appearance speaks for itself.

The President: Order, order! I am afraid I have granted the hon. Member too much latitude. This is not a debate on the Speech from the Throne, it is a debate on the Budget, the general principles of Government economic and financial policy.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): He is the Shadow Minister of Defence! (*Laughter*).

Chief Umoh: What leads me into this is the extension and enlargement of the Army, and it is this money that is going to be spent on the enlargement of the army, and as such, Sir, any money that is going to be spent on any project in this country, we have the option

of saying how this amount will be directed for the future security of the country. This is not the place where one should be afraid of the truth. The truth has to be spoken.

The President : Order, order! The President is not afraid of the truth, but the truth is that the hon. Senator is debating the Speech from the Throne. He should of course mention departments like the Army, the Police but the hon. Senator is making this a basis of dissertation on the Army. Will the hon. Senator please confine himself to the general principles of the financial and economic policy of the Government insofar as the Estimates for the year are concerned.

Chief Umoh : Sir, I rise to continue. Let us now take a look into the economic side of the Estimates, for example agriculture. It is true that provision has been made for this but I still wish to call upon the Government to see that one of the ways by which we can have a great deal of work done over the whole country—we have got the provision—is to expand our arms over the different regions of this country. In the Western Region for instance, we have some agricultural establishments, and the same kind of establishments can be introduced in both the Eastern and Northern Regions, and I think any amount used for the financing of this project will be money wisely spent.

Mr President, Sir, my target was the Army. (Laughter). But as I cannot proceed to it, I beg to support.

Senator D. Asemota : Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate practically every Ministry this year for the improvement which each and every one of them has shown in their various Ministries, which is reflected by the amount shown in the Estimates. I know that we are all learning, but the rate of progress is very encouraging and I have a feeling that within the next few years, our Ministers will be able to stand and face Ministers with greater traditional background and I can assure you that they will play their part very well indeed.

Now, Sir, what worries me mostly in the items of revenue which the hon. the Minister has shown is the export duty on rubber.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I am afraid that is my field!

Senator Asemota : I am afraid too that the rubber industry is one of the most important sources of income from abroad and one of the providers of revenue. It will come as a surprise to many people to learn that the rubber producers are molested by the excessive rate of duty which they pay on rubber. The unfortunate side of this is that our rate of calculation is based on the price of rubber in Malaya which is 5,000 miles from Nigeria, instead of calculating the rate of duty on the highest amount paid in Nigeria. The result is that we are paying, at least, one penny per pound over and above what we would have rightly paid if the rate of duty were calculated on the highest price paid in this country.

Everyone knows that in my area, the main occupation is rubber plantation, and that we have very poor farmers with very little estates. These people go about to collect their latex, reduce them into sheets or lumps as the case may be and sell them, but this excessive duty is interfering with them to such a tremendous extent that they do not get sufficient money for either themselves or the rehabilitation of their trees. Nothing is absolutely left for the mere subsistence of life. I shall be happy, Sir, if the hon. Minister of Finance will look into the difference in value of these two grades of rubber, that is, Malayan price and the Nigerian price. I think that the difference is so much that it is high time the Government looked into it.

The other point to which I would like to call the attention of the Government is in connection with the gifts received during the independence celebrations. I know that a lot of money was actually received but I would like the Government to give us details of the various gifts received from each firm in this country. When we approached some of these firms during the independence celebrations, they told us that they were not contributing locally and that they would give a bulk sum of money to the Federal Government for the whole country. Now that that has been done, we would certainly want to know how that money has been used.

When one looks at page 10 of the Estimates—Public Works Extraordinary—one finds that half a million pounds has been shared only by two regions, Kaduna and Enugu. Kaduna got £67,000 and Enugu, £58,000, nothing went to the Western Region.

An hon. Senator : What of the Mid-West State ?

Senator Asemota : The Mid-West state got nothing. (*Laughter*).

I do not know, Sir, what the basis of calculation was.

An hon. Senator : According to need.

Senator Asemota : Sir, the *West African Pilot* of the 2nd of April, 1961, published the following in connection with the £250,000 given to Nigeria. I read, "The U.A.C. (Limited) and its associated members within the Unilever Organisation operating in Nigeria, has made a gift of £250,000 to the nation in commemoration of the achievement of independence. The Prime Minister was invited to choose the way in which this money should be used for the benefit of Nigeria," and I repeat "for the benefit of Nigeria," and has decided to divide it into two parts, one to be used for the welfare of Nigerian children by establishing an Institute of Child Health, and the other half, to be devoted to a permanent memorial by the construction and equipments of Records Offices for the storage of national archives, so that they may be preserved for future generations to study. The money for the Institute of Child Health will be shared by the three Regions, Lagos, and the University College, Ibadan. "The institute itself will be located at the University College and there will be Child Health Centres run by each of the three Regional Governments and in Lagos."

In view of that, if you look at the Estimates you will find that the money has been shared between two Regions. There is some explanation required here, Sir. We want to know exactly what is happening. We are told by the Newspapers that the money is going to be used for a certain purpose and we are told by the Government that the money has been given to two Regional Governments. I think it will be proper for Senators to know first of all the total amount received by Government during the Independence Celebrations and how the money has been shared.

The other point I would like to refer to, Sir, is the question of illicit gin. In this country to-day, I think it is one of those things that we can safely say—"It has come to stay." I do

not think that there is anything that can be done to stop it. It has gone so deep into the minds of the people who are drinking it that we just must find a solution to the problem. I will quote from one of the newspapers again—The heading—"We live on illicit gin". It goes on : "A woman knelt down in an Abeokuta Magistrate Court yesterday and announced that she maintained her three children with the profits from the sale of illicit gin. The woman, thirty-five years old Emily Aduke, was pleading for leniency in a case of illicit gin in which she was involved."

It is unfortunate, but the point is this, Sir. This is not a new thing, it is a thing that happens everyday. Everyday, there is prosecution in the courts about illicit gin and I think the time has come when Government should really go deep into this thing and establish either a brewery or get some of the present beer brewers to take a little bit more trouble to get some machinery and distil gin whereby there will be sufficient gin in this country which will be the only deterrent to stop this traffic in illicit gin. Without that, I cannot see how this thing can be stopped except the Government steps in. People will continue to be prosecuted and prosecution is not a deterrent. I think it is one of those things that the Minister of Finance, with his able way of handling things, will be able to get some excise duty. I strongly suggest to Government that the question of getting one way or the other the production of gin in Nigeria should be found so that the traffic in illicit gin can stop.

The next point that I would like to touch on is bribery and corruption. I hear there is a Commission of Inquiry going on now about bribery and corruption. I would like to say, Sir, that Commissions about Bribery and Corruption have been going on in this country since 1940 without any result. Everybody talks about it, it is practised everyday, everywhere, and yet no solution has been found to stop it. If you remember, Sir, last year I suggested that to begin with Government should go to Universities in England or our Colleges in Nigeria and pick at least twelve boys and two girls who have got nothing to do with local affairs, fresh boys from Schools and Colleges ; send them to America, send them to England to study Criminology and if these

boys and these girls are given the right education in the way of detecting crimes, they should return to the country and be posted within the Police Force.

It is the Police Force that is the source of bribery and corruption, nowhere else. If that place is well handled and cleaned, bribery and corruption will automatically go down. Why talk about the thing which everybody knows is bad? There was a case which happened only three weeks ago somewhere in this country. Somebody killed his father-in-law and when the son saw what was going on he shouted—"Come and see somebody is killing my father". The man who was killing his father-in-law when he saw a Policeman coming just whispered something into the ears of the Policeman and the Policeman went away. What happened next was that the son was charged with murder. Well, it is not a new thing.

An hon. Senator : Did that happen in the Mid-West ?

Senator Asemota : Well, it happened in Nigeria. That situation is very bad and I am serious about it. I think everyone of us knows the seriousness of this crime. The only way we can really start to go about it to stamp it out is by sending some of our intelligent boys to Europe ; let them study Criminology for a year or so, bring them back and post them among the rank and file of the Police Force, Let them first of all check bribery and corruption within the rank and file of the Police Force and when that is done then we know very well that bribery and corruption has got a very good start to go out of the country. Once a Policeman knows that somebody he does not know will find out if he does anything wrong he will be very careful in doing things. It is not a question of one man putting his hand on top and another man putting his hand at the bottom ; that is not the answer. The answer is getting at the source, getting down to the source of the whole thing and once that is done there is no doubt that this country will certainly regain its lost ground.

The next point I would like to deal with is Weights and Measures. When I was in employment we used to have what they call Inspectors of Weights and Measures, and what

they do is to examine scales and charge a fee and they issue what they call a Certificate of Justice. But, for about six or seven years now, I have not seen these scale examiners. I wonder what Government is doing about it. This should be another money-making branch of the Ministry of Finance. The scales in this country to-day, as far as I know, at least in my area are not examined. I know for certain that there are firms who take it upon themselves to provide the means of examining their own scale for their own benefit. How will the Government be able to testify and see that the scales they use in weighing rubber or palm produce or cocoa on which they base their duty is correct, or is balanced? There are no Examiners of Weights and Measures. I would certainly like to know when the last examination of scales was conducted, at least in the area where I come from. It will also be a great pleasure to know when it was last conducted throughout the whole country ; and, if that Department is still running, how much revenue has been lost as a result of their dereliction of duty ?

I now come to the question of roads. The question of roads is a thing which I think everybody knows we have been trying our best here to get Government to really give serious consideration to, because although a lot of money has been set aside for roads, whether the money has been judiciously used or not is a different thing altogether. What I would like to say is this. I appreciate the extent of the country's railway system. This Federation contends that the development and improvement of the country's motor-roads and the fostering of the development of private and commercial road usage is essential for the economic, social and cultural development of the country. I have put it before some sort of Road Committee that the time has come when the Government should either set aside a separate Division or separate Ministry that will have nothing else to do but to think and do something about roads, and that Ministry should be more or less worked on a commercial scale. Their revenue should be money paid for motor licences, the duty paid on motor vehicles, the money paid for driving licences and all other licences connected with motors and vehicles and the expenditure will be the one manner in which money is spent. I think if that sort of Division is set up, and at the end of each year an annual White Paper is published

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on the activities of the Division or Ministry, I think it will help a great deal to solve the present problem. As you know, Sir, a section of the Lagos-Benin Trunk A road has been closed to traffic for a very long time now, and many of us have to travel about 115 miles extra before we come here.

Let me read to you, Sir, what was written in one of the newspapers: "The trunk A road between Akure and Owo will be closed for two weeks owing to a bridge wash-out at Ogbese, it has been officially announced. All traffic to Benin is therefore directed to take the Akure-Ikare-Auchi-Uromi road".

Well, how did that happen? I quite appreciate the fact that it is possible for a bridge to get weak and break down, but it is too frequent nowadays, Sir. The Ministry of Works and Surveys pays very little attention to these roads and bridges. It is getting too much. The roads are too narrow; two cars can hardly pass one another on the way, and the bridges are unsafe. How do we stand?

I mentioned the other day that some portions of the Trunk A road between Benin and Asaba are so bad that it is now time the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys should travel on the road instead of going about by air. Let him travel on the road himself and see that the road is so rough, resulting in much damage to motor cars.

It has come to a stage where the Government should have to take this matter very seriously. If a separate division of the Ministry is set up to deal with nothing else but roads and bridges, I think we will certainly get results. The time has really come when Government should look into these roads because it is no use coming here every time to complain about this and about that without any action being taken.

On the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road, I am very happy, judging from what we read in the newspaper that there is a great deal of progress being made, but the Minister of Finance has not been able to tell this House yet when he expects that this road will be opened. We have been hearing about the improvement on that road at least since Senate was established, and even before that. We heard three or four years before this Senate was set up that the Governor would open the

road any day in October 1954. Till now, Mr President, although we hear that one or two things have been done and His Excellency the Governor-General referred to it in the Speech from the Throne, we do not know the actual position.

The Minister of Finance : Work is progressing.

Senator Asemota : Well, we have been hearing that now for five years. Work is progressing—yes, I know, but when will the progress stop and we actually get real business done and know exactly when the road will be open for use?

The Minister of Finance : As soon as possible.

Senator Asemota : Well, this is something really that should be considered very seriously and the Government should give us a date when they expect the work will be completed.

Another thing, Sir, that I would like to draw your attention to is on page 251 of the Estimates—Parliament. Now, you will see that on this page the salary of the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives is £1,800 and the salary of the Deputy President of the House of Senate is £1,200. I do not know whether that is not a mistake and whether it is not the other way round.

The Minister of Finance : On point of information, Sir, that is a mistake, and the Deputy President of the Senate has been given the assurance both by the Prime Minister and myself that that will be corrected in the proper manner and that he will lose nothing.

Senator Asemota : Well, thank you very much, although that is not really specific enough. When you say he will lose nothing, is it the other way round, that the Deputy President of the Senate will receive a salary of £1,800 and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives will receive a salary of £1,200?

The Minister of Finance : Both will earn £1,800.

Senator Asemota : I see, thank you, Sir. You know we Senators really like to see that we are not relegated to the background.

Again, Sir, I am so happy that the salary of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives has been increased. That is very good indeed. Although in the very first month of earning this salary the Senate is sitting for only two days, we do hope that in future there will be sufficient time for us to stay here and discuss matters.

On the other hand, would it not have been something good if the Government showed some sort of disparity between the Lower House and the Upper House by fixing the salary of Senators at £1,100 or at least £1,050 in order to show that this is really the Upper House? What then is the difference between the Senate and the House of Representatives? I think it is a matter which the hon. Minister of Finance should take back home and see that the salary of Senators is distinguished from that of Members of the Lower House by being a little bit higher than that in the lower House. (*Hear, hear*).

Another point to which I would like to refer is what I read in the newspapers about a National Press. We hear that the Government is going to set up a Press of their own where they are going to publish all Government matter. Well, that looks to me like a colossal waste of money. I do not see why the Government should embark upon introducing a daily newspapers. We have already in this country many daily newspapers—the *Daily Comet*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Times*, *Eastern Nigeria Guardian*, *Eastern Sentinel*, *Eastern State Express*, *New Africa*, *Nigerian Daily Standard*, *Nigerian Spokesman*, *Nigerian Tribune*, *Southern Nigerian Defender* and the *West African Pilot*—all these are daily newspapers operating in Nigeria. If the Government want to advertise themselves better than they are doing now, can they not at least take a page in each of these newspapers and put through all the Government activities that they want?

Over and above that, the Government is publishing this periodical here called "Nigeria". It is a Government publication issuing from the Ministry of Information. Why cannot Government embark upon this more seriously and make it more attractive? After all, what will Government put in their daily newspaper other than photographs of Members and probably speeches of Members of both House of Parlia-

ment? After the session, I doubt whether there is anybody who would think of buying that newspaper.

If the Government mean to establish that Press it means that they have got to get reporters in each of the villages and hamlets for the newspapers. Is that not a colossal waste of money? We have daily newspapers which Government should encourage. The Government should give our national newspapers money, they should take page advertisements in these newspapers, and you will find, Sir, that if the Government do this, one-eighth of the £1 million put into the Estimates for the National Press will not be spent and the result will be better. I think this thing is not only annoying but also I do not see why people should take it that way. If that sum of £1 million is used in repairing bridges, I think the country will be more benefited.

I think it is not too late, for that item to be scrapped, and for the Government to think about taking page advertisements in each of the daily newspapers. They will get better results that way. If they have to start a Press of their own, they will want machinery, offices, room, land, and so on. Although such a project would provide some labour, yet the result would not justify the expense. So, I am suggesting seriously that the Federal Government should think about this National Press again and see whether they will find it cheaper if they take advertisements in the other local papers. I am sure that they will find it cheaper to do so.

The other thing is that I was very happy the last time when I referred to the Sapele port and said that the Minister of Transport was so good as to visit Sapele himself. I know Mr Njoku was there and he saw the place. The port still requires a great deal of attention. The inflock of produce into Sapele port is so great now that it requires another embarkment and a better wharf than what is there now and all this will cost a considerable sum of money.

Now, I think I will say something about communications and I am glad my hon. Friend, the Minister of Communications, is here. There is still a great deal to be done in the improvement of communications system in that area. Telephone facilities in that area are still very bad. Warfare, up till now, has

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not got telephone facilities. I do hope that the Minister of Communications will re-examine the whole telephone structure in the Mid-West area and see if he can improve on it.

Sir, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : With your permission, Sir, I would like to warn hon. Senators that I propose to reply to the points that are being made at a quarter to six and that if Members will refrain from repeating themselves they will assist me in getting the points to which I propose to reply.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : Mr President, Sir, I thank the Minister of Finance for saying what he has said now. Since we were told that we were going to adjourn *sine die* to-day I have become homesick. So the sooner we finish the better.

Hon. Senators will recall that when our able and indefatigable Minister of Finance last year aptly described his Budget as 'Stability Budget' we all here as well as those in the Lower House described it as a masterpiece. The present Budget—'Sovereignty Budget' he calls it—appears to me to defy all attempt at description. To refer to it as a masterpiece would not do justice to it. That is only by the way and I just want to show that the Minister of Finance deserves congratulations on the very able way in which he presented this Sovereignty Budget.

It appears to be a specialization this afternoon and although I have quite a lot of things to talk about I think I am going to specialize on one thing. So I will refer hon. Senators to what the Minister said on page 22 of his printed Budget Speech. With your permission, Mr President, I quote : "I feel sure, Mr Speaker, the House will agree that in the recurrent estimates we have provided a sound—indeed, if I may say so, sovereign—plan for the management of the public services of the Federation in the financial year just beginning. Legitimate needs have been met. Proper economy has been observed. A healthy surplus position is maintained so that there will be no falling-off in our revenue contributions to the Development Fund". I could not agree more, Sir. The Budget has done all that but there is one thing which it has not done and that I am going to point out now.

One suggestion that I will make perhaps it is an unpopular one may raise a hue and cry all over the country. I feel that the suggestion should be made because I think it is in the best interest of this country. Some of the workers in this country may even describe it as a challenge and a deprivation of their fundamental human right. My humble suggestion is that the number of public holidays in this country should be drastically cut from the present eleven or twelve a year to just six, namely, Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Monday and three Moslem holidays. My Moslem friend has given me the names but I do not know whether I can pronounce them well. They are : Idil Fitri, two days after the Rahamadan fast ; Idil Kabir, two days for killing of rams and sheep ; and Prophet Mohammed's Birthday, one day. So, Moslem holidays are five days and Christian holidays—I do not know whether some of them are Christian because Boxing Day is not Christian at all—are six days making eleven in all. And then, with all due respect, the Queen's Birthday which is not a public holiday in England is one here and should be stopped.

The Minister of Finance : It has been stopped !

Senator Nzerem : I am very glad that it has been stopped. When I was in England we went to the Ceremony of Trooping the Colour and then everybody dispersed and went to his work. But here in Nigeria we are saddled with all these public holidays. Have people ever calculated how much money they spend on these public holidays ? Have people ever calculated the amount the Government spends on overtime pay alone ? Where are we drifting to ? I am suggesting in all seriousness that the number of public holidays should be reduced drastically. The workers may think that it is doing them an injustice but I think that it is in the best interest of the workers too that these holidays should be cut. Take for instance, on New Year's day, a day for sober reflections, a day for genuine resolutions, a day for hard work to begin the year, what do we see ? Riotous merriment all over the place and the workers spend the paltry savings they have made. I am no kill joy but there must be a limit to riotous merry making.

The Minister of Finance : In drinking illicit gin !

Senator Nzerem : In drinking illicit gin in the Mid-West, I agree. I think something will have to be done about it in the interest of this country because if the country goes bankrupt—may God forbid it—it is the worker and his family that will suffer most. If one calculates what this stopping of some unnecessary holidays will put into the coffers of the Governments one would realise that it has been a colossal waste in the past.

It is not my intention to delay because I have my eye on the clock but I think that the Budget is a remarkable one and it is a sovereignty budget indeed and the hon. Minister of Finance deserves our sincere congratulations.

Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Chief S. J. Humponu-Wusu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Senators who have spoken before me on the Budget Speech submitted by the Minister of Finance. As the time is far spent I will go directly to one or two points which I feel are essential to a nation such as ours. The first point is about the question of education which is very important and I am happy that we have dealt with it this morning.

Another point I wish to talk about is on the question of industries. We have been spending more money on imports than we gain on exports. This point has been so ably described by my hon. Friend, Senator Daldry, this afternoon. The money we get from imports may appear large but in my opinion it is not actually so. Take for instance the making of ordinary matches. We know the amount of money the people in the Regions where there are no electric lights are spending on matches. We do not spend much money here on matches because we have electric lights all around us and we can switch on or switch off as we like. In many parts of the Regions this is not so.

A friend of mine came to Nigeria some two years ago from Norway and he saw large pieces of wood which people were carrying away. He asked what they were going to do with them and I told him that they were going to be used as firewood. He cried out and wondered why our country was so wasteful. He said that in Norway they would be used for match sticks. Imagine that. What we regard as

waste wood here is used in civilised countries for certain products which we buy at high prices in this country. So, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance, and the Federal Government in general, to try and find ways of establishing industries of this kind in this country. We have got timber here and I am sure the chemicals for making matches will not be very difficult to produce here. The difficulty really is that we have not been given the opportunity to study it. I am sure, however, that it will not take any Nigerian more than three years to study the art. It is a thing I have learnt although I am not here to practise it.

Again, Sir, we are all alarmed at the rate illicit gin is being manufactured and consumed in this country, particularly in the East and the West, not very much in the North. Why can our Government not do something to improve the stuff? Sometime ago there was a move to issuing palm wine sellers with licences. This move was intended to create a way of improving the palm wine thus bringing it up to a high standard. We cannot insist on importing White Horse whisky and brandy, and so on. For instance, whenever there is cocktail party at the State House or in the Federal Palace Hotel or anywhere else, if there is no whisky or gin or brandy, that party is not considered to be well-organised. Why cannot we improve upon our stuff of gin and make it legal and fit for drinking instead of reporting how many people were arrested, tried, fined or sent to prison for possessing illicit gin?

If we are thinking in terms of the import duty that we receive on foreign liquor, I am sure the brewery for beer which we already have produces excise duty, and so will the brewery for gin too.

Mr President, Sir, I appeal to the Federal Government to do something about this and stop taking people to court on the ground of brewing illicit gin. The Government should train people in this profession. It is indeed a profession. We have got the raw materials and the manpower.

Mr President, Sir, I now come to the question of improving the Police Force. I am very happy to learn of the steps being taken to improve that department. I am also happy that my hon. Friend, Senator Dr Orizu has already touched this point about the Police.

[CHIEF HUMPONU-WUSU]

Some old men who have been in the Police Force for a long time are left stagnant in the same post which they hold. This, in my opinion, is bad. If the department finds any man capable and experienced on a post having been on it for some years why should he not be promoted? Everything should be done to improve the condition of service in the Police Force. This, Sir, is a very important department which protects the life and property of our people in this country.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that there are many criminal cases which go undetected in this country. I feel that the Government should send people to have some training on investigation and other branches of the Force. This will definitely save many lives and property in Nigeria.

Now, Sir, I wish to make a few remarks on the Military Department. An hon. Senator has discussed this department at great length and I think it is high time the Federal Government looked into the matter. The military security of this country depends mainly on this department. Young men should be encouraged to join the Force. To-day we are blaming France for testing the atomic bomb in the Sahara desert. Well, France has got the bomb and they want to know how active it is. We should also attempt to train men for this sort of thing.

I said it sometime ago that the time has come when we should make military training compulsory in our schools. When this is done we shall in time have men who will guard our country in the event of attack by any nation. As I said before, this department has been discussed in detail by an hon. Friend, so Mr President, I will not waste the time of the House on it.

My next point is the Medical Department. We all will remember that sometime ago in this country a lot was said in connection with Dr Gans. To-day, that doctor is no more in Nigeria. What are we doing to improve that department? Mr President, I feel Sir, that having regard to the way things are going on now we should not recruit unhealthy people to take up positions in our public service. I have learnt that it is not on the question of integrity or the question of qualification but on the question of certain arrangements that

people are appointed or promoted to high offices. If this is so, where are we marching to? People who have not the stamina, people who have not the training and experience being employed or promoted to high positions is a very risky thing to do.

I feel, Sir, that the Government must do something urgently to improve the medical department. Our population is increasing very fast. Enough doctors, nurses, and so on should be trained and made available to take medical care of the growing population.

Besides the training of men and women, drugs and tools used in hospitals should be provided. Modern tools are extremely necessary. If you go to an important place like the Orthopaedic Hospital at Igbobi you will see that tools which were in use during the war, even before then, are still being used there. Why are these tools not yet changed?

We have got our independence. We want all the the old instruments in our hospitals like the General Hospital or the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital to be replaced by new ones. I am appealing to the President and to the Minister of Health, through the Minister of Finance, that it is a question of putting money into the department. The Government should try to do that. We need more specialists in Nigeria. I am not very happy at the way things are going on there. Our country is not healthy and it would be impossible for us to improve things if we did not go out to copy in the outside world. It will be helpful even to go to the Western Region here in Nigeria—I am not flattering any Government—and see how the Medical Department is being run there. (*Interruptions*).

The President : Order !

Senator Wusu : I am under your protection Mr President. (*Laughter*). The Federal Government is supposed to be the head and we shall always remain the head. We are fathers here and whenever we discover that there are certain things going wrong, for the good of Nigeria as a whole we should be in a position to say it.

Sometime ago, Sir, a European visitor came to Nigeria and was taken ill. He went to Creek Hospital and was directed from there to the Orthopaedic Hospital where physiotherapy was performed. The whole business

was absolutely unfortunate, for the building was an old wooden one. Indeed a fire alarm was raised next door at that time and if it had not been for Providence, a greater tragedy might have occurred. Unfortunately the Minister of Health is not here, but through the Minister of Finance, I ask him to encourage that Department.

When I was young there was a hospital at Ereko market; yet Lagos was not as congested as it is at the moment. It is ironical that we had in those days the Creek Hospital, known at that time as Dr Gray's hospital; we had the General Hospital; we also had the Massey Dispensary under Dr Sapara, as well as the Ereko Dispensary. The population then was about one-tenth of what it is to-day. In view of this, Mr President, I am appealing to the Government to consider that the time has come to build a hospital either at Ereko or at Olowogbowo for the good of the people.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator O. Somolu: Mr President, Sir, there are just one or two things I would like to say in respect of this Budget to-day. In the first place, I would like, with your permission, to read what the hon. Minister of Finance said at page 15 of the Budget Speech in relation to football pools: "Football pool fever has also made its impact upon the country's balance of payments. The extent of the remittances to the United Kingdom has given the Government much cause for concern, and this has been a principal factor determining the Government's decision to go ahead with the formation of a Nigerian national football pool. It is our hope that the new pool will be firmly established before the commencement of the next football season and that it will stem the flow of money overseas, thereby tending to ease the balance of payments".

I must say, Sir, that this is a very welcome provision, and I would like to encourage the Minister of Finance to wage an absolute war on this football pool business. We understand from rough estimate that about £6 million passes out of this country every year on football pool and all we have in return is just a few hundred pounds. I would suggest to the Minister of Finance to find a way of legislating to increase the tax on football pools by hundred

per cent. If people want easy money; if they want quick money and they can afford to spend £6 million, why not let them pay that £6 million to the Nigerian coffers of State.

Let them pay us here and let us use that money for the improvement of our country. You will find in schools, in offices people doing nothing but football pools and I think the hon. Minister of Finance has taken the proper step to wage war on this football business. If he does it I shall be one of those who will congratulate him all the more.

I would also like to suggest that he should not stop there. He should go a step further as an improvement upon what he did last year, that is in respect of horse racing. If people feel they can pay for it, let them pay for it all the more. That should be the principle upon which, I suggest, the Minister of Finance should tackle this Bill.

Then, I would also like to suggest this, Mr President, although it may be unpopular, that is that the Minister of Finance should think of increasing tax on motor-cars costing over £1,500. These things are luxurious. There is no reason why we cannot ride in small cars; but if people want to ride in big cars, let them pay for them; that is what the people are doing in other parts of the world. If we want to imitate, let us imitate properly. There should be no half way house.

I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Communications to his Department. I think he has done quite a lot to improve things but a lot more needs to be done. I am not sure whether others have the same experience but as happens most often, if you take up your telephone in Lagos, you hear nothing but the N.B.C. radio transmission on the line, and a good deal can still be done. If this telephone system is improved, the tax on it could be reduced. After all we pay 3d for a call in this country for the poor telephone system that we have. In a place like England, it is 4d a call. Hon. Senators can see the difference. I believe it is all due to inefficiency, and I hope that the Minister of Communications will look into this. Indeed if our telephone system is improved and the cost to users is reduced, more people will use the telephone and they will bring in more revenue into the coffers of the Government.

[SENATOR SOMOLU]

I would like to invite the attention of the Minister of Finance to the question of savings certificates. I am very grateful to Senator Daldry for raising the matter. We said a lot about it in this House last year, and the Minister of Finance promised to look into it. It is now twelve months since he made that promise; he has done nothing to fulfil the promise. The Minister promised that he was going to encourage savings certificates; well let him do so. If possible, let him award prizes in order to encourage people to save; and if people save, we will have more money to lend to the Government for the improvement of our country.

There are many things that one would like to talk about in a Budget Speech of this kind, but time is very much against us and I do not wish to take more of the time of the House because the Minister of Finance has already indicated that he would like to speak. I would only like to say, Sir, that with these few remarks, I support the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Senator L. T. Olamijulo : Mr President, Sir, I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the splendid way he has explained his Budget Speech. At the same time, I have only a few remarks. The remarks I am going to make have already been made to a certain extent by other speakers, but I have certain additions, otherwise I would not have spoken about them.

The first is about telephones. I want it to be noted that in the areas from where many of us have come we need telephones. Not only do we need them for urgent business but they will ease our burden. At the same time, we have many hospitals that are being opened by the Regional Governments. These hospitals need telephones for contact in case of urgent business.

Not only do we need telephones, we also need Post Offices instead of Postal Agencies that have been used for very many years and have not been replaced with either Sub-Post Offices, much more Post Offices. Mention has been made about money being deposited, but in many places where we have Postal Agencies the people have been begging that they should be allowed to have Post Office Savings, but these have not been granted

them. So I am asking that these be looked into and in course of time.

As the development of our area is going on rapidly, we should see to it that we encourage our youngsters to save. Not only those that are in business do need to save; we have secondary schools where the students would like to keep the money which their parents send to them. Therefore, if Postal Agencies are converted as quickly as possible into Sub-Post Offices and later on into Post Offices, not only will they be beneficial to the people concerned, they will also be very beneficial to the Government.

Along with that is the question of much money being spent on drinks. A lot of the money of Nigeria is going into strong drinks at present. Cannot any improvement be made on our own native brewed palm-wine?

The Minister of Finance : What of *burukutu*?

Senator Olamijulo : Yes, anything that can be done to improve our own standard of living. Are we simply to depend upon foreign things when we can improve our own? If these people had not made their own, how could we get them? So I think that even *burukutu* should be examined and improved. (Applause). There is no evil in improving the lot of our people. Why should we, with our education, simply live on what we have obtained from our forefathers? Cannot we improve them?

I think it is better the Federal Government take a step to improving our native drinks. In this connection, I agree with the view expressed by those hon. Senators who have already spoken on illicit gin that it is high time we do not allow Nigeria to carry on spending heavily on these imported gins. After all, Nigeria is wasting a lot of money in this respect, although a lot of duty is collected, but we are only cutting our nose to spite our face, in that whatever we get from these import duties, we use in paying those from whom we buy these things. I feel it is high time we should try to do something about what we produce locally and improve on them.

With regard to education. I know that a lot of people have spoken about doing something with regards to our Army, but when we think about the present generation—how

people are advancing in Science—what can we do? And even when we are going on with our education, we do not try as much as possible to learn Science and be able to cater for what others are pursuing.

In this space age when troops can shell other troops from outer space where they are invisible, is it any use having an Army such as our own? Where would we be if we were faced with such a situation? And I would like to say that we should think very seriously with regard to education on the lines of Science because we are growing as a nation and we are holding our own in the international sphere. Therefore, whatever we are doing we should be thinking ahead.

I would like to thank the Minister once more for the able way he has presented his Budget, but may it not be only on paper but a real thing.

Senator H. Udoh : Mr President, Sir, it is becoming a custom that anybody who gets up must praise the Minister of Finance. This is getting so much that he will think that he does not make mistakes. (*Laughter*).

Sir, I wish to speak on an important point which everybody hammers upon, and that is Agriculture. Any money voted for Agriculture should not be regarded as a waste. There are reasons, of course, why many of us feel that any money voted for Agriculture is a waste, and that reason is that our Agricultural Departments in this country are all experimental departments. It is for this Government and for us all to see that the Agricultural Department does something very practical.

The position may not be understandable in the townships and in Lagos here, but those who go out into the urban and rural areas will certainly understand me. Our Agricultural Departments go about planning, with the result that they have not even produced a cassava root, yet money is being voted year in and year out for our Agricultural Departments to make improvements. If Nigeria should trifle with every other thing Agriculture is a Department which we should not trifle with, for we have inherited it, we are agriculturists by birth, and as such we should develop it. All agricultural countries of the world to-day are the most progressive.

The Minister of Finance touched also on how to save money. He spoke of it last year. According to one of the hon. Senators it was a set of sweet words. I remember that after the last war savings certificates were issued and the longer they were kept the more profitable they became to the holders. This House is asking the Minister of Finance, on whose shoulders lie the progress and development of this country, to endeavour his best in this field.

In the latter part of page 5 of the printed Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance he said that, in concert with the Minister of Communications, he is seeking means to encourage investment in the Post Office Savings Bank, and he went further to state that one modest improvement that is introduced is the facility for speedy withdrawal in the form of photo identification. Delay in withdrawals is one of the main reasons why many people refuse to go to the Post Office Savings Bank, particularly the less fortunate ones. If people are asked to deposit their money in the Post Office they say openly that they will keep their money in their boxes rather than save them with the Post Office Savings Bank, because, as hon. Senators well know, any time you want to withdraw money from the Post Office Savings Bank it is essential that you must bring somebody to identify you. If the Minister of Finance can implement what he has in mind to ameliorate the position it will do this country a lot of good.

I now go to the money spent on education. You will find in the Budgets of all the Governments of the Federation that a great amount of money is being spent on education, not only on higher education but also on primary and secondary education. This goes to confirm the old saying that one should not despise small things. If our primary and secondary schools are well cared for we are sure of better progress in the future. Any work well begun is half done. But I must emphasise here that it is not sufficient to vote money but to see that the money voted is properly used to produce that which is required in doing so.

When money is voted for Education every effort must be made by the Government to see that the money is properly used for when the money gets into the hands of some school managers one is shocked to hear what happens sometimes. Anybody reading newspapers, or anybody observing daily events, will not fail

[SENATOR UDOH]

to notice publications of misappropriations, teachers protesting for not being paid their salaries. And what answers do we get for teachers not being paid their salaries? We are often told that grants have not been received from the Government, and school managers cannot therefore make money themselves.

If the Government hears such and keeps quiet it indicates that the Government is condoning this attitude. Estimates which include Grants to Schools are made in advance, and Government should therefore see that money voted for this purpose is properly utilised.

Sometime ago the E.R.D.C. stopped giving people loans for improving farms, or for any other purpose of business, because it was discovered that when these people took loans for improving their farms they invested it in motor transport business. This Corporation then stopped the loans, and, as you will all agree with me, a condition has been created for people who may wish to apply for this loan now so that anybody who wishes to apply for loan must have to think twice whether or not the loan will be used for the purpose for which he has applied.

In the interest of patronising our own home product, thereby reducing imported goods, I do not think we can afford to stop importing consumer goods altogether now. There are certain things we cannot manufacture locally, and there are certain things which we can produce locally and improve upon. A friend of mine the other day told me that he cannot drink *Star Beer* and that he wants *Bergedorf* or *Becks*. This manner shows that we do not like those goods which we produce here. We prefer to lavish our money on imported things: in other words, we are thus discouraging the increased production of our own articles. A Senator stressed that too. There are many things which we can manufacture; we only need to be encouraged. We have soap and many other things which the Government should look into. If any of our goods are produced in a foul way the manufacturers should be penalised.

Mr President, as there was a little argument here yesterday when a statement was made on the debate on this Bill, I wish to give other Senators chance, and I wholeheartedly support the Motion.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Mr President, Sir, I have a few points which I want to make. I thank the Minister of Finance very much for having come nearer to my own suggestions. Since about two years I have been emphasising the necessity for taxing women. He has now taxed them, but I would like him to go further.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Bill, but I would like to go further and ask the Minister to tax all these harlots. If the Minister would tax these harlots he will be helping to check them. Recently, a law about harlots was introduced in the Eastern Region in respect of a province from where ladies go out every month. If they are taxed, it will be one deterrent to make them stay at home.

Mr President, Sir, I want to quarrel with the Minister of Education about antiquities. The other day, I was reading some papers and came across certain things made here in Nigeria but yet taken away by a certain Administrative Officer and then brought back to Nigeria to be sold to us at a very very high price. Perhaps that man who took it from the maker of that thing may have taken it for £1 or less than that; he sold it back to Antiquities, to the Ministry of Education for about £85,000. This is very very discouraging. I think the Minister of Education will be very very good, or will be doing justice to this country if he will make certain restrictions to the purchase of these antiquities from Nigerian artists.

Mr President, I come to a very very knotty point, and this is the question of payment of the salary of the civil servants. I consider that the money paid to our civil servants at the moment is not to the best interests of Nigeria, because the present scales we have were the handwork of the expatriates and in fact, they were justified to a certain extent to preach the gospel that the expatriate cannot live on 10s a day. He will have to take breakfast costing about 15s, lunch about 10s and dinner about 12s. They may cost him about 30s a day, but an African can do very well on 5s a day. I see no reason why we should continue to pay the scale of salaries which were the handwork of the Expatriates. I therefore suggest that if we are to be of service to Nigeria we must be prepared to be satisfied. I think some of our civil servants have inherited this scale of salary.

We will therefore give a gap of say about ten to twenty years, then all the expatriates must have gone and I think anybody who comes to the Nigerian Civil Service should be prepared to receive a cut salary of not more than £2,000. Anything above £2,000, I think, Mr President, is not justifiable.

Mr President, I would like us to take into consideration the workers who are more than those civil servants who earn big sums of money. By that, I mean unskilled people, I mean people who earn £3 or £4 a month. Why not let these people receive something a little above starvation level. Anybody who receives £5 and goes to the market, there is no question of giving you yam for 1s because you earn less salary, or giving you yam for 5s because you receive a big salary. There is nothing like that in the market. You all buy at the same price. Why not set aside a sum for these people so that they can live a little above starvation level? I would suggest something in the neighbourhood of seven to ten pounds. If we do this and then we curtail the salaries of these superscale civil servants, I think there will be no need of people who are going to spend more because of these people's salaries.

This suggestion may be bitter to certain civil servants. I think I am entitled to my own opinion and unless we are prepared to sacrifice, we are going to lead our country to a sort of financial chaos.

Well, somebody may ask why did he not kick against the increase in his salary to £1,000. I would be opposed to any salary paid to any Legislator which is above £2,000. If it is less than that I will not support it. I will not join some people who say we do not do anything and then we are paid this sum of money. They forget that we are important people doing important work. There is no question of coming to the office everyday. Whether we do five minutes we do important work. The importance of the work we do and the importance of our position should be taken into consideration. So I do not quarrel with any increase we might have received.

To support some Senators, I think, Senator Asemota, about the increase I think I should ask the Minister why he did not do as the Eastern Government and the Western Government and the Northern Regional Government

because these people when they receive their salaries, it was retrospective to a little over a month. We have not been told that we are going to be paid any arrears. Why did the Minister not consider giving us arrears, at least from the 1st October when we got our Independence?

So, Mr President, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu. Akinfosile): Mr President, Sir, I want to say that I am very grateful to the hon. Senators who have taken such considerable interest in the affairs of the Ministry of Communications. I am well aware that our functions affect more directly the lives of the majority of the people of this country than the others do. As I was coming in here this afternoon, a number of Senators complained; incidentally, an hon. Senator from my constituency complains that he sent a telegram which I forwarded late. (*Interruptions*).

The President: Order. The Minister notes the point.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Too much illicit gin at Okitipupa! (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Communications: Telephone fees in our country are certainly the lowest so far in this region of Africa and, because of that, should we not seek to give efficient service? I do want, Sir, to take the opportunity of this debate to call the attention of the hon. Senators to the fact that Government is completing now a stage in the development of communications in our country which has been outstanding. We are bringing into service in a number of major towns automatic exchanges. With the coming into operation of these new installations, I am certain that the process of getting messages through into the different parts of the country will be much more speeded up. I had an experience when I opened a telephone exchange in Kano recently and believe me, Sir, in a matter of two minutes I was on to Lagos, but yet I know, Sir, that I have recently been engaged in opening a number of rural services. It is true that there is much more to be done, but the truth is that we are doing a considerable amount already.

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]

I feel, Sir, that one of our greatest tasks now is to find the necessary money to give a greater service at the rate which it is being demanded in this country. Already, Sir, we need much more money to put into full use even the equipment which has been installed. It is probably not known to hon. Senators and to the public that year in and year out, the great Minister of Finance exercises his right to prune down the money which we need to make the service more and more efficient. (*Laughter*). For three successive years my Ministry has had always to do with less and less and less than it is necessary to carry on the functions, but this is the part of the price which we have all got to pay for the demand for progress in many sections of our national life. But I do want to say, Sir, that our objective is towards making the Ministry of Communications and particularly the P. and T. a self-financing, entirely self-supporting institution in the next few years.

We will, as I have said in the other place, we will be taking steps to re-organise in such a way that we can function as near as possible to a commercial enterprise because a commercial enterprise aims always at achieving maximum profit. We can do this when we get less and less control directed by the Ministry of Finance and get more and more saddled with finding the money for the work which we have to do for the country. (*Applause*).

I want, Sir, to say something more about savings. We have been criticised about the slow rate of paying money to our customers in the Post Office Savings Bank. The House will remember that during the last Session, we passed here into law a Bill which will enable us to identify persons by a photograph. In a country where the majority of the population is still unable to read and write, I am sure that the precaution which we have taken in the past will be appreciated by hon. Senators. It is essential that since we cannot get people to be identified by their signatures, it was at least taking a precaution in safeguarding the money which had been deposited with us. This is now a past thing and we have found that the introduction of photographs in the book of the depositors has enabled us to do more business. We have, in fact, during the past year, had an increased number of depositors; I think some more 12,000 depositors in the previous year.

So, we are going ahead and we hope that with the stage of education in the country, we shall do away with the need to carry photographs and pass-books and identities of our customers.

Now, Sir, the question of building Post Offices. Of course, the hon. Senator representing Makurdi of the Benue area, the last speaker, cannot be one of those who should grumble because I had the very pleasant duty of opening in Makurdi in the last three months one of the finest examples of Post Offices, undoubtedly in this part of the country and we have done a lot of re-building in various parts of the country and of giving new Post Offices in fact, this is one part of the current development programme which had been carried out as near-completion as possible than perhaps the installation of rural telephones.

We are opening Post Offices at the rate of nearly one a month and I am sure that under the next five year programme, we shall be building more Post Offices. To-day, I received a copy of the Crown Agents review of overseas activities and one of the articles has been the re-organisation of the Nigerian Post Offices. I feel very proud that our country is being cited as an example of a very progressive postal facility which had been given. We should as far as we can have more money to put more telegraphic channels throughout the country. We should be able to speed up delivery of telegrams and this is a matter which we had been giving very, very urgent attention because there is no doubt that telegraphs must fulfil the purpose for which they were intended. If they do not, then they are of no use and we are anxious ourselves that we should be able to fulfil these functions.

One of the problems connected, of course, with the complaints about our telephones is that already the telephone exchanges which we provided are far too many. There are several hundreds of waiting persons and every day, I must confess, I have to pity the officers of the P. and T. because request for telephones come in without end and we are faced with the task of running the risk of over-loading the channels which we have had.

Our most important tasks at the moment therefore is finding the necessary capital to meet the need for the increasing demand for telephone services in this country. I feel

certain that when the fruit of the 1955-62 development programme is fully brought into set, the country will feel very happy that we have taken a very great step forward. I do want to emphasise that we know that our function, that of communications, is a very vital part in the development of this country.

I have recently been to Western Europe and other countries examining and making contacts about the improvement of our services and I did find that great importance is placed upon the development of telecommunications. The hon. Senator Daldry who is one of the leading commercial citizens of this country is no doubt aware that his Chamber of Commerce, the Lagos Chamber of Commerce, is constantly demanding more and more expansions. We know that if we can give the instruments, we will have the money and if we have the money, the amount that we want, we should be able to give efficient and satisfactory service. We will take seriously the remarks of hon. Senators and we will continue in the very difficult task of providing efficient communications in the years ahead.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, as usual, when replying to speeches on my Budget speech in the Senate, I always find myself in great difficulty as to how to reciprocate the kind expressions of honourable and respectable Senators in this House. All I can say is to let them know how much I am encouraged in my very difficult task to keep the finances of this country buoyant. And whenever I feel that here is the higher Legislature where politics are not introduced unnecessarily into the deliberations, I know the importance of the status of hon. Senators here. I can only express my grateful thanks to all of them in return for their words of appreciation and of encouragement, and I assure them that under the able, honest and indefatigable leadership of our respected Prime Minister, and with the co-operation of my Colleagues, I shall always do my best to present to you a Budget that will be worthy of our country now and in the future, as long as it pleases the Prime Minister to repose confidence in me to hold the purse of this great country.

In this regard, I would like to say, Sir, that this morning some of the hon. Senators, when debating the Mid-West Motion, thought

that perhaps I would like to do two things: (1) to transform myself to the Mid-West, and (2) to put more money in the coffers of the Mid-West. But these two things are far from my mind. I am sure, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, all of us here have a duty to perform to our nation in general, and we cannot afford to be partial or to be circumscribed in our outlook.

As regards the distribution of finances, the Fiscal Commission lays down quite clearly how we distribute our revenue, and no one can afford to be partial in distributing it. And even if one has to do that, he will be doing something against his conscience and his country in trying to practise favouritism in the handling of the finances of his country.

That brings me, Sir, to the difficulty which perhaps I and my officials are subject to in the preparation of the Estimates. It is nice for Senators to see printed forms and criticise them, but if you know how much my officials work almost throughout the year to put together the Estimates, you will be in sympathy with us. You have had even before you the criticism that was very nicely put by my hon. Colleague the Minister of Communications, that we so prune their Estimates to the extent that some of the faults that you put at his gate-door ought to be put at my own. I do not think, Sir, that the whole of Nigeria can live on telephone alone, nor can they live on Nigerianisation of the Police, nor on the building of roads—Okitipupa roads or Mid-West roads or Kaduna roads, and so on—you cannot put the whole money in one purse. All we have to do, and all I want to say is this that the Government has responsibility to all and sundry, to all the constituents and our constituencies and to all places. Government has its priority list, without fear or favour, to distribute the money so that each Ministry will have the money to undertake its own duty within the available finances of the Government.

Sir, sometimes I fight with my Colleagues. Sometimes I am very unpopular with them, and not only (as Senator Daldry put it) unpopular with some of the single women of recent, but I have been unpopular especially during the stages that Estimates have to be looked into by the Council of Ministers. I used to be very unpopular in the Council of Ministers. But, thank God, the Prime Minister always protects me.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

And, Sir, if I may now go a bit to some of the points raised by some hon. Senators. Senator Dr Orizu mentioned principally the question of Nigerianisation of the Police. Naturally, the hon. Prime Minister is responsible for the Police, and no one is keener than he is in seeing that not only the Police, but that our civil service is Nigerianised. He has this constantly in his mind, but surely we must realise that the expatriate Police officers are in a class by themselves. I must say that. Somebody talked about corruption in the Police. Well, I do not know. If it exists, I am sure that most of our senior Nigerian officers and a lot of those in the rank and file and especially the expatriate Police officers must be brought to the light that they are incorruptible, and if there is anything wrong, we must trace it to our own selves. I must say this that we are prepared to Nigerianise, but not at the expense of efficiency and honesty. Those we shall take into consideration in Nigerianising. We feel that more and more of our young men are coming up. They are living up to the standard that is required and I am sure they are being encouraged in the Force.

Now, Sir, Dr Orizu also mentioned the question of Senators going on parliamentary delegations. I must say quite frankly that this matter was even raised in the Lower House, and I think the Prime Minister will examine it when he comes. I think it has been exercising his mind. I mentioned it and I had his promise the other day after the debate on the Stock Exchange and such other things, that Senators will be ready to go abroad, and if parliamentarians go on parliamentary delegation yearly I see no reason why Senators should not go abroad. And I am looking forward really to the time when the Deputy President of the Senate, with the President of the Senate, will go, not only to the United Kingdom, but also to see the Senate in the United States of America and other parts of the world. (*App-lause.*)

Now, Sir, as usual, Senator Daldry has dealt with financial matters in his characteristic fashion. I think that he has dissected the Budget in a way that we know an expert would do. But at the same time, I cannot agree with him in some of the points he made, although his arguments were pro and con, yet on the question, for instance, of balance of payments,

at one time I made a note disagreeing with him, but later on some of the points I had wanted to make, he also made. The running down of the balance of payments was one of the reasons why we imposed the last taxation measures in December. That is to say, as he said, to dampen down the demand for consumer goods imported from overseas. And many hon. Senators had spoken about this that our people should learn now to patronize their own things. People like my hon. Friend, Senator Abaagu, instead of buying shoes produced in Nigeria, would like to wear Saxone or Lennards, and instead of our people eating some sardines canned in Kano, produced with our own meat here, what do they do? They would go to the Kingsway Stores. And you will be surprised that during the groundnut season, people prefer to go to the Kingsway Stores to buy one corn for sixpence or threepence instead of going to Isale Eko to buy six pieces of corn for a penny. That is one thing we have to discourage in this country. The only way to do it is for people to prefer our own fish, to eat our own meat, to buy our bag from the Kaduna Textile Factory or from the one proposed in the Eastern Region, and to encourage our shoemakers to produce our own shoes and take to that in the real sense of the word.

Also, hon. Senators said that some people take interest in drinking whisky and not palm wine. Rightly, as my hon. Friend said, if you give them even *Star Beer*, they will say 'No, *Heinekens*', then Whisky and Soda as if our forefathers drank Whisky and Soda and yet they lived longer than people of this age. I think the time has come that Senators should assist us to preach this gospel far and wide that we cannot afford perpetually to be importing things, and yet when we establish our own industry here, people are not interested in patronising it. Up till to-day, people still want to buy cement from Germany. They give it some sort of fine name. It is better than Nkalagu cement; whereas buildings which have been constructed with Nkalagu cement have not collapsed up till now. So hon. Senators will be assisting us in doing this.

The hon. Senator Daldry also spoke of the law of diminishing returns. I think that in a way the Federal Government is sure that this cannot affect us, because what we lose by stopping imports in large quantities we will gain by excise duty. I am happy that he has

harpd on that. For instance, if we levy high duty on sugar or flour, the purpose being that the cost of sugar and flour from overseas will be so high, higher than the one produced here, the people will not patronise the one from overseas. It means that if it is produced here, they will buy more of locally produced sugar and flour and what we do eventually is that when we see that more people are buying sugar and flour, we impose excise duty on the locally produced sugar and flour to replace what we lose on the deficiency which we suffer from import duty on sugar and flour. If we do that, and people start going back to the land, we will find that we shall be able to enhance our financial position.

Therefore, I am quite optimistic that the forecast I put in my speech will be realised and I pray that all of us will watch it do so. I am not too optimistic but I hope that this will be realised and perhaps we shall do better.

The raising of the standard of living of our people is one of the ten points I mentioned in my last year's Budget, and that we are prepared to pursue. It is inevitable. When people become more civilised, they want to eat better food, and if they want to eat better food, if we want to eat *garri*, we want to eat better *garri*, and if a thing is better, the cost of it must be more, and naturally, when the standard of living of the preponderance of our people begins to rise, the cost of living is bound to rise.

But what we have to do is to encourage agriculture, so that we can produce more food. If we can produce more food for our people, we shall be able to raise the standard of living, because after all what does a man get from what he possesses? Money or so? You cannot put money in a box and expect to eat it. All you have to do after all is that you thank your God in a day when first of all you have something to eat and your children and your wife get something to eat before you think about wearing ties or good clothes.

Now, Sir, I am grateful to hon. Senator Abubakar Garba for his kind words. I know him too well, that he is one of my respected Friends in this House, and I can assure him that I am deeply touched by his kind words. He touched on the Ashby Report. The Ashby Report, I want hon. Senators to realise, is not the total responsibility of the Federal Government. The Regional

Governments too have a responsibility in it. It is not enough to put on paper as he said, and accept it as a paper policy. This Government is not used to putting things on paper and just gloss over it. We propose to make it—and the Prime Minister is very serious about it that at least we realise a good portion of it, and in that we hope the Regional Governments will co-operate with us.

We shall take everything into consideration; the need of the ordinary man in the region, as well as in the Federal territory, and the Universities proposed there—it is our prayer that if God will help us, we propose to raise funds, and we have lots of friends overseas already promising us assistance, and in getting the assistance, either technical or otherwise, we are not going to close our doors to anyone who wants to help us. We will not go to one country alone. Any other country that is honestly and sincerely wishing to help us, I am sure hon. Senators will agree that we should take them as long as strings are not attached.

Now, Sir, the hon. Senator Abubakar Garba also spoke about textile industry. That I have touched upon a little bit, and I agree with him quite completely that we should extend the present textile mills and also try to establish more. We have a lot of cotton and our cotton is one of the best in the world. There is no reason why we should continue to import a lot of textile abroad when we can produce them. Here again, Sir, we want *nylon*, especially our women want nylon and our gentlemen want rayon shirts—like the one hon. Senator Nzerem is wearing. (*Laughter*) instead of going to Kaduna textile industry to get some shirting like my own. Examples are better than precepts. I wear simple ones not as flamboyant and dazzling as that of Senator Asemota. (*Laughter*). My own, if it was not in Kaduna, was made near there.

The hon. Shadow Minister of Defence's Friend, Senator Umoh, talked so much and really came all out on my respected Colleague, the Minister of Defence who incidentally is not here. All I can assure him is that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Defence, is very keen about Nigerianising the Army. We are a very important country. We do not want to promote a sergeant to a Lieutenant or Captain the next day just because we are independent. You know what has resulted from this. You want

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

to produce Mobutus here to overthrow all of us. (*Laughter*). So I can assure my hon. Senator Friend that my Colleague is taking into consideration this point, but we want to give our soldiers real training and I agree with some of the Members who said that at this time it is good to train our soldiers. We can only train our soldiers for internal security. We pray to God, and we are not interested in war. It is the white race that is interested in waging war against themselves. We want to live a peaceful life, and all we say is that when they shall have decided to go to the moon, they should live us here quietly to enjoy ourselves. (*Laughter*). We want to train our soldiers and train them well, and I am sure that our friends overseas are willing to assist to accomplish this.

Hon. Senator Asemota made so many points. No wonder he complained about his gifts the other day. I see that he has unfolded his gifts—the parcel that he received here, and he has also put a number of points, taking his line from the *West African Pilot* to perhaps the *Express*.

But I want to assure him first of all on the point he made about export duty on rubber. The export duty on rubber is not calculated on Malayan price; however, market all over the world is controlled by the London Rubber Market and it is expected that the London standard of quality should be the standard of rubber produced everywhere. We must therefore encourage our rubber producers in Nigeria to produce the highest quality. Therefore the rate of duty cannot be calculated on the price of the lowest grade of rubber, but on the highest quality because that will be asking our producers to produce lower quality of rubber, if we are going to base our calculation of export duty on it. I am sure that hon. Senator Asemota is one of the sincere Mid-Westerners who want the Mid-West State, and he will appreciate that the Regional Governments take in their export duty one hundred per cent on the basis of exportation. So that if you are going to reduce taxation on rubber, which is the highest produce in the Mid-West, then you might as well budget for bankruptcy. I hope that is not what you mean.

You also mentioned about the gifts during the Independence Celebrations. Well, sometimes hon. Senators think that they are cut up

and they want to pick out one or two things on the Estimate. This Estimate is a voluminous collection of figures and it is difficult. No matter. I know that the hon. Asemota is a good accountant but he cannot beat my people. I now refer him to page 10 of the Estimates. There he will find that the gift from the U.A.C. was divided as follows:—

	£
Office and Repository, Kaduna	67,000
Office and Repository, Enugu	58,000

At page 23 you will find Institutes of Child Welfare, Lagos and the University College, Ibadan, £50,000. That is the Western Region. At page 29 you will find institutions of Child Health in all the three Regions at £25,000 each, total £75,000 making a total of £250,000. So you will find that it is equally distributed to all the Regions.

Then Paterson Zochonis gave us £20,000. You will find that at page 20 and then you will find that this has been put in a Teachers' Reference Library.

Then Mandilas and Karaberis gave us £20,000. You will find that at page 21—Assistance to Technical Education generally, for the whole of the Federation.

As I said, you know the Prime Minister is very keen to ensure that every penny that is given to this country is put to proper use. Everything we have received we have put to proper use and is duly accounted for in the Estimates, according to the pages I have just mentioned.

Also, as regards illicit gin, I want to say, Sir, that Members will be happy to note that arrangements are well in hand to build the first distillery in Nigeria and I think that within this year, by the time you come back, we shall have one. I hope that is not an empty promise. (*Hear, hear*).

My only fear is that when these distilleries are in full motion that our brothers and sisters—like those who train their children and were prosecuted at Abeokuta the other day—may be thrown out of existence because, in some places in the country, I know for certain that the local people live and maintain their families on income which they receive from distilling illicit gin. However, we are not to encourage it but to see that we produce the best thing for Nigerians.

Well, Sir, mention was also made by Senator Umoh, on weights and measures and vehicle licence and I interjected, quite rightly, and said that they are Regional matters that are not our responsibility.

The salaries of Senators, I understand, ought to be higher than those of the Legislators in the Lower House. Before I can make any recommendation to the Prime Minister I would like to mention it to the Members of the House of Representatives and see whether they will agree to that suggestion. (*Laughter*).

Well, Sir, mention was also made of the Government Press. I must say, quite quickly, with the time at my disposal, that Government has thought that it is essential that its views should be known. Senators will agree that very damaging remarks have been made in the Press against the Government, especially recently, for reasons best known to those who write them, and Government is not given the right avenue of giving its views or even telling people what the Federal Government is doing.

The hon. Senator will be surprised to know that Ghana publishes a weekly journal in Germany, with headquarters in Germany, apart from their local publications trying to project Ghana's personality abroad. So this we are doing, not only to use the press for Nigeria, but also to publish papers better than those published now and to project the Nigerian personality abroad. And so one million pounds is nothing at all, compared with the size and importance of Nigeria, to make the generality of our people in Nigeria realize what the Federal Government is doing and, as a matter of fact, what the Regional Governments are doing as well.

Mention has been made about public holidays. I suppose we all realise that we have religious freedom in this country and that public holidays associated with religious practices ought to be respected and, more than that, the Englishman says, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." With plenty of work during the year and no holiday, I do not think that our workers would be all that efficient.

I turn to Senator Wusu. I must say that he will be happy to note that a mat factory will soon be opened in Nigeria.

As regards football pools and horse racing, raised by Senator Somolu I am happy that

I have got support in him but I fear that if I were to tax all these things more, I may become unpopular, not only with girls, but also with boys.

As regards motor cars, I agree with him that big cars, like the one ridden in by him which I saw this morning, ought to be properly taxed.

That reminds me of a short story of what happened at Idiroko Station told by one of my Customs Officers. Some kola nut sellers were making claims over excess of duty paid and when they wanted to make this claim they were not wise enough. They brought big Buicks and automobiles and went to Idiroko to make the claim and it was eight shillings per bag. And when the Senior Collector of Customs saw them he said, "Gentlemen, you say you are kola nut sellers and you have no money, but who are the owners of these big cars"? And they said, "We own them". He replied, "You own big cars like Ministers' and you are complaining"! So instead of the usual eight shillings the Collector of Customs charged them twenty shillings per bag because they owned big cars. However, when the matter was referred to me by one of my colleagues, I asked that the excess should be refunded because, in Nigeria, we do not tax people because they are tall or because they are short or because they have big cars but we tax income.

Well, the hon. Abaagu made the point of taxing questionable women. I must tell him that, in a society like ours, we must have such characters too, you know. They serve their useful purposes; sometimes to bachelors and sometimes to travellers. (*Laughter*).

With these few points, Sir, I want to wind up again by thanking hon. Senators for their generosity and I assure them that we shall always do our best to meet some of the points they have raised.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, pursuant to the order of the Senate (25th April, 1961) immediately read the third time and passed.

The President: Order, order. As it is now after 6 o'clock, in pursuance of the Resolution of the Senate this morning, the Senate now stands adjourned *sine die*.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to seven o'clock, sine die

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS APPENDIX

EDUCATION

Uniformity of Structures

W.1. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Government of the Federation, what steps have been taken to make certification and remuneration of teachers, and educational standards uniform throughout the Federation; and whether they would now consider the advisability of making the above aspects of our education the complete responsibility of the Federal Government.

The Federal Minister of Education : Under present constitutional arrangements the Federal Government has no power to enforce uniformity but there are arrangements whereby the Federal and Regional Governments consult together in order to achieve uniformity in the certification and remuneration of teachers.

As regards certification the minimum conditions for the award of all Teachers' Certificate are uniform throughout the Federation and any change in them is made after inter-Regional agreement has been reached at the Joint Consultative Committee on Education.

As regards remuneration, the National Council on Establishments is the existing machinery for reaching inter-Regional agreement.

I am not quite certain what is implied by the phrase "to make educational standards uniform", but uniformity in examination standards is achieved by the West African Examinations Council, which is the examining body setting and marking the papers for all secondary schools throughout Nigeria which take the West African School Certificate.

Teachers' Pension Rights

W.2. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Government of the Federation what difference exists in the pension constants of voluntary agency teachers and civil servants; and if they will make a categorical statement as to Government's preparedness or otherwise of giving voluntary agency teachers pension rights identical with those of civil servants.

The Federal Minister of Education : The constants applied to the calculation of pension for teachers in the service of the Voluntary Agencies are :

1/960 in respect of service up to and including 31-12-45 and

1/800 in respect of service after 1-1-46.

The constants applied to pensionable Nigerian Officers in the Government Service are respectively 1/720 and 1/600.

Not all retirement benefits of Government servants are however, calculated on the basis stated above. A scheme of gratuities and annual allowances for established but non-pensionable Government employees was introduced in 1947 (Government Circular 93 of 1947) and revised in 1959 (Federal Establishment Secretary's Circular No. 45 of 1959). The constants used in the calculation of awards under this scheme are the same as those applied in the case of Voluntary Agency teachers.

The Federal Government's policy in these matters is to act in concert with the Regional Governments after consultation in the National Council on Establishment. It would be inadvisable, therefore, to make a categorical statement of intention except after such consultation. The Federal Government can undertake, however, to ascertain the views of Regional Governments on this matter with a view to making any amendments which may be found desirable.

STAFF WELFARE

Living Quarters

W.3 Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Government of the Federation if they are aware of the hardship suffered by senior officers of the Federal Government serving in the Regions in the matter of allocation of living quarters; and what steps Government are taking to see that their officers are well catered for in this regard.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : I am not aware that senior officers of the Federal Government serving in the Regions are suffering hardship in the matter of allocation of living quarters.

The Minister of Finance and I are presently investigating the matter of housing Federal Government officers with a view to the preparation of a policy statement for consideration by the Cabinet.

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