



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*FIRST PARLIAMENT*

FIFTH SESSION

1964-65

## SENATE

VOLUME 13

Comprising Period

12th—14th, 16th, 20th March and 10th—11th,  
13th—14th April, 1964

PRICE : 5s NET

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION  
LAGOS

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

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

Thursday, 12th March, 1964

*Parliament met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the President in the Official Gazette Extraordinary of 12th February, 1964, as followeth :—*

**A PROCLAMATION**



By His Excellency DR NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

NNAMDI AZIKIWE,  
*President*

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me 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 12th day of March, 1964, 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 Federal Republic of Nigeria at State House, Lagos, this sixth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.

**PRAYERS**

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Chair.*

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

**Speech by His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of The Federal Republic of Nigeria**

*Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives.*

*It is my privilege to address you to-day at this first Budget Meeting of Parliament since our constitutional change from monarchy to republic in October last year. Before outlining the policy of my Government for the coming year, I wish to record my satisfaction with the orderly arrangements that culminated in the successful creation of a Mid-Western Region of Nigeria last month.*

*My Government will continue to support all practicable measures aimed at promoting African unity and to be guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity especially those of non-interference in the internal affairs of States ; peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation or arbitration ; and absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still under foreign rule.*

*It is the firm resolve of my Government to continue to co-operate with other African States, and to foster good neighbourly relations between Nigeria and her neighbours. My Government will also seek to widen the areas of co-operation between Nigeria and other African countries.*

*While continuing to support the United Nations Organization as the best hope of mankind for promoting peace and security, my Government will, in collaboration with other nations, press vigorously for equitable representation of African States on the Security Council and the other major organs of the United Nations Organization.*

*My Government will, within the context of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament, continue its efforts to explore all possible areas of international co-operation with a view to achieving total relaxation of world tension.*

*In the field of internal security, my Government will further expand the Nigeria Police Force to meet its growing commitments, particularly having regard to the increase in population.*

*The coming year will see greater strengthening of our defences by land and sea and further progress*



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in the establishment of the Nigerian Air Force. To this end, the Nigeria Army will be further expanded and re-equipped and steps will be taken to acquire more ships for the Nigerian Navy.

In pursuance of its policy of making our Armed Forces largely independent in the training of their personnel, my Government will further develop the Nigerian Defence Academy to meet ultimately all pre-commission training requirements of our Armed Forces.

Legislation will be introduced during the year for the establishment of a Defence Industries Corporation and for the management of an Ordnance Factory. Other Bills will include one to replace the existing law with an up-to-date naval code to meet the requirements of a Republican Nigeria and to regulate the pensions and retiring benefits of members of our Armed Forces.

The Nigeria Airways will soon introduce, on its European route, one of the modern types of jet aircraft, the VC.10, in place of the Boeing 707, to start direct day flights between Lagos and London.

Arrangements are well advanced for the establishment of a Civil Aviation Training Centre in Zaria, which is being jointly financed by the United Nations Special Fund and the Federal Government. When completed, the Centre will provide training for all grades of our aviation staff including pilots, thereby helping to accelerate the Nigerianisation of the technical and professional posts for which there is at present a dearth of qualified Nigerians.

The Nigerian National Shipping Line will press forward with its fleet development and will endeavour substantially to increase the number of its vessels.

Work on the second Apapa Wharf Extension, involving the construction of four new berths, will be accelerated and the possibility of bulk handling facilities in one of the berths will be explored so as to make for a quicker turn-round of moored ships. A first class deep-water berth with ancillary facilities will be completed at Koko in the Mid-Western Nigeria. While continuing with experiments for finding a permanent solution to soil erosion caused by the sea at Victoria Beach, my Government will intensify its current operation thereby pumping sufficient sand to reclaim land already lost to the sea.

For the first time ever, the building and assembling of wagons will be carried out in

Nigeria by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and, as far as it is practicable, local materials will be used.

To help reduce accidents on our highways, all new bridges that will be constructed during the current Development Plan will either be constructed to 24-foot width or will be so constructed as to allow for subsequent widening.

New Trunk 'A' Roads will be built to a design speed of 60 miles per hour, and legislation is contemplated further to regulate traffic on Trunk 'A' Roads in order to ensure greater safety.

In the award of contracts, indigenous firms of engineering contractors will be given encouragement to enable them undertake larger contracts.

The topographical mapping of Nigeria will be vigorously pursued in order to produce maps on a scale of 1 in 50,000 for the purposes of economic development and planning.

Legislation will be introduced to amend the Survey Act to make membership of the Surveyors' Licensing Board more representative and to enhance the Nigerian Surveyors' Licence which is required to practise the profession of land surveying.

My Government will intensify its efforts towards accelerated development of the Nigerian Telecommunications Service.

A Nigerian Postal Order service will for the first time be introduced, and a White Paper defining further postal development during the next five-year period will be laid before you in due course.

My Government recognizes the importance of expanding our external means of communication and will, therefore, continue to increase the number of African countries with which to establish direct telecommunications links. A powerful radio transmitting station will be built at Ikorodu to bring Nigeria closer to all parts of the world.

The possibility of training more Telecommunications and Meteorological personnel from neighbouring African countries at our Training Schools in Oshodi will be explored. The Meteorological Service will be expanded to meet the ever-growing needs of industry and agriculture as well as military and civil aviation.

In order to increase and to maintain the expansion of our economy in all parts of the country, my Government will continue to promote

and regulate the exploitation of our mineral resources. An inventory of the mineral resources of Nigeria will be made and the modern techniques of geophysical and geochemical prospecting will be used to supplement conventional geological methods.

A Bill will be introduced to tighten the control of quarrying in Nigeria.

The development of our power resources will be continued to meet the increasing demand of our expanding economy. Accordingly, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will increase the generating capacity of its major undertakings. The new Towns Development Scheme, which is being undertaken as a joint venture with the Regional Governments, will be continued.

A Bill will be laid before you during this session to grant the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, wayleaves for the construction of transmission lines.

Conscious of the great importance attached to nuclear power, my Government will by virtue of Nigeria's membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency, seek research and training opportunities for our scholars.

The existing curricula of our primary, secondary and technical schools will be re-examined with a view to revising them to include the latest discoveries of educational research. To provide increased educational opportunities suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of our pupils, secondary education will be diversified. The development of technical education will be further strengthened by enlisting greater co-operation of the industrial and commercial sectors of our economy with the various Governments of the Republic. To this end, my Government will give necessary lead through the medium of a fully representative National Advisory Council on technical education and industrial training. A National Teachers' Training College for training teachers for technical schools and colleges will be opened this year through the generous financial assistance from the International Development Association of the World Bank. The coming year will also witness the opening of a Faculty of Engineering in the University of Lagos.

A National Council for Science and Technology will also be established with the primary aim of stimulating scientific and technological education in Nigeria. This body will advise the Government on its scientific, technological and research policies.

My Government will promote the activity of the Education and Culture Commission of the Organization of African Unity by contributing to the exchange of students and by offering scholarships and facilities for higher education in our educational institutions. It will also encourage the establishment of an administrative organ for these activities within the framework of the Organization of African Unity.

My Government will carry on with its programme of improving the health of the inhabitants of Lagos by widening the basis of preventive measures and bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach of a large number of people. To this end, the five Health Centres in Lagos, which are being built, will be opened for the use of the community during the coming year.

Being gravely concerned about the heavy toll of lives taken by malaria and small-pox in our country, my Government will, in co-operation with the Regional Governments, launch a nationwide campaign for the eradication of small-pox. In co-operation with the World Health Organization and in collaboration with the Regional Governments, it will also embark on the early stage of a nation-wide malaria eradication project.

Legislation will be presented to you during this session to reorganize the Nursing profession so as to modernize the education of our nurses and to rationalise the basis of registration and practice of the profession in the country.

My Government is determined to continue to play its vital role in International Health Conferences and to co-operate with International Health Organizations. Special efforts will be made to ensure that the Republic gives maximum support to the Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Commission of the Organization of African Unity.

My Government will continue to supply Nigerian legal and judicial personnel to those African countries that request such assistance from us.

A Presidential Proceedings Bill will be presented to you during this meeting to regulate proceedings at certain joint meetings of the Houses of Parliament for the purpose of election of the President and other matters.

An amending legislation will be introduced to tighten the provisions of the Official Secrets Act. An Adaptation of Laws Order will be made to

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effect all consequential changes in our Statute Laws, which are necessitated by the constitutional transformation of our country into a Republic.

The possibility of expanding the Dock Labour Scheme to cover all ports in the Republic and also improve the system of registration of dockworkers will be explored.

Legislation governing the National Provident Fund Scheme will be amended to increase the Regional Governments' direct participation in the investment of the accumulated fund of the Scheme.

A classified census of public beggars already being undertaken will be continued as a first step towards evolving a means of their effective control and rehabilitation.

In pursuance of my Government's policy of encouraging and developing sports, more financial assistance will be given to the Lagos Sports Council and the National Sports Council to strengthen them and enable them provide necessary facilities for organized training aimed at improving the standard of performance in all fields of sports.

To enable Government cater more adequately for the welfare of all our Ex-Servicemen throughout the Republic, legislation will be introduced during the year to create a single Ex-Servicemen's organization.

The possibility of instituting a system for registration of marriages celebrated in Lagos under Customary law and Muslim law will be explored.

A new comprehensive legislation will be presented to you during this session to replace the existing Land Registration Act and thereby simplify, to a great extent, the complex problems of land registration in Lagos.

My Government is actively considering a comprehensive United Nations Report on Lagos. In it, concrete proposals have been made for the development of the Federal territory of Lagos as a capital city befitting this country. Before undertaking the implementation of most of the recommendations in the Report, my Government will carry out further feasibility studies on priorities concerned with traffic, sewage disposal, slum clearance and housing.

The Metropolitan Low Cost Housing Scheme, which is designed to help Lagos inhabitants in the low-income group to own houses through loans provided either by the Nigerian Staff Housing

Scheme or by the Nigeria Building Society, will be implemented to the extent permitted by our financial resources. The first phase of the Scheme involves the construction, in South Surulere, of 1,400 units of cheap but durable houses.

The coming year will witness a diversification of the live programmes of the Nigerian Television Service and the introduction of educational television. A nucleus of the National Library will be opened during the year to cater for the literary tastes of our reading public as well as inculcate the reading habit in more and more of our people.

My Government will intensify its efforts in securing an increase in our share of world trade in order to reduce the present imbalance in our terms of trade. To this end, a measure of import control will be introduced. More positive measures will be introduced to direct our industrialisation programme towards the local production, from local raw materials, of our major import items such as textiles, building materials and foodstuffs.

Conscious of the fact that the economic factors which have kept our trade at a low ebb are due to the manipulation at the international level of the world commodity market, my Government will co-operate with other developing countries and all progressive nations in an effort to forge, through the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, a new institution for organizing world trade on a more equitable basis. To this end, our membership of all international organizations such as GATT will be reviewed in the light of developing trends.

Steps will be taken during this session to bring before you legislation for better regulation and promotion of our internal trade. Bills will also be introduced to regulate Insurance and Re-Insurance as well as Hire-Purchase. A Committee has been set up to advise on Retail Trade, and it is expected that the Committee on Company Law already set up will submit its report before the end of this session.

A Project Evaluation Unit and an Investment Unit will be set up. The Projects Evaluation Unit will conduct feasibility studies and project evaluation on a nation-wide scale to ensure that our industrialisation programme is properly orientated to those industries which will ensure the maximum growth in our economy. The Investment Unit will serve both as a registry for indus-

trial projects established in Nigeria and as an information centre and liaison office for new investors.

The rapid development of agriculture will seriously engage the attention of my Government. The recent comprehensive survey of agricultural possibilities in Nigeria which was conducted by a team of experts from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization will provide one of the basic blue-prints for stepping up primary production in Nigeria.

My Government will continue the intensive search for more effective way and means of expanding the production of local foodstuffs, cash crops and dairy products. The results of the activities of the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Research, will be made more readily available to the farmers. The Nigerian Fishing Industry will be expanded through the establishment of a fishing terminal and other landing facilities, together with the associated fish processing or canning factories. The fishing potentials of Lake Chad will be fully exploited in close co-operation with the other countries bordering the Chad.

A comprehensive Progress Report on the Six-Year National Development Plan will be laid before you to acquaint you with the progress made during the first two years of the Plan, and also to give you the opportunity of assessing the achievements so far made.

My Government will, in consultation with the Regional Governments, introduce practical measures for dealing with the problem of unemployment which a recent survey of urban unemployment showed to be most acute among school leavers.

My Government will continue to use the National Economic Council and other inter-Governmental institutions as the machinery for co-ordinating its economic activities with those of the Regional Governments. These inter-Governmental organs will henceforth play a greater role in the execution of the National Plan and in the general development of our economy.

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, your principal business at this meeting will be to consider the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill together with the supporting Estimates of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure.

In order to facilitate the growing use of cheques as a means of payment, a Bill will be introduced to make provision for the payment of cheques without endorsement in certain circumstances.

It is also intended to introduce a Bill for a new Stamp Duties Act to bring the existing Act more into line with present-day circumstances and to effect a number of amendments aimed at removing existing causes of delay in assessing and stamping certain classes of documents.

My Government further proposes to introduce legislation to regulate the acceptance of deposits and protect the public against fraud.

Legislation will also be laid before you to make provision for the exercise control of the Oil Refinery now under construction in Eastern Nigeria.

Following an agreement with the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, the first common customs station will come into operation shortly so that travellers between that country and Nigeria will only have to undergo a single examination instead of two separate examinations as at present. Negotiations on similar problems of Customs administration being undertaken with the Republics of Camerouns, Chad, Niger and Togo will continue.

The new form of Customs Tariff in accordance with the Brussels Nomenclature will be used on an experimental basis, alongside the existing Tariff, for a few months, and the formal change-over to the new Tariff will take place when all those concerned have become familiar with the use of the new document.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, I pray that Almighty God will guide your work and bless your counsels for the progress of our country and the good and happiness of us all. (APPLAUSE)

HIS EXCELLENCY RETIRED FROM THE CHAMBER.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That Parliament do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Parliament do now adjourn.  
Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 13th March, 1964

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** I rise to nominate Senator Dr Akweke Abyssinia Nwafor Orizu, M.A., LL.D., for appointment to the high office of President of the Senate.

I make this nomination, fellow Senators, with a deep sense of appropriateness. If we must handle competently the various sectors of the Republics' activities, we must always insist on placing the right person in the right place. And, this is precisely what we would be doing by installing Dr Orizu in the Presidential Chair of this Senate. This House's maturity of judgment has always been reflected, among other things, by its unerring choice of its Presidents, and I have no doubt, that the choice of Dr Nwafor Orizu will prove as fortunate a choice as those of his noble and eminent predecessors in office.

As candidate for the office, Dr Orizu enjoys one advantage over his predecessors. He has acquired from the inside a sound, first-hand knowledge of the working of the Senate's parliamentary procedure, and he has been fortunate in having learnt at the hands of these predecessors who were past masters as political teachers and who were parliamentarians of the highest order.

We, my dear fellow Senators, must deem it a special pride and honour that, fortunate as we have been in having in the past been headed in succession by two very able and distinguished sons of Nigeria, we have at long last, and for the first time matured sufficiently to produce from our own ranks the President of the Senate. (*Hear, hear*). It is my firm belief that no Senator here could seriously challenge the wisdom of choosing our own President this time from among ourselves rather than from outside.

What are Dr Orizu's credentials for this high office? I have suggested that the mere fact of any Senator having sat and taken part in the proceedings in this Senate for the better part of five years, the mere fact that he has been learning all these years from such great masters as the present President of the Republic

and the present Premier of the Mid-Western Region, that experience alone ought to have prepared him for assuming the position and role of President of the Senate.

Nor did Dr Orizu's parliamentary experience begin on the Floor of the Senate. To have listened to his discourses here and outside is to have heard not a tiro, but a seasoned politician, statesman and legislator. As long ago as 1951, Dr Orizu was already member alike of the Eastern House of Assembly and of the Central Parliament here in Lagos. He has also been member of the Eastern House of Chiefs, and was indeed co-ordinator of the Eastern Region Conference of Chiefs. A man who, on top of all this, was Chief Whip of one of the major political parties in the land, must enjoy as good a claim to the high office to which he is being nominated, as anyone; and more than most.

But politics does not make the whole man. It must be a joy to the whole world of teachers and educationists to read from tomorrow's newspaper headlines that a man of their own profession has been elevated to the coveted office of President of the Nigerian Senate. The world knows that, even more than politician, Dr Orizu is an educationist, and everyone must remember him as the proponent of the philosophy of "Horizontal Education" in the colonial days. He is to-day Principal and Proprietor of the Nigerian Secondary School at Nnewi.

But he is an educator with a difference—one that knows no tribal barriers. For only a Nigerian with Nwafor's breadth of mind and complete absence of tribalism could claim, as he does, to have, in his advancement of the cause of education, benefited all the tribes of Nigeria, since several graduates, distinguished scholars, and highly placed persons scattered throughout the Federal Republic owe their education and their enviable positions to Dr Nwafor Orizu.

To the cause of trade unionism Dr Orizu very nearly gave his life and actually suffered a "house arrest" during the crises occasioned by the "Enugu Shootings".

It is impossible to recount these performances without associating Dr Orizu with the early pioneers in that national resurgence which gave fresh impetus to the anti-colonialist movement which culminated in the eventual emancipation of this country.

Fellow Senators, the Clerk of the Parliaments, talking about respect for leadership, no parliamentarian has unmistakably exhibited a greater sense of loyalty and has paid more frequent tributes to our national leaders than has Dr Nwafor Orizu. On every possible occasion, whether it was relevant or irrelevant, he has made it his duty to pay high respects to the Nation's Head of State, to the Prime Minister "as the man chosen by God to lead Nigeria"; to the Sardauna as "God-fearing leader" and even to Chief Awolowo in his confinement. His is unalloyed loyalty to Nigeria and to Nigerian leaders; his is unquestioned devotion to patriotism.

Mr Clerk of the Parliaments, and my dear fellow Senators, I have not risen to sing Dr Orizu's praises. I have merely risen to present him to you, and I have the honour to nominate Dr Nwafor Orizu as the President of the Senate. (*Applause*).

**Senator A. E. Ukattah** : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : I beg to say that I have a great objection to this nomination, not only myself, but those of us who are connected, associated with or come from the Western part of Nigeria.

A lot has been said, but they are highly questionable and debatable. But inasmuch as we can see that the air is charged and unpalatable for a judicious election of the President of the Senate in this House, my Colleagues and I will abstain from voting, and we wish to be excused until the voting is done.

**The Clerk of the Parliaments** : Since there is no other nomination, Dr Nwafor Orizu has been duly elected President of the Senate. (*Applause*).

**Senator Dr A. A. Nwafor Orizu** : Mr Clerk of the Parliaments, my fellow Senators, it is with a deep sense of humility that I stand before you this morning to thank you for the honour done to me. I cannot say much in view of the unanimity of this House. What I will say is that I am grateful and that I shall discharge my duty to the best of my ability. (*Applause*).

*Then Senator Dr Orizu was taken out of his place and conducted to the Chair by Senator M. G. Ejaiife and Senator A. E. Ukattah.*

## OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Senators—

The Minister of Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe)  
 Chief F. Oputa-Otutu  
 Chief F. G. Ojehomon  
 Mrs B. U. Kerry  
 Chief E. A. Asena  
 Chief J. I. G. Onyia.  
 Mr J. I. Idehen.  
 Mr A. O. Airewale.  
 Mr E. I. Onewakar.  
 Chief E. Boyo.  
 Mr W. M. Egbuson.  
 Mr E. Lamai.  
 Mr P. O. Okoro.  
 Mr M. G. Ejaiife.

## DEATH OF A MEMBER

**The President** : I regret to have to inform the Senate of the death of Senator H. N. Udoh, and I desire on behalf of the Senate to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the late Senator.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I am sure we all share the sense of loss of the relatives of Senator Udoh, because he had been a very great Friend of every Senator here and we had all enjoyed his wise counsel in our debate.

I am sure I am voicing the feeling of the Senate when I say that we have certainly lost a very great Friend in the person of the Senator who died.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah** : I just want to say that following the death of our Colleague, those of us in the Eastern Region who were near—Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu and myself—attended the burial, and we did that on behalf of the Senate; in fact we told the wives and relatives of the late Senator that we were representing the Senate. I would like to inform Senators that on your behalf and in your name we laid a wreath at the grave side.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia** : It is really a pity that I should stand up here to speak of the death of my Colleague, Senator H. N. Udoh. Senator Udoh was my very good friend and was a teacher under me at the Aba Government School. He was second to me in the school and we worked together for many years. He was one of the sincerest men one could ever meet.

[SENATOR CHIEF ONYIA]

I know all his families and he was very honest when he was alive. He was a man of integrity. If he told you to go, you must go, and if he said yes, he meant yes.

I remember how we laboured to receive most of our nationalists, including our President of the Senate, when they returned from the United States of America. I am sure people like Dr K. O. Mbadiwe will bear me out. However, I wish to place it on record that we, the Members of this Senate, do sincerely mourn the death of Senator H. N. Udoh and we wish the best for the family.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** Although I had not met Senator H. N. Udoh before our association here in this Senate, I was shocked when I heard the news of his sudden death. The late Senator Udoh was a man of very great importance to the nation and to the Senate in particular. He was a man of very high integrity and wisdom, and I think by his death the Senate has been robbed of one of its wisest Members. Despite the fact that I have heard that somebody has already been nominated to take his place, his place will be very hard to fill. We hope that the new Senator will emulate the role played by Senator Udoh when he was alive and when he was with us in this Senate.

We pray that his soul may rest in peace.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju :** I rise to associate myself with the other Senators who have spoken before me about our regret, as a matter of fact our profound regret, for the irreparable loss we sustained by the death of Senator Udoh. Apart from our association in the Senate, as a teacher we had a common platform. And what is more, one would have expected that somebody who had worked for a fairly long time with a sincerity of purpose and earned his pension, ought to have lived longer to enjoy the fruits of his labours. But, nevertheless, death has snatched him away from us. In any case, there is a source of joy for us in that while he was here with us he actually did his best and was a friend to all.

We express our deep sympathy to all the members of his family. May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** It is a great pity that we have lost Senator Udoh in this Senate. The late Senator was a very nice man, both in this

House and outside it. I had the privilege of knowing him when I was a pharmacist in the Aba General Hospital, and at the time he was teaching in the Government School, Aba, too.

He was a quiet man—a man with a singular character—who did not believe in noise-making. He believed in actual service, and when he contributed to debates his speeches were all centred round the subject of discussion; he was not prone to shouting unnecessarily or tossing about. In him we had an example of a good parliamentarian.

On the question of his private life, he was a man of family and had a special attachment to his family even at the hour of his death. He was always carrying his children about from place to place, showing them places of interest—as an educationist.

We have lost Senator Udoh in a big way and I believe his successor, Senator Paul Okoro, would creditably fit in his place. I have the feeling that the Almighty God will take care of the soul of Senator Udoh and give us consolation in the substitute that we have here before us.

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** I rise to associate myself with those who have given credit to the tenure of office of our late beloved Senator Udoh. When he was alive his contributions were straightforward and concrete, and he never hesitated to speak out his mind when it came to telling the Government some hard truths.

I rise to pray for his soul and also for those of us who are to-day present in this House, because when it is our time to die we shall as well do so.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi :** I had wanted not to say anything in connection with the death of Senator Udoh because I have hardly recovered from the shock which I had from the incident—I was myself an eye-witness on how his life came to an end—but since this is a general tribute that is being paid to him on the Floor of this House, I feel that I should say that the death of Mr Udoh has been a great loss to us all and to the Ibo people in particular.

The late Udoh died on active service, and as one Senator has said, his place will be difficult to fill in many circles.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** It is with a grave feeling that I rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the other speakers. Senator Udoh as we all knew him was a quiet and hardworking man, and he tried to put on record his views and stand on any subject brought before us.

He was always on the side of truth and sincerity, and as people have just said, he put everything he said into practice. On many occasions when tempers flared up, he gently and calmly told the Government nothing but the truth. He always told the Government the correct way to treat Senators, whenever he felt they were lagging behind. These and many others yet unmentioned were the qualities of the late Senator Udoh, and that is why we say that his place will be difficult to fill.

Senator Udoh was a fearless debater who always declared his stand unequivocally on any matter being discussed. For instance, he was one of the outspoken Senators who were constantly stressing the need to improve the welfare of Senators, particularly with regard to Members' flats at the Victoria Island. I am sure Senators will agree with me that he was, until his death, a true son of Nigeria.

The late Senator was a good friend of mine ; he always came to my store for advice and information about any good drug he liked to purchase for the betterment of himself and his family. In fact, I can tell you, that he used to come to my store to change his eye glasses. He always bought his medicine from me. He even asked me what medicines to use against old age, but I told him that old age had no remedy.

Before he left here after the last session, he told me that he would like to travel when he got home because he wanted to be up and doing. He wanted something that would give him energy, something that would make him run up and down and not feel tired. But as you know, one cannot deceive nature. However, there are one or two things which Senator Udoh had got, but as God would have it, "Man proposes but God disposes."

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu :** I also rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers on Senator

Udoh's death. I do not remember having met him in person, but I have heard a great deal about him both from his colleagues who are educationalists and his colleagues of this House. The Senator died, as has just been mentioned by Senators, in active service. He was a man of great conviction. What makes his death all the more sad is that he died of motor accident. Nevertheless, as Shakespeare once said, "*Death is a necessary end and will come when it will come*". There is nothing more that I can say here than to end up by saying, may his soul rest in peace.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed about the death of late Senator Udoh. As may not be generally known, his name Udoh means "peace". So it can easily be seen why wherever Senator Udoh was there was peace.

He has died and left us the poorer by his death, and the tragic circumstances under which he died make his death doubly regrettable. It is not a thing that I can begin to talk about without sentiments, because the late Senator was not only my Colleague in this House, he was also my colleague in the teaching profession. The educational world has lost a man of ability, and Nigeria an illustrious son.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** I rise to associate myself with the other former Colleagues of late Senator Udoh. I was one of the Senators who attended his burial, and it gave me much pleasure to be there since that was the first time that I have been to his place. When I got to his place, I found out that Senator Udoh was a very quiet man. The site of his self-made furnished quarters made me believe that Senator Udoh got up early and had done something remarkable which he had left for his children.

I noticed during our meetings here that Senator Udoh was a very quiet man who never showed off. I never knew that late Senator Udoh acquired such a position in his house. He had very admirable quarters. His quiet disposition illustrates the parable that it is an empty vessel that makes the most noise.

His death is a very big loss to his good family, to this Senate and to Nigeria as a whole. As I said before, going to his house has taught me a very big lesson, a lesson that I shall never



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forget, a lesson that I shall teach my friends and children. This lesson which I have learnt is that Senator Udoh, with all his dignity, with all his wealth and with his magnificent building, never showed off. When he came here, he put himself in the lowest place, and when he was at a gathering, he made himself scarcely noticed.

With this few words, I pray that his soul may rest in perfect peace.

**Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo** : I rise to express my deep regret for the death of Senator Udoh. I have known Senator Udoh since 1960, and as others have said, I have found that he was a quiet man. He was patient. He knew how to debate matters in the right way without bothering himself or quarrelling about anything.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife** : To the pool of tributes being paid to the late Senator Udoh, I would like to contribute my own little quota. I do not know that I have much to say than others have said except to underline the fact that I have three reasons why I should particularly mourn the death of the late Senator Udoh.

In the first place, as a teacher, he imparted much to his students as any teacher ; secondly, as a nationalist, he served the cause of the whole country in general. I think as a Mid-Westerner I must make the point that while he died in active service, he made a great contribution to the cause of the Mid-West.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh** : I rise to associate myself with the previous speakers as regards Senator Udoh's death. His death is really very regrettable. He was a matured politician ever before he came in here. As a teacher of ability, he produced very many of the nationalists of this country. He came in here to give finishing touches to the work he had already started as a teacher, and it is most unfortunate that he died while he was in active service, that is when he was serving the nation.

I have many reasons to regret the late Senator Udoh's death. He has left a room which will be very difficult to fill. He was a teacher that was actually taught not so much by man, but by experience. He was a very quiet man, but very wise. He spoke but few

words, but words of words—words that were used immediately he spoke them because he spoke to the point. He studied issues and deliberated on them straightaway to the point.

However, while we mourn his death, we also should turn to ourselves and learn by the example left for us by the late Senator.

We pray to God to take him to Heaven, and also ask God to help us while we are alive so that when we die we may also get to Heaven. As we all know as the Lords of the country, in other words, Members of the Senate, we should also pray that when we die the Lord may give us a good place in Heaven—

**The President** : Order. There is a stranger in the Senate. He being no member of the Senate, I think the only place he can be is the Gallery.

**Senator Umoh** : We also pray, Mr President, that we be held out as people having high places in Heaven.

It is unfortunate that this has happened, and I pray that his soul may rest in peace.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### COMMITTEE OF SELECTION : ELECTION OF MEMBERS

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to move—

That Senator Chief Z. C. Obi, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale and Senator Chief T. A. Odutola be members of the Committee of Selection.

Senators will observe that these three Senators have served the Senate well as members of this Committee during the past three years, and I am sure, in appreciation of the services which they have rendered to the Senate, we shall accept these nominations unanimously.

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

**Senator A. E. Ukattah** : I do not intend to oppose this Motion, but I have two points to make. The first is that unless I am to be told that the appointment of the Committee of Selection and other Committees is really done to satisfy the Standing Orders, I would ask why these Committees have been appointed every year while not even one of them has ever met since 1960, when this Senate came into being.

I am wondering whether the time has not come when we should make a suggestion which the Leader of the Senate should convey to the Cabinet, and that is, that identical Committees of the Senate and those of the Lower House should be allowed to sit jointly. This is the practice that is followed in Eastern Nigeria at present. Why should we spend so much time appointing these Committees and they will never meet? They serve no useful purpose.

My second point is that, according to Standing Order 51 (2) it is not only three Senators that are to be appointed to serve on the Committee of Selection but four. Standing Order 51 (2) stipulates that four Senators are to be appointed, but this Motion shows that only three are being recommended for approval here. I wonder whether the number here is not in conflict with that Section of the Standing Orders. Unless an explanation can be offered to satisfy me, I oppose the number being three.

**The Minister of Health :** I would like to explain that the three names which are submitted were the names of the Members of the Committee of Selection last year, and the Clerk of the Parliaments has just informed me that he just suggested those three names as being the names of the Senators to serve in the Committee of Selection.

I think the Standing Orders are quite clear on the subject that there should be four Senators to be selected by the Senate. I am sure the Senate will agree that there is still one more name to be submitted. If Senators will agree to this, then we shall think of the fourth person to be nominated. It is just as well that we have the Mid-West State now. The present three Members come from the original three Regions which were represented in the Senate. I think it will now be possible for us to nominate the fourth one from the Mid-West.

If the Senate will agree to this, we shall bring another Motion tomorrow to nominate the fourth Senator to join the Committee of Selection.

I am very grateful to Senator Ukattah for drawing our attention to this lapse. This is a sort of secretarial error.

**The President :** Are you satisfied, Senator Ukattah?

**Senator Ukattah :** I am satisfied, Sir, but I should be grateful to the Leader of the

House if he would convey the point of allowing our Committees here in the Senate to have joint sittings with the Committees in the Lower House.

**The Minister of Health :** We shall think of that.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That Senator Chief Z. C. Obi, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale and Senator Chief T. A. Odotola be members of the Committee of Selection.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

**Senator E. A. Lagunju :** I rise on behalf of this House to move—

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :  
"Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament".

In moving this Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, first of all I have to point out one important aspect of the Speech from the Throne. I think it is not out of place here to mention the personality and charm of the great Zik of Africa. His masterly delivery, his power of oratory and his poise and eloquence are admirable. You will all agree with me that while it might be true that some people would like to see the President in native attire, the dress of the Field Marshall is as imposing and dignifying as anything one might think of. So much about the personality of the great Zik of Africa. Let us come to the speech itself.

First and foremost, Senators will realise that the Speech is impregnated with laudable projects. There is the determination to foster African unity and good neighbourliness. Senators will all agree with me that no matter how much we call for the creation of our own Air Force, our own Army or our own Atomic Energy Commission, if we are unfriendly with our African neighbours, we shall keep on dissipating our energies, fighting here and there, and doing nothing by way of reconstruction. It is therefore very pleasing to note that one of the first things mentioned in the Speech itself

[SENATOR LAGUNJU]  
is this question of fostering the unity of African states and, of course, doing all we can not only to foster this unity but to see that all other states still under colonial rule become free. This is very desirable.

Side by side with that is the determination of the Federal Government to make sure that African states are fully represented on the Security Council of the United Nations.

Another important aspect is the determination of the Federal Government to see to our internal security. This, of course, implies the expansion of the Police Force, which is very desirable. We need more Policemen if we want to arrest the growing wave of all sorts of crimes in this country, and it is gratifying that already we have on top of the Force itself a Nigerian who is competent to man the post as Inspector-General of Police.

I am sure it will not be out of place to mention that whatever pains the Federal Government takes to encourage more Nigerians by way of promotion will be very justified. And, of course, side by side with the question of promotion, we have to praise the Policemen for their activities. We realise all they are doing to make this country safe.

Also in the Speech—if I can touch another important aspect—is the question of improvement of our transport system. We realise that this is an age of machines and automation, and rapid movement is very necessary for commercial as well as agricultural growth. If one is a farmer with vegetables and eggs in one part of the country, the eggs get rotten if not transported to the required place in time. It is therefore very gratifying to note that the Federal Government is prepared to pay special attention to our means of transport.

Something is mentioned about our Nigerian Airways. We come across this on page 2 of the Speech. There is substitution of one type of planes, VC.10 for the Boeing 707. Here, it might be necessary to sound a note of warning: I sincerely hope we shall make haste slowly in order to make sure that this new type of planes has been tested and proved to be good, because if we want our people to patronise our Airways, we must make sure that we do not have many air accidents. When we first started to use the Boeing 707, it was highly advertised, but we soon found out that

a lot went wrong with it and adjustments had to be made. We would not like to be made subjects of experiments. I hope the Federal Government has got the necessary assurance that this VC.10 is really good in the air.

Another gratifying aspect, of course, is the extension of the Apapa Wharf to facilitate the handling of goods. This is indeed very laudable. I sincerely hope, since the Federal Government is ready to extend wharfs here and there, and since the Koko wharf in the Mid-West will be extended, that the Federal Government is thinking about Badagry and other places in the Western Region.

It is equally praiseworthy to note the plan for widening roads in order to reduce accidents. The implementation of this scheme is very necessary and I hope that the Federal Government will not apply the tactics of the Lagos-Benin road over which we often hear "plans are ahead". Once these roads are widened, there will be a lot of improvement in our transport system.

Another pleasing aspect is the plan for education. We all realise that in this country to-day, there is a lot of dissipation of energy due to duplication and lack of co-ordination. It is therefore pleasing to note that the Federal Government is prepared to co-ordinate efforts so that the planning might be from the elementary to the secondary and up to the university levels. This will enable us to meet the challenge of our modern age. There is going to be a fully representative National Advisory Council on technical education and industrial training.

I am sure you will all agree with me that in this country to-day, we need more of technicians and less of black-coated workers. This can only be done if there is co-ordination of efforts. The Federal Government should go all out and work hand in hand with the Regional Governments to bring about this change in our educational system.

The Speech indicates the determination of the Federal Government to reduce the imbalance of trade through import control. Of course, this means embarking upon a policy of industrialisation towards local production.

Recently it was announced that there were increases on import duties, and some of us thought that they were to protect home industries like the cement factories and others.

Well, if it were so, that will be very complimentary, but I sincerely hope we shall do all we can this time, like India and some other countries for that matter, by adopting the policy of the late Mazi Mbonu Ojike, and that is to boycott all the boycottables. I must say, however that we should not boycott everything because there are certain things on which we must think about seriously in this country, and there are many things that are being imported into this country that are really necessary. Can we do without them? Are there no partial substitutes? If we can get partial substitutes, why rely on imported goods? I think this colonial mentality has got to be removed, and we must know where we are drifting, and except we take a firm stand, while it may be that importation may bring some revenue, the whole thing is temporary.

The only way to get jobs for our hungry thousands or millions is, of course, to encourage home production. America did it after the Napoleonic Wars. After 1815 Britain adopted a method; she was prepared to carry many articles to America. What did the Americans do? They stood firmly to reject and to send back most of the articles, and they started home production. I understand that in Italy to-day, before you can get a car, it may take you a year, it does not matter, but it has got to be an Italian make. And before you can get anything like that, you may be on the waiting list for a year or two. That, too, does not matter because the idea is, of course, to encourage local production.

Since we are prepared to reduce this imbalance of trade, what the Government can do to-day is to embark on a policy which will receive the acceptance of the whole populace. I am sure the whole country will be pleased if the Government will rise to the occasion and boycott all the boycottables, reduce the importation of many of these articles, cut them off completely, and let us embark upon home production to get jobs for our teeming millions.

Mr President, Sir, I am sure you will agree with me that it is not my intention to say much on most of the other things. You know too well that as I said at the beginning, the whole Speech from the Throne is full of bold schemes, and I am sure the implementation of these schemes will be to the satisfaction of us all.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** I rise to second the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President so ably moved by Senator Lagunju.

Before I proceed to the main business before us, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your deserved appointment as the new President of the Nigerian Upper House. I pray that Allah the Almighty will direct and guide you aright in your onerous duty in dealing with elder statesmen as creditably as your worthy predecessors have done. May God help you. Amen.

Now, going back to His Excellency's Speech, it is really the masterpiece of the year. His Excellency has demonstrated beyond doubt by his words and actions that the unity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and its peaceful co-existence, the stability of the Federation, and the welfare of its peoples are, of course, his sacred trust.

Our Zik is the people's President. If one peeps into His Excellency's past beginning from 1919 when he was a pupil teacher, up to the present time that he is now the President of a Republican Nigeria, one will soon realize that our President is one of the few nationalists, dead or alive, bestowed with a blessed life full of fulfilment and achievement. Whatever his future may be, our President has become part of world history.

Since Independence, our President has extensively toured all the Regions in order to keep in touch with the pulse of the people. But, in my opinion, His Excellency should not tie himself down touring the Regions only. As Nigeria's Head of State and its First Citizen, he should accept and honour invitations extended to him from overseas and from the African continent, particularly invitations from the thirty-two Member States of the O.A.U. Well, of course, this will go a long way to strengthen the solidarity of African unity.

I am glad, to note that His Excellency said that his Government will continue to support all practicable measures aimed at promoting African unity. I agree, but I am very sorry to say that at the moment the Nigerian unity is at stake. A Hausa proverb says that one should clean one's house first before one tries one's neighbour's. This follows that we must put politics aside, wipe out corruptible tribalists,

[SENATOR ALHAJI GARBA]

do away with narrow-minded regionalists, forget all criticisms, and work as Nigerians for Nigeria. Surely, if we do this, whatever differences might exist should be solved in a cool-headed manner as would members of one family and citizens of one nation.

I also welcome the proposal to revise the existing curricula of our primary, secondary and technical schools. As Nigeria is mainly an agricultural country, its curricula should be revised in such a way that young school leavers should be encouraged to take up farming as a useful and honourable career. Modern farming technique should be introduced into schools. I am aware that the Regional Governments are doing all they can to establish farm settlements in various parts of the Federation in order to reduce unemployment and increase cash crops and foodstuffs. But that is not enough. His Excellency stated that the results of the activities of the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Research would be made more readily available to farmers. We are fed up with the research here, research there and research always but with no avail to the farmers. The Federal Government should embark on a most vigorous scheme for agriculture whereby farmers in the rural areas will be benefited.

I would like to reserve my comments for the Budget Speech and allow Senators to express their views, more especially those who would like to make their maiden speeches.

I beg to second.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn* (THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

### EXPLANATION

**The Minister of Health :** On this Motion of Adjournment, I would like to say a few words of explanation to Senators. It is not intended to deprive Senators of the opportunity of contributing to this debate, but I wish to explain to Senators that we have plenty of time between now and the 20th of this month to debate the Motion for an Address. We would like Senators to go home now and read the Address carefully so that they could contribute much more effectively to the debate on this very important Motion.

After we shall have disposed of the Motion, Senators would remain here until the 20th of this month when there will be a Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament to receive Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the British Prime Minister. And after that Joint Meeting of both Houses of Parliament, Senators will go home and come back towards the end of April when there will be sufficient business for the Senate to transact. That is why I am proposing that the Senate should adjourn now.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the Senate do now adjourn.

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

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 14th March, 1964

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN  
ADDRESS)

*Adjourned Debate on Question (13th March)*

*Question again proposed,* That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :

"Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament." (*Senator Lagunju.*)

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** I rise to support the Presidential Address and at the same time to associate myself with all the good sentiments expressed by the Mover and Seconder of this Motion. The Speech is progressive and all-embracing. I must say that there is no aspect of our problems that has not been fully dealt with in the Speech.

We are proud to have a person of Dr Azikiwe's calibre at the Head of our State and the person of Sir Abubakar's calibre at the Head of our Government.

I would not like to belabour you with a catalogue of Dr Azikiwe's achievements, but would certainly refer to some of them. I would like to remind the President about his chain of newspapers which interpreted the British imperialism to us and which made us to revolt, and inspired us to become nationalists. Senators should remember his restless eloquence, which inspired confidence on the citizens of this country. Need I remind you, Mr President, of his "caterpillar force" and the fact that even his fellow Nigerians and personal friends were employed by British imperialists to make nonsense of his mission to Nigeria, nay to Africa as a whole. May I also remind Senators that the building of the African Continental Bank and the first autonomous institution of higher learning the University of

Nigeria at Nsukka, are the brainwave of Dr Azikiwe. In Nigeria, his greatest achievement is the country's attainment of independence on a platter of gold. In Africa as a whole, he attained the highest of his achievements when he aimed at and worked for the unity and liberation of African nations. Dr Azikiwe gave birth to the Organisation of African Unity.

He achieved all these marvellous feats not because of his distinguished appearance, but because of his wits and wisdom which he displayed on all occasions. Let us flash back at the Foster-Sutton Tribunal and how he emerged with flying colours. The most wonderful thing in Dr Azikiwe's life is that nature turns all his crosses into crowns.

A former member of the Senate (now the Governor of the Northern Region) made a brilliant remark about the President of the Federation during this time in 1962, and with your permission, Mr President, I beg to quote—

*"I do not know whether Dr Azikiwe has been rewarded adequately for all he has done for Nigeria. I personally consider it is far from being so".*

This statement was made by a man of Sir Kassim's calibre. I must say that this nation should do this great man of Africa more and more honours. Therefore, I am suggesting that his birth day—16th of November—be known as "Zik's Day" and be observed as a public holiday throughout the Federation.

It is gratifying to hear the Government plans to expand our defence. This indeed is a welcome news, bearing in mind the unrest in the whole world and in Africa in particular.

Furthermore, I thought that the President's Speech would contain favourable plans to provide Calabar and Port Harcourt with military centres. This is the time for peace and it is, therefore, the appropriate time for us to check all the loop-holes in Nigeria. A strong battalion will not only help in maintaining peace, but in case of any enemies coming from the sea the army will deal with them effectively. The army can only defend us effectively if they are accustomed to the surroundings.

Mr President, we learn by experience. We are living witnesses of what is happening in other African states, and we thank God that

[SENATOR CHUKWUBIKE]

the wicked plans of 1962 were uncovered in their incubation. That was a big warning to us and we must not rest on our oars.

I would not like to talk about our Six-Year Development Programme. I must say that this Programme is progressing very gradually, but I would like to remind the Government that many Divisions throughout the Federation will be left worse than before at the expiration of the Programme if steps are not taken to allocate to each Division either an industry or a farm settlement.

The Government has made no plan for helping our petty local farmers. Everybody agrees that our salvation lies in the soil. The present method which our farmers use is killing, slow and back-breaking. I would like the Government to find ways and means of helping our farmers financially and technically.

The formation of the Organisation of African Unity is welcome, and it gives joy to the hearts of all well-meaning people of Africa. I am proud that members of this Organisation are pulling their weight. I must say that it does not beat my imagination that since the formation of this Organisation, more and more troubles have arisen in Africa. I know, as everybody knows, that outside influences are behind this move. It is a big shame that some irresponsible elements in Africa have mortgaged their conscience by supporting this move. These elements are criminals and should be treated as such.

I now go to our external publicity. The Presidential Speech was silent over this issue. I am right in saying that the image of this nation has not been duly projected abroad. The Ministry that is responsible for this should do more justice to the activities of the leaders of this country. Our students abroad complain very bitterly about the poor publicity of this country. Our country is very great and our leaders are very pushful; therefore, our day-to-day activities are so tremendous that they should be publicised. Periodic magazines should be sent in great numbers to our Missions abroad and to all personalities in those countries. This, I am sure, will help to project this country abroad.

I agree with my Friend, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba, who seconded the Motion when he said that politically this country is

not normal. It will be a good thing to check and stop this situation which is a big threat to the peace and unity of Nigeria. We should all talk like statesmen and tell the nation the truth.

It is well-known that those who want to participate in the Federal Government are using all possible means to achieve their aims. It would have been better if they asked for a National Government instead of disturbing the peace of the country. Carpet-crossing is the worst enemy of peace and unity in Nigeria. I would like the Government to legislate against this.

I feel that we should talk more of those things that will unite us than the things that will separate us. I would only say that discrimination against any Region or tribe in Nigeria is a threat to the peace and unity of this country. If all the heads of the governments of this country really mean that they want peace and unity, they should warn their supporters to desist from making provocative statements. No one would like to be a slave or a stranger in his own country. Personally, I would like everybody to speak with one voice in condemning carpet-crossing, provocative statements, discrimination and tribalism.

I want to wind up by congratulating our new President on his elevation to the enviable post of the President of the Senate. It is a credit to this Senate that for the first time, the Senate has produced its President from among the Senators. I have no doubt that the experience and rich knowledge of our new President will help him discharge his duties as his predecessor did and even do more.

I also welcome and congratulate the new Senators from the newest Region.

**Senator T. Olamijulo:** In contributing my quota to the debate on the Presidential Speech, I want to say that I was happy with the way the Mid-West election was conducted. The new Region was created without any bloodshed and this augurs well for the future of this country.

I must emphasise the point that there can be no unity in Nigeria without the creation of more Regions. The breaking up of Nigeria into a number of Regions will make us work together, otherwise we shall not cease from going the way we are now going, which is, 'Hosannah to-day, crucify him tomorrow.' The creation of more States in Nigeria will let everybody voice the feelings of his people,

We must congratulate the Mid-Westerners on the creation of their Region. They remained united and stuck to their point. The Mid-Westerners had one voice when they were agitating for their own State and this is worth emulating.

It will not be out of order to praise our President for the way in which he delivered his Presidential Speech. When he was delivering his Presidential Speech, I was wondering whether he was reading or speaking off-head. He read his Speech very fluently and creditably. We should strive hard to have people of such calibre as our Presidents.

Going through the Speech of the President, I was first struck by the mention that bridges would be widened in order to prevent motor accidents. Indeed if bridges are widened and drivers drive very carefully, accidents will be reduced to the barest minimum.

The next point that struck me was that our mineral resources would be fully exploited. As a matter of fact, if this plan is carried out, our people will be much occupied and they will have jobs to do. I must add, as an emphasis, that we should properly tap our mineral resources because it is only by so doing that we can provide employment for our teeming school leavers.

In this age of atomic energy, I think it will do this country a lot of good if we teach our people to become technicians, scientists, *et cetera* so that they can make use of whatever raw materials we have got to manufacture locally the things we would otherwise import from abroad.

Whatever is said in the Speech should be implemented to the letter and not just left on paper.

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

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I rise to contribute to the debate on the Floor. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has again treated us to a very lively Speech, and I just want to associate myself with the previous speakers who have already showered praises on him.

This man—Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe—is one of the most illustrious sons of Nigeria of whom we can rightly be proud. In fact he has

contributed much more to the unity of this country than any other individual. If you trace back to the time when he was an active politician, you will notice that he was never embittered against anybody and his utterances were not foul and indecent. He worked very hard for the unity of this our great country; and even now his readiness to accept and forgive whoever, either consciously or unconsciously, tries to associate his name with partisan politics is another sign of his desire that Nigeria should remain intact. I would therefore like to say that any public office given to him is not too much because he rightly deserves it.

I want to come to the President's Speech and to start by referring to the part which deals with the total emancipation of the African territories which are still under foreign rule. This is a very laudable aim by our Government. I will, therefore, suggest that although the majority of African countries are now emancipated, South Africa is still under white domination. Angola, Mozambique and other African territories are under the domination of Portugal and some Africans in Southern Rhodesia are still under a white minority Government.

I would suggest that economic sanction be taken by Nigeria against this minority Government, and if that will not serve our purpose I am wondering why we should not take military action against this white minority Government. I think it is high time we began to think of taking military action against the South African Government. While the Africans claim South Africa as their land it is disgraceful to note that the white minority who migrated from Europe also lay equal claim to the same land.

The deciding factor will be to use force in sending out this minority Government and I think that it is high time the Organisation of African Unity began to think of taking positive action against white minority Governments. I would therefore suggest war.

**Several Senators :** No war mongering !

**Senator Abaagu :** On page 1 of the Speech, the President refers to the expansion of the Nigeria Police Force for the purpose of securing better security for the country. This is very laudable too. I would therefore, suggest, that more police units be opened in Northern Nigeria, especially in the Tiv Division where



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recently a number of police men were murdered by members of a certain political party who have turned themselves into a killing squad.

If we are thinking of security, we must take all the necessary precautions to ensure this security. There are very few police units in the Tiv Division and a place like that is not very safe for the ordinary people to live in. I want, therefore, to praise the efforts of the Nigeria Police for quelling down the disturbances that broke out in that Division very recently. I also want to register my condolence to the bereaved families of those police men killed.

I congratulate the Nigeria Police for making necessary arrangements for this Parliament to be able to sit under a very peaceful atmosphere by impounding certain weapons that were brought into the Federal capital. This is a very good move.

If we want the 1964 Federal elections to be free and fair, I would suggest that the Nigerian Police Force should improve its method of maintaining law and order which is now very much needed in Lagos. All firearms and other dangerous weapons including those owned by Ministers should be impounded during the electioneering campaign.

If there are any Government Officials or Ministers who require protection, they should be protected by their Orderlies who can be armed if they wish. No firearms, cutlasses, spears or bows and arrows are to be used and this is the only way to ensure a free and fair election.

The President in his Speech also refers to the widening of bridges and roads. That is a good idea because the number of people who are killed in motor accidents is assuming an alarming proportion. The widening of bridges alone is not sufficient to ensure safety because some of the accidents on bridges take place on temporary bridges.

I, therefore, suggest that all bridges to be built should be permanent bridges and all temporary bridges in the Federal capital should be widened and straightened. All the big trees on curved roads should be cleared because some of these accidents are caused by a lorry or a car crashing in a tree.

On page 4 of the Speech, the President, said that his Government would promote the activity of the Education and Culture Commission of this Organisation. In this respect I would suggest that to promote African Unity, we must be able to understand or speak to one another in the same language.

Our Universities should be encouraged or be advised to open French classes or to teach French to students in all the important towns in Nigeria. In addition to that, French should be made a compulsory subject in all secondary schools and teacher training institutions throughout the country.

**A Senator :** Where are the teachers ?

**Senator Abaagu :** Well, teachers could be recruited from French nationals in the country ; in fact, there are volunteers. If we are talking of African unity, we must be able to speak to these people in a language understandable by them and by us.

I have suggested that French should be taught in Nigeria, but I think it will be a good idea if in all French-speaking countries in Africa, the English language is also taught. This will enable all of us to speak to one another in a common language.

An alternative suggestion should be the teaching of one of our Nigerian languages, but if I suggest that people may say it is because I am from a particular Region, otherwise I would suggest that Hausa be taught in all schools and colleges in Nigeria.

On page 5 of the Speech, mention has been made about rehabilitation of beggars. This is a necessary evil which we must have to take some trouble to get rid of. In fact, the presence of beggars, especially in the capital territory of Lagos, has given a very bad look to our streets, more so when we have august visitors from other countries.

One thing which is very alarming about these beggars is that some of them should not be beggars because they are able-bodied people. They only become beggars when they fail to get jobs, most of them. For this reason, I suggest that either these beggars who are able-bodied be expelled from the capital territory of Lagos or be given jobs so that they may desist from begging. The permanently disabled beggars should be rehabilitated in certain centres and cared for.

Some of them, of course, can be trained. As blind men they can be sent to certain institutions where blind men are trained. We should find a way of getting rid of these beggars especially in Lagos because they are a menace on the public high-way.

On page 6 of the Speech, reference has also been made to low cost housing scheme". This is a very good scheme, but how soon shall we expect it? There is no use putting all these things on paper without any attempt to implement them.

At present, members of the Federal Public Service who are in the low income group are very much dependent on whatever action the Federal Government can take to cease this question of high rent which they are subjected to in the Federal capital. I would suggest, therefore, that before the Government gets these houses ready for sale at very low prices, it should try in one way or the other to control rents, the very high rents, in the Federal capital.

There are many countries where rents are controlled. I wonder why our Government cannot control rents. The Government does not build houses, but then it has a duty to protect its citizens from being exploited. I suggest that some way should be found to control rents before the Government gets its houses ready and even if these houses are provided, not every one of these people will be able to buy them. Some may afford to buy a house at £1,000 while others may not be able to buy a house at even £10. So, even if these houses are ready, not every worker will be able to buy them. Some will continue to pay rents and, therefore, something should be done about high rents in Lagos.

On page 7 of the report, the Government has promised us a progress report on the Six-Year Development Plan. That is very good indeed because I think two years have elapsed since this Six-Year Development Plan came into being. Personally, I have never seen anything done yet.

I used to hear that contracts will be given out and tenders will be invited, and so on, but I have never seen anything concrete being done. For this reason, I would suggest that this progress report be laid on the table of the Senate at six-monthly intervals so that we may be acquainted with what is going on.

I would also suggest that the Government should pay more attention to internal than external borrowing. If we can get loans internally, why should we go abroad to borrow? By borrowing internally, we will not be open to ridicule outside. If we can borrow internally, I think the interest will be a bit reasonable and we will be saving more than by borrowing from outside.

Finally, I would like to advise all Heads of Governments in the Republic that if we really want unity, they should first be exemplary in their public utterances. There is no use talking of unity and going back to do actually the opposite. Public utterances by Heads of Governments are some of the factors that are keeping the Regions far apart.

I want to recall a recent incident concerning the readiness of one of the Regions' Premier to tender an apology on behalf of somebody under him who owing to a slip of the tongue said something which really tended to bring the name of the President into a controversy. The Premier of that Region very promptly tendered an apology to the President and the President promptly accepted the apology. That augurs very well for the unity of Nigeria. We should expect things like that from the other Regions.

If a leader of a party or a Head of Government sees or knows that people under him are trying to make inflammatory speeches which will be derogatory to the unity of this country, he should call his people to order. The less we make irresponsible speeches, the better it will be for the unity of the country.

If we achieve unity in the country and fail to satisfy the workers, I do not think we will be achieving permanent peace in the country. We must have to satisfy the workers in order to ensure permanent tranquillity in the country. For this reason, I am suggesting that as soon as the Morgan Commission's recommendations are known, the Government should go forward to implement those recommendations, in order to satisfy the workers.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): Must it be accepted whether good or bad?

**Senator H. O. Abaagu**: If the report is made known, the Government will extract the acceptable ones and reject the unacceptable ones, taking into consideration what we have in our Six-Year Development Plan. I would suggest, however, that the Government should

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go ahead to implement the recommendations in order to satisfy the workers who are holding the reins of administration in the Republic.

I very much thank the President for giving me this chance and I beg to support.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** We have heard a lot about the charm with which the Presidential Address was delivered two days ago. I would like to associate myself with the encomiums showered by my fellow Senators on both the person and the oratory of the President.

We know however, that constitutionally speaking, the Speech was not composed by the President but by his Government. Even so, it means that we have a very competent Government that could be the author of such an inspiring and encouraging Speech as was read by the President. I have no intention of dwelling at length on the subject outlined in the Speech but quite naturally one or two points caught my eyes and I would like to say a few things on each of them.

Firstly, I would like to refer to the orderly way in which arrangements were made which led to the formation of the new Region, the Mid-Western Region. I think I am speaking the minds of the entire population of the Mid-West when I say that I feel very grateful indeed that all and sundry have joined in the creation of the Region. Thanks particularly to the Federal Government for the part it has played in the venture of the creation of this new Region. I know that it was initiated by the people of the Mid-West who kept agitating for it for many years and I am sure that they will derive the greatest benefit or satisfaction from this creation. At long last, the people have come to make their mark and to put their name more boldly on the map of Nigeria.

I think that it is logical to suggest that this is the beginning of the true direction of this country to a proper federal structure. We know that there is no federal government in which the Regions are out of balance and I think that in creating the Mid-Western Region, this country is doing a great service not only to the people of the Mid-West, but to the entire Republic as a whole.

I have no doubt that it will be an inspiration to the Eastern Region as well as to the Northern Region and that it would lead to the breaking up of the Regions into many parts.

I believe that in this way shall we have a satisfactory and logical Federal Republic. I would like to say that the Mid-West is an ideal microcosm, the melting point of a number of various ethnic groups or tribes in such a way that not one of them is so large as to be able to dominate all the others put together ; and so we have sufficient checks and balances to prevent imbalance and instability. We are setting, in this way, an example of the type of federation which this country is bound to be in the future.

I am sure that with the leadership we have in the Mid-West, we shall run a Government which will be a model even for the other regions to follow.

One or two other things have caught my attention. I appreciate the reverence to the Military Academy which was set up earlier on this year. I think this is a great point of satisfaction to Nigeria because at long last, we have on our own soil a first class school for training people for the armed forces.

But I think this should not be an end to sending our people abroad because even older countries with more highly developed militia still send their people to other countries for training and one will find that Chinese young men are even being trained in Canada, Russia, Australia and in other military schools outside their own country. The fact that we have already had our own training school here should not in the least discourage us from sending our people abroad until and after we are sufficiently equipped in our country here.

The reference made to the Nigerian National Shipping Line draws my attention to places like Warri and Sapele which are very important ports. I am happy there are plans to extend the port of Port Harcourt. I am particularly happy about the provision made for Koko which was neglected for a very long time and was left uncared for. I am happy also that at last, a provision has been made for the improvement of this place.

One would have thought that places like Warri—an ancient city and an important port which has contributed in no small measure to the revenue of this country and to its development should have been provided for. We do hope that it will receive the attention of the Federal Government if only because it has been contributing in terms of millions of pounds to the revenue of this country.

Reference to the Nigerian Railway Corporation reminds me—and I think it should remind the whole of Nigeria—that a new Region has come into being, a Region which, throughout its length and breadth, has not a single mile of rail road. If for no other reason, I have no doubt that we have put on a national plan that the railway shall be extended to the provinces of Benin and Delta so that we too shall enjoy something from that.

I am happy that the places of indigenous contractors is recognised. The feeling of most people was that in the award of contracts, indigenous contractors had not been sufficiently taken into consideration, and we do hope, with this promise in the Speech, the future of our indigenous contractors will be rosy. At the same time, we ought constantly to remind our own indigenous contractors that we must be well served by our own people, because experience has shown that many of the contracts done by some people had not proved the money's worth. The service given in the past by some showed them to be unscrupulous. We do hope that our indigenous contractors—and there are many with sufficient integrity to take this as a challenge—will demonstrate by their performance that they can be relied upon, and that will encourage the Government to give work to them rather than to foreign contractors.

Education happens to be a particular field, and I am very happy that we now realise that much has been done for education than was done in the past. Some Members somewhere else thought that education should become a federal subject. I cannot agree less. I do not think there is any part of the world where education is a federal subject. In England where they have a unitary government, education is really the work of county Councils, and the government as a whole only has broad responsibility, either local or intimate responsibility. Educational responsibility is in the hands of different Council areas. In Federal countries such as Australia, it is a State's subject, and the devolution of power, even in places like the United States of America, is reduced almost to absurdity, and responsibility for education is more or less on the very local level of the community.

Even in all these countries the government as a whole, whether unitary or federal, realises a

great responsibility, and the individual government reviews from time to time the improvement on education and makes provision for grants to be made to the various States or Council areas in order to carry out their responsibilities under the Statutes.

I think the Government of this country should look into the position and see that Regions in this country which cannot discharge certain parts of their responsibilities should be assisted to the degree of their needs.

For instance, in Australia, big provisions are made from which the different States are able to implement their educational programmes, and in addition they make specific grants for what they call post-secondary or university education. They make grants for things like long-distance type of education. In this country we find that many schools cannot afford to provide aids and big equipment. The Federal Government ought to think of such things and provide specific grants to the different Regions to enable them to carry out such duties.

I would like in this context to register my congratulations to one Senator here, no less a person than the Ogbeni Oja of Ijebu-Ode, Chief Odotola, for establishing a comprehensive school which provides for at least seven hundred and fifty students. I must say, of course, that I am charmed by the imposing buildings. But I am sure it is not a mere building which is important; it is the content of the education which is of great challenge to other people, other great personalities and other bodies in this country. I think we should not do less than emulate the feat of this great man who is a Senator in this House. We want nothing else in this country but the diversification of the curricula. For too long have we pursued education which was biased mainly in the academic direction. I think we cannot do better than improve the diversification as is laid down by the comprehensive school now established by Chief Odotola.

I think we are also happy that the University of Lagos is going to start an engineering school. I also think that it is a very good thing that at long last this country has recognised the importance of science, not by mere name, but by some practical measures. We know that the science school in this place was called the Federal Emergency Science School, which

House of Assembly at Ibadan. The agitation is older than the political set-up in Nigeria. I still have the relevant documents in my possession, even when I was communicating with Governor Whitely, the first Administrative Commissioner who was stationed at Ibadan. These are facts of history and I am leaving them to posterity in order that those who will write our history will know how the agitation started which culminated in the creation of the Mid-West State. I need not go into the other details of when the Motion for the creation of the Mid-West State was first moved and how it ended.

It is heartening to note that our Government will continue to support practical measures aimed at promoting African unity. As charity begins at home, our Government must find practical measures of promoting Nigerian unity which is being shattered by the accentuation of tribalism and regionalism. In all our activities to-day, premium is placed not on merit, but on tribe. But with the spread of education and the recognition of merit, every tribe will eventually have its own share of the reward. I said so in the Lower House some years ago and drew attention to how the services of Nigeria were dominated by expatriates, white and black, and how the former were gradually and peacefully replaced by educated Nigerians. I said that the same thing would happen eventually with a tribe which at present seems to dominate the services. You cannot deny employment to qualified Nigerians whose tribe is in the minority if premium is placed on merit and on merit alone. We elders should rise to the occasion and put an end to the mischievous attempts of opportunists and careerists to destroy the unity of this country. They sow seeds of discord by their unbridled tongues and writings.

Before the advent of the white man and before the struggle for ascendancy consequent upon achieving self-government, there were no tribal discriminations in this country. Yorubas, Ibos and other Nigerian communities lived in peace and harmony in many towns of Nigeria. There are some Yorubas and Hausas who have lived in my home town, Asaba, for over sixty years and are happy with the inhabitants. These evil men are now trying to sow seeds of discord and make these inhabitants unhappy.

I suggest that the Prime Minister sets up a Committee of Senators of not less than fifty-five years of age to advise him—

**A Senator :** What of the President of the Senate ?

**Senator Chief Onyia :** By virtue of his office, the President of the Senate should be in the Committee.

**Senator P. A. Ogunjipe :** On a point of order, anybody who is forty years of age is considered to be wise enough to be a Senator, but Senator Chief Onyia is now making fifty-five years the qualifying age to be a Senator.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I have my reason for making this suggestion. I am backed up by my own tradition and by my experience in this country. I know that when men have got to the age of fifty-five they have sufficiently mustered enough age and experience and they no longer have the urge to go and fight. They always think of peace, they think more of their children and their welfare. Until people get to that age they still have the hot blood, vitality and vigour to settle all disputes by fighting. Ederly men may quarrel now, but they forget in a short time and come to a compromise ; but younger people, by their impetuosity, would like to settle their disputes by fighting. I suggest that the Prime Minister should set up a Committee of Senators of not less than fifty-five years of age to advise him on issues which threaten the peace of this country.

I am happy to note that the curricula in our primary, secondary and technical schools will be re-examined with a view to revising them to include the latest discoveries of educational research. But, have we not made our own discoveries ? I refuse in my life to believe that what one man can do another man cannot do it. While I believe in copying what others do, I do not believe in my life that we should not make our own discoveries by our own experience. What discoveries have we made ? Some of us have been teachers for years. I taught for thirty-five years—not thirty-five days—before retiring on pension in 1950. If I have not made any discoveries during this period of my teaching career, I have myself to blame. It is a question of listening to those who have proposals ; we should not wait until the proposals have come from abroad.

[SENATOR ONYIA]

Here is a fellow teacher, Senator Nzerem, he should contribute practically by his own experience, a man who has devoted his whole life to teaching.

I made one suggestion in this House. I said that one of the suggestions that I would put before the Nigerian Government was to make schools keep a record of the natural aptitudes of pupils and award scholarships to our children in the country accordingly. If we want our children to hit the mark on any subject in this country, we should assemble them and award scholarships according to their aptitudes. Why ask a young man who will be a good lawyer to go and be a clerk, and a man who will be a scientist is given a scholarship to do law? We continue in this country to sink the geniuses we have. If all schools beginning with the primary school will keep a record of the natural aptitudes of the pupils right up to the secondary school, the Government can go straight and say, "Youngman, you are good in science, go and be a doctor," or, "Youngman, you are good in mathematics, go and be an engineer", instead of certain people who award scholarships indiscriminately by the performances just before a Board. We will continue to make mistakes if we continue to do so. The principals and headmasters of colleges should give the Government the records they have kept about a boy, then the Government will know the type of children we have in the country and will give them scholarships accordingly. This is one of our discoveries.

We have discovered too that the regionalisation of education is doing us a lot of harm in this country. In the Regions there are different standards and different systems of education. And we keep on saying that we want one Nigeria! Even the qualifications we give to our teachers are different in all the Regions. And we say we want one Nigeria! When one crosses another boundary, no Nigerian knows what sort of qualification another Nigerian has. Why should education not be of uniform system? Are we waiting to be told that Nigeria is one country and that we should have one system of education and that scholars should take the same standard of examination? We have regionalised everything and we are now waiting for discovery.

We are now expecting expatriates and educationists to come and advise us before we can know what to do.

We have also discovered that it is necessary to introduce free primary education, but our Regional Governments are not equal to the task. The Federal Government should undertake the responsibility of running the free primary education throughout the country. We have discovered in schools too, that children can never be classified in every subject and we have been following the old systems blindly up to this day.

A child may be very good in English and may be classified as having reached a standard six level whereas his standard in arithmetic is only equivalent to that of a pupil in standard three. How then are we going to classify a child who is capable of being in standard six as a result of his performance in English but who is only capable of being in standard three as a result of his performance in arithmetic? The present educational classifications are false and should be revolutionised.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** On a point of order, may I know whether the Senator's remarks are relevant to the President's Speech.

**The President:** The Senator's speech is relevant because it relates to education.

**Senator Chief Onyia:** I am talking about education. If you would kindly refer to page four—

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe:** On a point of order, may I know if the Senator has not exceeded his time?

**The President:** He has not exceeded his time. May the Senator proceed.

**Senator Chief Onyia:** I do not know why Senators are bored.

**The President:** May I remind the Senator that he has forty minutes in which to make his speech and that he has only five minutes more.

**Senator Chief Onyia:** I think that according to the Standing Orders Senators have forty minutes in which to speak. I think I have spoken for about twenty minutes.

**The President:** I understand that the Senator has about two minutes more.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** There should be reformatory schools or remand homes in every region. Before I conclude my contribution, I cannot help paying some respects to our President of the Senate. If there are people who know the President of the Senate intimately, I am one of them. Dr A. A. Nwafor Orizu, we all know, is a patriot, a writer and an international figure. He is also an educationist—The propounder of horizontal education and of Zikism, which motivated the existence of the Zikist Movement in this country. My time is limited. I have no opportunity to do justice to what I know about the international figure, who is sitting there as the President of the Senate, but when the opportunity offers itself, I shall return to this issue. Some of us want to destroy the best we have, but God has helped us to recognise the brain of the man that is there.

I beg to support.

**Senator Paul Okoro :** I really love listening to Senator Onyia's speech but whatever happens, I will contribute my own quota.

I would like to associate myself with the good sentiments expressed by some Senators in connection with the Speech made by his Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the 12th of March, 1964.

In that speech the President said that "the Nigerian National Shipping Line will press forward with its fleet development and will endeavour substantially to increase the number of its vessels." This is very, very important to most of us who are merchants. We know how much we are suffering as a result of using foreignships. Some countries always refuse to ship goods to customers abroad unless the customers are prepared to charter the whole ship. This, therefore, is a hinderance to those of us merchants in this country, because we are just starting life. If we go to other countries, we will see the developments which they have made and when one compares the developments made by other countries with those made by us, one will agree that we are just beginning.

The steps being taken now to improve our shipping, will, I am sure, help Nigerian business men who are importers and exporters.

Our Six-Year Development Programme is now two years old and it remains four years to run out. Up till now we are hoping to hear

how far the development programme has gone. Before we start to make any development, we should review the salaries and wages of the workers. If one asks a worker why his salary is so big, the only answer will be that the fault is from the top. I agree that the fault is from the top.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** On a point of order, this is quite irrelevant to the debate and will prejudice the findings of the Commission which the Federal Government has set up to look into the wages of workers. I think it is also wrong for Senators to talk about the reduction of wages at this stage until the report is before us.

**The President :** Senator Okoro is relevant and should therefore proceed.

**Senator Okoro :** The common saying is that the fault is from the top and the people on top are our Ministers who claim to be nationalists. Why can they not reduce all these allowances and the fantastic amounts which we understand they collect—

**A Senator :** From whom ?

**Senator Okoro :** From the funds of this country. Why should somebody get £2,000 to £3,000 when we all say that the country is poor ? Why should individuals be rich while the country as a whole is getting poorer everyday. If this reduction is done from the top, and by the top I mean the Ministers,—

**Minister of State (Senator Dr E. A. Esin) :** On a point of order, I would like to inform the Senator that Civil Servants earn £3,000 and more.

**The President :** That is a point of information and not a point of order. Senator Okoro should please proceed.

**Senator Okoro :** We are copying the expatriates by paying Nigerians who are Permanent Secretaries £3,000 and we forget that when expatriates were earning this fantastic salary, it included inconvenience allowance. Has a Nigerian any reason to claim inconvenience allowance in Nigeria ?

**Several Senators :** No !

**Senator Okoro :** If we are really conscious of what we are saying about the development of this country, we should all help to develop it financially, morally, mentally and spiritually. The salaries we pay to our workers in this

[SENATOR OKORO]

country are so high that we are finishing the little money we have. The whole process makes us look like somebody who is building his house in the sky, knowing fully well that the structure will eventually collapse to the ground and that he will have to start again.

As a new Senator here, being only three days' old, I must say something about the agreement reached with the Government of Dahomey which is very good and will help to check bribery and corruption.

If that country and Nigeria could have one place for examining travellers it would surely ease the difficulties encountered by the travellers. It is a good thing indeed and I praise the brains behind the whole scheme. I am thankful to the Federal Government for making this arrangement.

I do not want to use even up to a quarter of my time as I love to listen as a new Senator.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale :** I rise to speak on the Presidential Speech delivered by His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

First of all, I do not want this time to speak long on the subject but I only want to say a few words. As I have always said in this Senate, by speeches and deliberations made by our leaders, Nigeria is well known to the whole world. The whole world knows also the position we have attained in the development of this country. The President's name is Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and I will call him a lucky man.

I will define what I mean by a lucky man so that people may be able to understand me. I mean that he is one of those lucky men who have lived long enough to see their dreams come true. There are also many leaders in this country who tried hard to see that we attained our present position. Our President is the luckiest of those men who fought for the independence of this country and for that reason, I will nick-name, him, "lucky man". He is a leader and an able leader whose leadership, I hope, will continue to grow.

Before I go to the real Speech, I want to congratulate our new President on his ascension to the Chair of the Senate. This makes me to remember our former President and my

dear Friend, in the person of Chief Dennis Osadebay, the first premier of the Mid-Western Region.

When I read the letter of resignation sent in by Chief Dennis Osadebay—our former President—I asked myself: "what does this man mean by this; is he leaving us?" However, it was not long before it occurred to me that there could be some wisdom in his resignation which is that he wanted to become the first Premier of the new Mid-West Region. I think his desire to leave us was motivated by the fact that he did not want the new Region to be led by any unscrupulous politician

It is my hope that our new President like Chief Dennis Osadebay, will be patient and painstaking. If our new President follows the footsteps of his predecessor, he will enjoy our confidence and support. I have known our new President for a long time now and I hope that he will do his best to see that this Senate is led to a successful goal.

I now come to the Speech of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I decided not to say anything about this good Speech but now I have discovered that there are some portions which call for comment. I think the time has come when we should have a regular inland air service operating all over the country. This is a very important point.

We are said to be elder statesmen and we cannot continue indefinitely to travel by road, that is why I feel that if an internal air service is provided Senators or any other individual for that matter, would be able to come to Lagos in a quick and comfortable manner. For one reason or the other this type of facility has not been provided and perhaps the Government may be thinking that the time is not ripe for it; however I think it is now time we had such social facility provided not only for the comfort of Senators but for any other citizen of this country.

It is very interesting to note from the Speech that wagons will now be assembled in this country and not be imported from overseas as is the practice at the moment. I must say that this is a very big step forward in the progress of this nation.

I now come to the question of communication. There is a lot to be done as far as road communication is concerned. The road



from Lagos to any part of the North is one of the worst Federal roads in the country, especially that part between Ibadan and Ilorin. This stretch needs reconstruction to make it a worthy trunk 'A' road. This now reminds me of the late Senator Asemota who always referred to the bad condition of the road from Benin to Shagamu. Again this road is one of the bad roads we have got in this country. The surface is not properly tarred and is replete with dust and bumps. I think road travel will be made more comfortable if these routes are well maintained to give them the good look of a Trunk 'A' road.

The next point is the question of research which has been mentioned in the Speech. We have been hearing for a long time that the Federal Government is carrying out a lot of research into various aspects of our economic life. But one may ask what has been the result so far?

It is my feeling that a good economic policy is one that is geared towards helping the common man to achieve a good and balanced standard of living. We cannot continue our present slipshod method of research into little things like seedlings if we are to achieve anything worthwhile.

We should concentrate our efforts on making it possible for the common man to be able to have the basic requirements of good living. In this direction, I think we should make it possible at least for the people of this country to have the new and improved machinery for modern cultivation. I do not mean something elaborate, which may be beyond a peasant farmer's resources, but something portable and economical that can be used for mass production, in order to improve the present situation of high cost of living.

It is a good thing to note that our legal personnel will continue to be sent to other African countries. I must say that although this is a laudable policy, we must not please others and displease ourselves. By that I mean that we should be satisfied that we have enough qualified men to man our legal institutions before we embark on sending some of them away to assist other developing African countries. It is my wish that rather than send our best men away on the pretext of making friends with our fellow African countries, we had better not send any at all.

Unemployment—this is a question which is very important and to remedy it, industrialisation is what is required. Quite a lot of people come out of school every year without jobs for them to do. Not all of them will be teachers and not all will be medical practitioners. School leavers should therefore be encouraged to take up agriculture which is what we lack in this country. I think it will be an advantage to attract more people into this field so that any agricultural research may eventually come to reality.

I think the Speech has embodied many aspects of the life of this country but nothing has been mentioned about this new dam, the Niger Dam. I had expected the Speech to mention something about the progress made over the Niger Dam because this is one of the dynamic programmes which we have got in the Six-Year Development Plan. The Niger Dam ought to provide employment for many Nigerians and provide other facilities such as irrigation, fishing and so on. Much funds have been provided for this project and it is therefore, worthwhile to mention what progress has so far been made on the work.

I beg to take my seat.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** I rise to associate myself with the other Senators who have spoken before me on the Motion of Thanks for the Address of his Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria delivered to us at the beginning of the Session. The Speech is very meaningful, impressive and comprehensive.

It makes some reference to the new Region in the country—the Mid-Western Region. The Mid-Western Region has been created by the help of some other previous Regions. Those people who actually participated in the creation of this Region did quite a lot. The President of the Federal Republic did much to see that the Region was created. In fact, he started to talk about it so many years ago and so, he deserves much thanks for that. Nevertheless, he was not alone. The Prime Minister, who of course, is a God fearing man also did his best. He too contributed much to the creation of the Region. The Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, also helped to see that the Region was created. What about the dynamic Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara who did very, very much both in

[SENATOR CHIEF NDU]

spirit and in flesh to see that the Region was created. The same applies to Chief Obafemi Awolowo—I regret that he is not here with us—who appended his signature to the creation of the new State. I render my thanks to all these rulers and Parliamentarians who have actually participated in the creation of the Mid-Western Region.

Coming back to the President's Speech, it is gratifying to note that the President has stressed the point that the Federal Government will continue to seek African Unity and to see that all practicable measures aimed at promoting African Unity are guided by the principles of the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity especially those that deal with non-interference.

This idea is very good but I should rather say, in addition, that charity begins at home. I am now appealing to all the Senators to agree with me that unity is most needed now in this our beloved country. How can we advocate unity abroad when there is no unity at home? To achieve this unity, I would suggest that we start from the very foundation. There are very many foundations which can promote the unity of a nation. One of these, for instance, is inter-regional marriage. By this I mean that the Northerners should marry the Easterners, the Easterners should marry the Westerners, the Westerners should marry the Mid-Westerners and *vice versa*. We are actually laying the foundation for our children and those yet unborn. We are not only trying to see that the country is good only for us that are now living, but we also wish to lay the foundation for those yet unborn.

I have my reason for saying this. Nobody would like to throw stones at his pot of oil and, of course, those who live in glass houses do not throw stones. So, if somebody has a daughter in another Region and there is trouble there, that person will say, "I am sorry, my daughter is there, she has many children. We had better go quiet and cool."

There is one other reason. We can also try to lay the foundation of unity even in the school by education. I feel that education should be federalised right from the primary to the university levels. Everybody knows that a classmate is second only to a brother or sister by blood. If one has a classmate of his with whom he played together and understood one another when they were young, naturally when

they grow up they have to understand themselves; they would not suspect themselves. It is not good to say that this man should not attend this school and that man should not attend that school. We should all live together and understand ourselves.

With the kind permission of the President, I would like to quote from His Excellency, the President's Speech:

*"The existing curricula of our primary, secondary and technical schools will be re-examined with a view to revising them to include the latest discoveries of educational research."*

That is correct. Somebody has just said that all the researches we have been carrying out in this country have not given us any practical results. We should try to do things ourselves, to provide increased educational opportunities according to the age, ability and aptitude of our pupils. This in itself is very comprehensive. This now leads me to appeal to the Federal Government that we must all learn to understand ourselves. Once there is no misunderstanding, there is bond of love, unity and peace.

His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic, has rightly commented on the reduction of road accidents on our highways. It is interesting and even gratifying indeed to see the Federal Government take over Trunk 'B' roads. For instance, somebody has suggested the connection of 'A' lines at divisional levels, but we have not got actually tarred roads at divisional levels. While travelling on the roads between one division and another one has to undergo hardship on laterite roads with bumping and all the rest of the things which can liquidate those of us who are apparently getting old and add more to the old age. I wish that the Federal Government will see that the roads connecting one division to another division are tarred.

In Enugu Province, for instance, there is scarcity of tarred roads. I would like the Trunk 'B' roads just between the Ninth Mile corner to Uzo Uwani in Nsukka Division via Ezeagu County Council in Udi Division, Enugu Province, to be tarred.

There is one other road which is always used even by many Parliamentarians: that is the road between Jos and Makurdi to Ninth Mile corner. The road was half tarred some donkey years ago and was stopped without any

reason. It is in the Northern Region, and it is there that I live and many Parliamentarians come to meet me there. Let those Ministers who travel by air travel by road starting from ninth mile corner from Jos to Zaria and then to Maiduguri, and they will be able to know what we have been experiencing.

From Makurdi in Tiv Division, Benue Province to a place like Udi to Agwu, one cannot travel throughout on tarred roads; one has to cross some laterite roads, which are very bad on the divisional level.

The President, in his Address, has stressed the possibility of introducing practical measures for dealing with the problem of unemployment. If there is anything that is bothering many households, it is this question of unemployment. After a man with small earnings has trained somebody, a son or a relative, up to standard six or Senior Cambridge level, or higher, it is disheartening for the child to have to come back to him as a liability, and continues to be maintained with the money that would otherwise have been used in training the younger ones. So, unemployment in this country requires a most urgent attention.

Now I come to praise the President of the Senate. Sir, you are now elevated to this high post and you are worth it. Many people who do not know how much you actually contributed to the glory and upliftment of this country years ago would be in doubt. Nevertheless, you have now started again. The first President we had went very far, and he is now the President of the Federal Republic. The second one we had is now the Premier of the Mid-Western Region and you, the present one will become something greater in years to come.

**Senator S. Eyitayo :** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his brilliant Speech. The Speech, as has been expressed by people who spoke previously, is comprehensive and it touches on many vital matters. I think it will be a waste of the time of this Senate to talk on this subject without any concrete suggestions which will help in their implementation.

As a teacher, I therefore want to confine myself to the educational aspect of the Speech. I beg to quote the relevant section :—

*The existing curricula of our primary, secondary and technical schools will be re-*

*examined with a view to revising them to include the latest discoveries of educational research. To provide increased educational opportunities suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of our pupils, secondary education will be diversified. The development of of technical education will be further strengthened by enlisting greater co-operation of the industrial and commercial sectors of our economy with the various Governments of the Republic. To this end, my Government will give necessary lead through the medium of a fully representative National Advisory Council on technical education and industrial training. A National Teachers' Training College for training teachers for technical schools and colleges will be opened this year through the generous financial assistance from the International Development Association of the World Bank. The coming year will also witness the opening of a Faculty of Engineering in the University of Lagos.*

This is very re-assuring, and I hope it is not mere paper work. It is my prayer that God may assist the Federal Government to execute all the major ideas and ideals envisaged in this educational programme.

If a careful look is made into the previous *Hansards* of the Senate, it will be found that each time I spoke, on education, I usually spoke on the necessity of making primary and secondary education in this country a federal affair. I have always tried to tell this Senate that although education is on the concurrent list, from the look of things, it is high time that the Federal Government should think or embark upon financing secondary education in the whole of the country.

If one goes into all the Regions to-day, one will find that a greater percentage of the Regions' money is being spent on primary education. Some Senators have spoken and Senator Ejaike spoke particularly on what is happening in England and Canada with regard to primary education. He said in England, education is run by County Councils and in some other countries, by local governments.

I am not saying that the Federal Government should reimburse the Regional Governments, but I am saying that the Federal Government should take over or take control of the Regional schools so that there may be only one standard throughout the Federation. It is the absence of this that is responsible for the varying

[SENATOR EYITAYO]

standards—one in the West, one in the East and another in the North. The standard should be the same and it can only be so when the Federal Government takes the responsibility for running all the schools in the Federation.

I am still emphasising the point that it is high time the Government took up this job. We often talk of unity, but I do not think there is any way by which this can become a reality more than when all our children attend the same school irrespective of whether they are Yorubas, Ibos or Hausas. I think this would lead to a greater unity than by merely talking about unity and running away from the things that will bring about this unity.

On secondary education, I would like the Federal Government to re-orientate its views in the whole country for that matter. It seems that we have got a wrong view of secondary education. Our boys and girls who are trained in secondary schools look down upon some jobs as being too menial for them to do. Those who have been to Europe and America will find that men with B.Sc degrees drive the buses and taxis and so on and so forth. I do not think anybody leaving a secondary school in this country would like to drive a bus because we look down on such jobs as being too menial. I think the sooner we re-orientate our views the better it will be for us.

I would like also to congratulate the Federal Government on its intention to make new Trunk "A" Roads. My suggestion is that if the new roads are to be constructed, the Government should be very careful in giving out the contract. They must see that people who know how to deal with the work are given the contracts. What is wrong with our roads is that they do not have the necessary basic foundation. If new Trunk 'A' Roads are to be built, and if the new construction is given to contractors who are inefficient, the roads will, in some years to come, become as delapidated as the ones we are now using. The foundations must be very solid so we can enjoy the roads for a very long time.

In addition, we need more railways to connect the Western to the Mid-Western and the Eastern Regions. If we start now that will be very good indeed so that when the new bridge over the Niger is completed it will be easy to lay the foundation of the rail roads.

I only want to confine myself to the educational aspects of the Speech and with these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Abdul Salami Yusufu** : I rise to support the President's Speech and while I shall not deviate from the subject I intend to make some few comments.

I would like to speak on the systems of elections as are being carried out in this country. It does appear to me that in this country the method of winning elections is by violence, incitement and irregularities. I do not hesitate to mention this in view of the recent elections held in the new Mid-Western Region into the House of Assembly there. There it was actually demonstrated that intimidation and irregularities, which actually deprived the Opposition—

**Senator Chief Onyia** : On a point of order, the Senator is absolutely misinformed, and I think he is trying to impute unnecessary motives. I do not want to debate on this issue, what happened in the Mid-Western Region. That the Opposition was not given the opportunity of campaigning is founded on false premises.

**The President** : Improper motives cannot be tolerated.

**Senator Yusufu** : I am expressing my own opinion, and I think I am entitled to do so.

**The President** : No Senator shall impute improper motives on another Senator.

**Senator Yusufu** : In that case, therefore, I am appealing to the people of this Federation that we should try and make things more precise so that our elections may be free and fair. Unless elections in this country are free our National Assemblies shall be false.

Now, the other question is the erection of statues of our leaders, like the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu Bello, and our Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, in the Federal Territory of Lagos. Unless this is done our unity is false. I am saying this because I think there is something purposeful in it. At the moment the leaders of our neighbouring states come to Lagos to find these things absent. We all agree that to-day we have Regional autonomy. Nevertheless, the Federal Republic comprises of major political parties from our different Regions, and these Regions are being run by different Heads of Governments.

I think that by and large, somebody should be on top by virtue of his being the leader of the political party which is the senior partners in the coalition. The senior partner in the Coalition Government is the party which is headed by the Premier of Northern Nigeria. Incidentally, he is also the President of the Party. It will be a matter of hypocrisy if these things cannot be done by now, because to-day it appears that some people feel that they have not got the person they have in mind to lead, and that means they are waiting until the opportunity presents itself.

**Senator S. Eytayo :** On a point of order, the Senator is imputing improper motive. Senator Yusufu is himself here, and as far as I know nobody has made any suggestion to that effect either here or in the House of Representatives.

**The President :** I do not think that the Senator was imputing motive. He was only stressing how unity could come about, and in doing so he was giving conditions which would satisfy other people.

**Senator Yusufu :** The Senator who has just tackled me may be aware that even last year during the Budget Session I did mention it, and nobody paid any heed probably because it did not suit their purpose.

Coming to the Speech of the President, I think it is gratifying to hear that the Government will carry on with its programme of improving the health of the inhabitants of Lagos by widening the basis of preventive measures and bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach of a large number of people. That is well and good, but I think the Government of the Federation should not restrict this to only the Federal Territory.

For instance, in the Northern Region we have a disease called cerebro-spinal meningitis. Of course, that Region has been very competent and it has almost wiped out this terrible disease. Nevertheless that does not prevent the Federal Government from doing something about it. The Federal Government should try to wipe it out completely.

Malaria, as has been suggested here, is one of the dangerous diseases which are rampant in this country. A great percentage of people, particularly children, die of this disease. This

may not be known to many people. I have seen for instance, a village where so many people died of malaria fever. Whenever somebody is sick of this disease, the villagers go about trying to treat it with native medicine, hoping that the medicine will kill the germs. Senators will see that this is due to the ignorance of our people about this harmful disease. As soon as the Government educates the people from house to house and at the same time supplies them with medicine, this bad disease will be rendered impotent.

Now, I come to the question of unemployment in this country. I am happy to hear that elaborate plans have been made in our Six-Year Development Programme to check unemployment. We all know that unemployment, which is high in this country, is one of the things that cause disorder and discontent. If the Federal Government will be able to do something about this, I am sure there will be no trouble. It will also help reduce political tension. Senators are aware of the fact that during elections, those contesting are often in the habit of promising employment to the unemployed. This is not a bad promise. But if they make such promise, they should try to fulfil them. The eradication of unemployment in this country, I am sure, will raise our national status.

It is because of unemployment that people are forced to receive money before voting at elections. Some of these people take about five shillings, when offered vote into Parliament a person who cannot be reckoned with—

*And it being 11.45 a.m. the President proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed, Monday, 16th March.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this Senate do now adjourn—(SENATOR DR E. A. ESIN).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this Senate do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 16th March, 1964

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
INFORMATION

## Siting of Federal Institutions

**O.1. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Information how many Federal Institutions are sited in Northern, Eastern, Western and Mid-Western Nigeria.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I am very sorry that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Information, is not here. The Notice of Question was not directed to my Ministry and I wish to assure Senator Nzerem that the Answer to his Question will appear in the *Hansard* when obtained from the Ministry of Information.

*Following is the reply—*

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson): Federal Institutions are sited in different parts of the Republic under the administration of various Federal Ministries.

If the Senator has specific institutions in mind, the question may be directed to the Ministries concerned.

## TRANSPORT

Board Members of the Nigerian  
Railway Corporation

**O.2. Senator Nzerem** asked the Minister of Transport how much transport and other allowances each member of the Railway Corporation's Board drew during the Financial Years 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and during the current Financial Year up to November 1963; and whether Board members have the right to travel free on all occasions through the entire railway system.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Members of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Board have the privilege to travel free on the railways with gold passes issued by the Corporation on their appointment. Details

of the allowances called for by the Senator are not readily available.

## EDUCATION

## Scholarship Award to Law Students

**O.3. Senator Nzerem** asked the Minister of Education if he will consider the necessity of awarding a number of post-graduate scholarships to Nigerian Law Students in the United Kingdom to enable them to qualify to lecture in our law schools.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi**: Once again, I must apologise on behalf of my Colleague, the Minister of Education. It is not usual for Senators to send in Questions, and I think the process whereby these Questions are sent direct to the Ministries with copies to the Clerk of the Parliaments, has not been properly arranged in the Senate, and that is probably why the Clerk of the Parliaments has not got the Answers himself. Whenever we get Questions in the Ministries, apart from the Ministers who are going to answer the Questions, copies of the Questions are also sent to the Clerk of the Parliaments. I wish to assure the Senate that the Ministry of Education will publish the Answer to this Question in the *Hansard*.

**Senator Nzerem**: I take very serious exception to this sort of treatment. These Questions were sent in about four weeks before prorogation of Parliament, and when Parliament was prorogued I re-submitted them. It is a surprise to me that up till now nothing has been done about getting the Answers ready.

**The President**: We have taken notice of this complaint and we will make sure that such a thing does not happen again.

*Following is the reply—*

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): The Federal Government fully recognises the need for qualified Law Teachers and its policy on post-graduate scholarships also caters for post-graduate studies in Law tenable in approved institutions at home or abroad.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN  
ADDRESS)

*Adjourned Debate on Question (13th March).*

*Question again proposed,* That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :—

“Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.”

**Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu :** In continuation of my contribution to the debate on the Speech delivered by His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I dare say that unemployment is one of the causes of disunity in this country and everything must be done to combat this.

Turning to our territorial integrity, it is common knowledge that any independent nation wishing to retain her sovereignty must possess modern scientific weapons as mentioned in His Excellency's Speech. This will greatly strengthen our defence both on land and sea. I am happy to note in His Excellency's Speech the establishment of the Nigerian Air Force.

Now before I wind up, I would like to comment on the appointment of the new Senators from the Mid-Western Region. When the Government of this Federation was formed barely four years ago, we were well informed that the Senate will be devoid of partisan politics, but to-day what is happening before us is contrary to what we were told then. I must say that the method used in the appointment of the new Mid-West Senators appears—

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of order, the Senator speaking is entirely out of tune with the subject matter.

**The President :** Will the Senator please be relevant to the subject.

**Senator Yusifu :** I think I am speaking in terms of—

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** On a point of order, I remember when the former President was in the Chair this point was raised and he told the whole House that one could speak for or against anybody so long as that person is a member of this House ; and, too, whether the point is relevant to the discussion at hand or not. That was the ruling given by the former President. I am only just refreshing your mind.

**The President :** In this case, Senator Yusifu is talking about how the Members from the Mid-West were selected, which is out of point and irrelevant.

**Senator Yusifu :** As I was saying, it appears somebody was selected to be one of the twelve but was later dropped. Whatever may have been the reason for this action I know, personally, that it was because the person dropped is not a supporter of the ruling party. And I submit that that action was an unreasonable one.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** On a point of order, I think Senator Yusifu is irrelevant.

**The President :** Will the Senator concerned please stick to the point.

**Senator Yusifu :** Well, I have been asked to steer away from that point ; therefore, with these few remarks, I associate myself with the Speech.

**The President :** Will the new Members from the Mid-West please mention their names whenever they stand up to speak so that I may know who is speaking.

**Senator Ekperiri Lamai :** Mr President, fellow Senators, I humbly wish to contribute my quota to the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his intelligent and precise Speech. In doing this I must have to crave the indulgence of the House to overlook anything in this my maiden speech which might tend to amount to mistakes, omissions or commissions, as I would be learning by my own mistakes and also from the mature experience of fellow Senators.

I respectfully wish to submit that I have the greatest honour to associate myself with those who have showered encomiums on His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, for the efficient composition and masterly delivery of His Speech. I do not intend to make repetitions of worthy contributions already made by Senators, hence I want to make the following brief observations.

In page 1 of the Speech the President remarked—

*“I wish to record my satisfaction with the orderly arrangements that culminated in the successful creation of a Mid-Western Region of Nigeria last month.”*

[SENATOR LAMAI]

To this end I wish to emphasise the fact that while it is true that there was orderly arrangement culminating in the success of the creation of the Mid-Western Region last month, it is equally true that there was peaceful, constitutional approach in the demand for the creation of the new fourth Region by the people of Benin and Delta Provinces.

**Senator Yusufu :** On a point of order, the Senator speaking is reading his speech.

**The President :** I did not notice that he was reading from his notes and, in any case, when a Senator is making a maiden speech an allowance is given for him to read his speech.

**Senator Lamai :** I want to say that the demand for the new State emanated from a natural urge for self-determination and this urge was intensified by the unwholesome division of the country as a result of the Richard's Constitution of 1946. It is now clear that the Mid-Western Region was not borne out of tribal sentiments, malice, envy or jealousy ; neither was it instigated by any outside political influence. In consequence therefore, there exists to-day as ever before a bond of friendship and mutual understanding between the people of the Yoruba-West and the people of Mid-Western Nigeria.

I particularly want to associate myself with others who have already spoken to thank Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the former National President of the N.C.N.C. and now the President of the Republic of Nigeria ; the God-fearing Prime Minister of the Federation, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and all the Regional Premiers, for the valuable contributions they made in the successful creation of the Mid-Western Region, without which my membership of this House could have been well-nigh impossible. I also have to thank God that the Government of the new Region has as its head a dynamic, judicious, impartial and God-fearing Premier in the person of Chief Dennis Osadebay.

This takes me to yet another important aspect of the Speech delivered by the President of the Republic. I beg to quote—

*"My Government will continue to support all practical measures aimed at promoting African Unity."*

To this I say, charity must necessarily begin from home. We cannot be enunciating principles and propounding philosophies aimed at

practical measures of promoting unity when, on the Floor of all Legislatures in this country, Members confine themselves to provocative statements and insinuating languages which tend to keep us apart rather than bring us together. I therefore wish to appeal that we try to conquer those things that in words and deeds tend to keep us apart and confine ourselves to those things that tend to keep us together. We have come to join fellow Senators from other Regions to work for the factors that will uphold the dignity, faith and unity of this Federation.

Furthermore, I am happy to note that aspect of the Speech which indicated that the Nigerian telecommunication services will be intensified. May I hope that the development intended should include consideration of the raising up of qualified postal agencies in rural areas to full departmental post offices. For example, the Fugar Postal Agency in Afenmai Division has long qualified for a full departmental Post Office. Let us therefore hope that the intensification proposed would not follow the dictum of "to those who have much, much more would be added unto them".

The last, but not the least, is the understanding that there is a proposal by the Federal Government to expand the Nigeria Police Force. In commending this move for all it is worth, I would like to appeal that the Nigeria Police Force or its members should not be made scape-goats by political "weeping Jeremiahs" who have lost their elections.

**Several Senators :** Who are those ?

**Senator Lamai :** As a matter of fact, there was a matured exhibition of efficiency on the part of the Nigerian Police Force and its members during the Mid-Western elections. Therefore, they deserve commendation and not condemnation.

Finally, Mr President, permit me to register my hearty congratulations on your meritorious election to the coveted Chair of the President of the Nigerian Senate. May God be your guide.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** In introducing his comprehensive Address embodying the Federal Government's proposals for the next financial year, His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, told the joint



Session of Parliament that he was privileged to address them on the occasion of the first Budget Session since Nigeria became a Republic last October.

May I say that we who listened to his inspiring words of wisdom were no less privileged than he. To have the opportunity to listen to the great Zik of Africa, resplendent in his new uniform of Field Marshall, is not only an inspiration but a great object lesson to both young and old.

It is heartening to note that the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria places such a very high priority on African Unity. Nigeria's avowed policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and respect for their sovereign status, whether they are small or large, has won for her the highest esteem and praise among African States in particular, and the world at large. The firm resolution of the Federal Government to continue to co-operate with other African States and to foster good neighbourly relations between Nigeria and her neighbours cannot but be highly commended.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should, in collaboration with other African States and the United Nations Organisation, bring pressure and economic sanction to bear upon South Africa to abandon her inhuman, if not un-Christian apartheid policy.

While on this question of unity, I would like to say a few words about our internal unity. In recent weeks, we have been shocked by the subtle but calculated and diabolical effort of some people in this country to shatter the unity which is very dear to the heart of every true Nigerian. Provocative statements here and there, threat to peaceful co-existence of the various tribes and ethnic groups in this country, nepotism and tribalism in the promotion and recruitment of civil servants—these have rocked the Republic to its very foundation.

I appeal earnestly to our President, the President of the Republic, to use his good offices as the father of all to persuade our God-fearing Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; the Leader of his Party, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto; Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, the dynamic leader and National President of the N.C.N.C.; the Premier of Western Nigeria, Chief S. L. Akin-tola; the unassuming but sagacious Premier

of the Mid-Western Region, Chief the hon. Dennis Osadebay, and the leaders of other political parties to come together at once and save Nigeria from an impending disaster.

The proposed expansion of the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Air Force, is very welcome. Although Nigeria is a peace-loving country, it would be foolish to the extreme to take it for granted that we are not open to attack from within or from without. What has happened and continues to happen in other African countries and elsewhere should be an object lesson. In Nigeria, as in other countries, the people believe that if we want peace, we must be prepared for war. It is, therefore, a step in the right direction to develop the Nigerian Navy by acquiring more ships because Nigeria with her considerable coastline is very vulnerable from the sea.

But here I must sound a note of warning. The acquisition of second-hand and other unserviceable naval craft from Britain and elsewhere—and I say very emphatically—must be discouraged. In the field of army, naval and air-force equipment our watch-word and slogan should be "Nothing but the best is good enough for Nigeria".

What I have said about the equipment for the army, the navy and the air-force applies equally well to our merchant navy—the Nigerian National Shipping Line. No useful purpose will be served in purchasing a number of dilapidated ships that are not sea-worthy.

The Federal Government deserves our gratitude for the bold steps it proposes to take on the construction of new roads and the widening of existing ones, but this alone will not be adequate to reduce the very high incidents of fatal motor accidents on our roads.

The granting of driving licences to illiterate and inexperienced persons and the use of mammy-wagons for the conveyance of human beings and heavy loads at one and the same time, account for many of our fatal road accidents. The time is certainly overdue for a legislation to make it impossible for one driver to drive long distances by day and by night without rest, without sleep and, more often than not, without food.

Can one imagine a driver taking a mammy-wagon or a bus all the way from Oron in the Old Calabar Province to Aba, Onitsha, and

[SENATOR NZEREM]

across the Niger to the Mid-West, the Yoruba West and on to Lagos alone, through the night. It is, to say the least, a very dangerous practice and the time has come for the Government to legislate against it and so save so many lives from being unnecessarily lost.

We have heard of the proposal to establish a Civil Aviation Training Centre, and a Defence Industries Corporation for the management of our Ordnance Factory and other similar institutions. This is well and good, but I venture to say that to concentrate these institutions in any one place or Region does not make for the unity of the country.

The Federal Government is to be congratulated on the bold steps it is taking to control and regulate the activities of insurance companies in this country. Those of us who are motor users have suffered in the hands of these insurance companies. Some of them do not seem to have any conscience at all. A man insures his car and if he reads through his policy papers he finds that he has no security of any kind. So the Government is certainly doing the right thing to control and regulate the terms under which insurance licences are granted to people.

But there is one thing again about it. If the Government has to make adequate provisions to safeguard the interest of Nigerians in the hands of these insurance companies, it must have adequately trained personnel.

I hear that the Government again is going to regulate hire-purchase terms. That again is good because all of us know that in this country if a man hire-purchases a car and he pays everything except £10, or that if for any reason whatsoever he defaults, the insurance company will seize the car and sell it and he has no claim at all from the company from which he purchased the car. I cannot think of any more iniquitous transaction. I think, therefore, that the Government is doing the right thing in trying to regulate and control the operations of these insurance companies and the hire-purchase contract in this country.

The educational policy of the Federal Government is a very sound one, which the Regional Governments will do well to emulate. But the availability of funds determines to what extent educational researches are to be put into practice. So long as our education remains a

Regional subject, so long shall it continue to suffer not only from limitations in expansion, but also from the variations in standards.

I think the time has come when educational standards, training and certification of teachers and remuneration for the teachers should become a Federal responsibility. I, therefore, call on the Federal Government to take over the responsibility of paying for primary and secondary school education throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria so as to relieve the Regional Governments of great financial burden and make it possible for them to pursue more vigorously their plans for the development of industry, agriculture and health.

Nigerians abroad feel some pangs of shame and inferiority not to be able to hear the voice of their country in radio broadcasts. Countries like Ghana and the Congos have long established external broadcasting and time seems overdue for Nigeria to follow suit.

Let us hope that when His Excellency, the President delivers his 1965-66 Address, Members of Parliament will not only hear that a powerful radio transmission station will be built at Ikorodu to bring Nigeria closer to all parts of the world, but rather that one had been completed and commissioned. It is only in this way Nigeria can assert her importance and project her personality to the outside world.

It is now nearly four years since our independence, but we still cling in many ways to the economic apron-string of Great Britain. A case in point is our continued use of the British Postal Orders. What in the name of goodness prevents Nigeria all these years from printing her postal orders? I cannot understand. So everyone can understand my joy when in his address to Parliament, His Excellency said that "a Nigerian Postal Order service will for the first time be introduced. . ." A further development in postal orders and telecommunication has not come a moment too soon and the projected White Paper on them will be very eagerly awaited.

Postal and telecommunication services are the most easily appreciated form of amenities that people in the rural areas can understand. Every man as well as every woman in this country, sends letters and telegrams, but the postal service in this country, in spite of the huge sums of money we are spending, is deteriorating. I do not know what is responsible for it.

In all parts of Nigeria there are complaints—mounting complaints—about the inefficiency and the neglect of our postal service. I think that when this White Paper comes before Parliament, great proposals will be made to improve our postal system.

The defeats which Nigeria has, in recent years, suffered in soccer have done incalculable harm to our national prestige. But His Excellency's Speech portrays a gratifying change of heart on the part of the Government. I refer to the last paragraph of page five of the President's Speech, and with your permission, I quote :

*In pursuance of my Government's policy of encouraging and developing sports, more financial assistance will be given to the Lagos Sports Council and the National Sports Council to strengthen them and enable them provide necessary facilities for organised training aimed at improving the standard of performance in all fields of sports.*

In pursuance of this heartening statement by His Excellency, I would like to appeal to the Government not to allow this to be something on paper alone. We have a number of Nigerians who, if properly trained in football coaching, management of stadium and in the promotion of athletics and other sports, will help to improve the standard of soccer as well as athletics in this country.

We are quite fed up with the repeated defeats of Nigeria everywhere, and the time has come when we should make amends. I am really happy that the Government has come to realise its responsibility in the field of sports. If this policy which His Excellency has enunciated is sincerely pursued—and I trust it will be—hope for the revival of interest and consequent raising of standards in the game of football and athletics will have been given a fresh impetus.

Another hope for the economic development of this country is the Government's proposed intensification of its efforts in securing an increase in our share of world trade with a view to reducing our present imbalance of trade. We spend millions of pounds buying from Japan which has refused to buy our coal. In the field of international trade, I am a great believer in the *Mosaic* law of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

The Federal Government should not hesitate to prohibit the importation into this country

of the products of any country which does not want to trade with us on equal terms. If Japan will not buy our coal, neither should we buy her textile goods and machinery. If France will not buy our cocoa, palm produce, cotton and groundnuts, neither should we buy her *Pigueot* cars and wines.

Nigeria must put her foot firmly on the ground and arrest this nonsensical treatment that we are getting from other countries. If any country tries to bring economic strangulation on Nigeria, we should retaliate by a total boycott of goods from that country. We cannot afford to be spited and neglected.

The President's Speech gives a long catalogue of Bills and other measures which will come before Parliament for consideration during the current session, among which, are the following :

The United Nations comprehensive Report on Lagos.

The Metropolitan Low-Cost Housing Scheme.

Rapid Development of Agriculture.

Registration of Marriages celebrated in Lagos under the Customary and Muslim Laws.

Comprehensive legislation to replace the existing Land Registration Act ;

Progressive Health Scheme for Lagos, and Nigerian Legion, providing for Ex-Servicemen's welfare.

These and other projected measures and Bills are sure indications that the Federal Government is thinking in terms of the welfare of the masses and the improvement of their living standards.

It therefore stands to reason that, given the time and the co-operation of the people, the Government is determined to make Nigeria a welfare state where ignorance and disease, poverty and want will be relegated to the limbo of forgotten past.

I cannot end this speech, without congratulating you, Mr President, on your election to the coveted Chair. Your erudition, your work for the emancipation of Africa, your worthy propounding of the philosophy of Zikism, and your contribution in the field of education will be long remembered in this country. For all these and more, you are really a respected Nigerian ; and I know that you will bring dignity to the Chair of the Senate.

[SENATOR NZEREM]

I need not continue to take the time of the Senate, so I will end by saying I wholeheartedly support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all the Senators who have spoken on the Motion of Thanks to the President of the Republic.

In contributing my quota to the debate, I would like to say that the President has lived up to expectation, if not beyond expectation because he has shown under very trying conditions that he is a great lover of peace and the general welfare of the people of this country irrespective of tribe, creed or political leaning.

May I take the opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister for his wise choice of Dr Azikiwe as our first President of the Republic.

As we have been very fortunate in having a Head of State in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe so also have we been very fortunate in having a Prime Minister like Sir Abubakar as the Head of the Government. The stability, orderly government, and peace which the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been enjoying so far are directly the results of Sir Abubakar's cool-headedness, statesmanship, and foresight, and all the world over knows his fear of God.

Now, coming back to the actual subject, I would like to comment here that all the Federal Ministries have contributed immensely to the progress of the country during the year, and the projects contained in His Excellency's Address are progressive, comprehensive, and practicable.

Before going on any further I have specific observations to make. My first observation is that a great effort is being made to improve international relations. I would say that we have our own internal troubles, and similar efforts should be directed to improve our relations in the Republic. Our internal relations in the Republic is nearing a breaking point, and, as a Senator said earlier on, we must put our house in order first. I think it is right for me to repeat this wise but simple saying: "*Put your house in order first*" Well, I have to add another simple saying: "*A stich in time saves nine.*"

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** On a point of order, I do not think it is wise to wash our dirty linen in the public—

**Senator Zanna Sheriff :** I was hoping Senator Fulani would make sensible interruptions.

It is crystal clear that we live in Nigeria, and everything is for us the Nigerians. It is not good to say generally that the present state of affairs is so and so. Let us be more specific. When two members of a coalition government are in constant conflict, the masses are always in panic. What is the hope in that? Let us be very frank and call a spade a spade when two members of a coalition who are holding the reins of Government are in open conflict then there is bound to be trouble.

So, I think we have a greater task before us than trying to concern ourselves with international matters and so on. I would suggest that the radio can still play an important role in achieving good neighbourliness within the Federation instead of conducting a campaign of one political party against another and one politician against another. The radio stations should direct their efforts to achieving better understanding through their programmes. This will teach the people the essence of agriculture, education and so on.

Another observation on which I would not like to go into detail is the expansion of the Police Force. This is a very wise and sensible move in view of the excellent services being rendered by the Police and the Army. I request that every encouragement should be given morally and materially to the Police and the Army because this will enhance their prestige, integrity, and efficiency. Any expenditure borne by the country in that respect will be money well spent.

Another point in connection with the Police on which I am not very happy is their mobility, but there is still room for improvement. They should be made more mobile in the Federation so that whenever there is a necessity for an effective control of any situation this could be made possible. The Federation of Nigeria covers a very large area and it has a great population. What the policemen normally take into consideration is the area put under their control and the population of that area.

I now come to page 7 of the Address part of which states as follows:—

*“A comprehensive Progress Report on the Six-Year National Development Plan will be laid before you to acquaint you with the progress made during the first two years of the Plan, and also to give you the opportunity of assessing the achievement so far made.”*

This is very good, but the launching of the Six-Year Development Plan before ascertaining the accurate count of the nation was, to my mind, very immature, unrealistic, and unprecedented.

Now, we have been through two years of the Development Plan. I am now asking all Senators to be very careful, and I would like them not to think that I am introducing a very explosive subject to the Senate, far from it.

Well, that is my own observation.

In relation to the Six-Year Development Plan, we have just had the provisional figures of the census, and I am now appealing to the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the National Economic Council, before it is too late, to review the whole Plan and make necessary adjustments in the light of the new figures.

**The President :** The issue of the census should not be discussed at this time.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** I am not directly bringing in the census issue.

**Several Senators :** Indirectly ?

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** Mr President, Sir, I leave that matter at the moment, according to your direction.

My next point is the siting of industries. Nearly all the present standard industries are sited in the Federal capital, Regional capitals, in our ports and in big cities. That is very good. It is another alternative way of getting unemployed people jobs. It is quite welcome. But this situation will create a great influx of people from the rural areas to the cities, with the result that all our plans for the expansion of agriculture, and so on, will be defeated because when all the rural-area people leave the rural areas and come into the cities, who will be there to look after our farming and other businesses ? I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government in collaboration with the

Regional Governments to try and set up as far as possible, through co-operative bodies or societies, village industries. That would at least attract the people living in the rural areas to remain where they are and get their rightful share of the development of our country. I am glad that a nucleus of this has been started in one or two Regions at present. Well, I am recommending that such steps be also taken all over the Federation. Unless village industries are set up, we shall lose all the people in the rural districts because they will continue to come into places like Lagos, Kaduna, Enugu, Benin, Onitsha, and so on, with the result that everybody comes into the cities.

Before concluding my speech, may I congratulate you, Mr President of the Senate, on your well-deserved appointment as the President of the Senate. The Senate could not have made a wiser choice. In all respects and from whatever angle the situation is viewed, you are the most deserving, and we hope that under your leadership you will always guide us to success.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator A. O. Airewele :** I rise to associate myself with the Mover, the Seconder and all the Senators who have spoken on the Motion of Thanks. Indeed, the Speech delivered by the President was so touching and so inspiring that everybody was thrown into amazement at the time he was reading it. His personality, coupled with his oratory, is a magnet and is worthy of admiration. We are indeed very grateful to have such an international figure who possesses such world recognition and reputation.

The successful creation of the Mid-West Region is due to a lot of efforts from very many quarters. On behalf of the Mid-Westerners, both at home and abroad, I wholeheartedly thank the Members of the Senate, the Members of the House of Representatives and all the Members of the Regional Legislatures who have actually helped in the successful creation of the Mid-West Region. The role played by these Members is worthy of commendation. Thank God that those who had actually wanted to damp the enthusiasm and inspiration of the Mid-Westerners have been humiliated by the overwhelming majority of the votes in the referendum and the subsequent election.

[SENATOR AIREWELE]

These are positive proofs that we cannot sell or mortgaged our conscience or birth-right as others are now doing.

I will now speak on internal security. While the expansion of the Police Force is a necessity, according to the President's comments, to cope with our increasing population, it must be noted that their prospects and conditions of service should be equally made encouraging and enviable. We have actually observed that the Police have done a lot. Even the recommendations we received from the Congo are sufficient to prove to us that our men are really doing a really good job. There is no doubt that the safety of our lives and property depends largely on the Police.

The Army too should be encouraged now that more efficient work should be done.

The improvement or revision of the curricula of our primary, secondary and technical education is another important item that must engage our attention. Since it is eminently advisable to revise the present system of education, I hope the improvement of equipment for use in schools should automatically follow. Now, it has been observed that most of the schools are poorly equipped, particularly most of the secondary schools in some Regions where teachers are also not well cared for. I think it should be the responsibility of the Federal Government to help the secondary schools particularly. I have observed that the teaching of science cannot be successful without proper foundation, and in laying this foundation we need qualified masters. It is abundantly clear that without adequate salaries or remuneration we will hardly get science masters to teach science successfully. It is now known by everybody that passing through a secondary school without taking science subjects is one-sided education, and to encourage the teaching of science subjects in our secondary schools it means that the Federal and Regional Governments must do something to give more grants to those schools. There are so many voluntary agency schools in our country but they are left to fend for themselves. Even the small money given to these schools for building, once the money is finished, the Regional Governments do not listen to any complaints from the Principals.

I think it is high time the Federal and Regional Governments gave more assistance and adequate funds to private secondary schools.

Although it is desirable to promote the unity of Africa through the Organisation of African Unity, I think it is more desirable that we should promote unity at home first. It has been observed that there are some squabbles and disagreements among Nigerians. I think it is high time that the intelligent men in this country met and appointed peace makers. These men should be responsible for bringing back those that are going out of the way or doing badly so that Nigeria may be a strong and united nation. I feel that if we allow things to go on as they are going now, they will one day get out of hand. We should earn some lessons from what happened in some sister countries; we should not let history repeat itself. I feel we will gain a lot if we can bring our people together. After all, what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul.

The development of sports should not be concentrated only in Lagos. I feel that it should be extended to all the Regions. After all, our leading athletes to-day are from the Regions. Some of the leading athletes we have to-day are: Olotu, Omagbemi, Bello Osagie and Adeola "the flying policeman". Facilities for coaching should be extended to the Regions. The fall in the standard of sports in this country is due to lack of adequate encouragement and efficient coaching.

The extensive researches being carried out all these years by our Agricultural Officers in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations have not proved successful. It appears that all these researches are only in theory and not in practice. We are told that research work is going on in the North, in Lagos, in the West, in the Mid-West and in the East, but the only thing we get from these research stations are eggs and nothing more. I think our farmers should be congratulated. They feed the nation with their poor method of farming; they feed the increased population with their old method of farming. If encouragement is given to our farmers, I am sure they will improve. No stone should be left unturned. Our farmers should be encouraged because apart from feeding our nation, they can also help in feeding sister countries.

Practical and scientific methods should be adopted by our Government to alleviate the anxiety and sufferings of the people because of unemployment. It is one of the grave problems facing us to-day. Some years ago, immediately a student left a secondary school he got a job. But nowadays we find many of them roaming about without jobs, and the position will get worse after some years except all the Governments of the Federation are prepared to do something immediately before this problem gets out of hand. Unemployment is a political and social evil: it always promote hooliganism, stealing, burglary and vandalism. It is our duty to advise the Government especially on the establishment of industries to absorb most of the unemployed people, otherwise the problem of unemployment will become so acute that it will remain unsolved. This is the time that we should advise all our Governments on what to do about unemployment.

Not everybody will be capable of attending a university. We even have many universities in the country now. I remember that some years ago, certificated teachers were induced before they were employed; later on graduates were induced to come and teach in secondary schools. But I can tell you that even now many schools that used to sponsor teachers in universities with the hope of employing them after their graduation are not doing that now because there are many graduates now available. I feel that after some time, it may take some graduates months before they can get jobs. Something should be done immediately.

Finally, I have to seize this opportunity to thank Senators for their wisdom. As far as I can observe, the former Presidents of the Senate were wisely chosen. They are God-fearing and men of integrity. The present President of the Senate is also God-fearing and a man of integrity. I was surprised to find that on the very day that he was elected the President of the Senate, I was his first guest. The flat in which he was living before was the one allocated to me, and when he came back home that day he found that I had already moved into the flat. I immediately started packing my things to get out, but he told me to wait and I passed the night with him. I was surprised to find myself sleeping in the same house with our President. It was a great

surprise to me. I am happy that we have a humble President and I have every hope that will lead us well.

May God guide you always, Mr President.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah:** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for the Speech which he delivered to both Houses of Parliament. The President's Speech to Parliament is an annual parliamentary routine by which Members of Parliament are given the opportunity of conveying their gratitude and good wishes to their Head of State. We in the Federal Republic of Nigeria are lucky and blessed to have a man of the calibre of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe as our Head of State. May I say that it is significant that somebody who has worked for the unity of this country, who has contributed more than any other individual in this country towards the solidarity of our nation, should to-day be the symbol of our national unity. I have only to add that God may give him a fresh lease of life so as to live long enough to continue to guide this great nation.

Turning to the President's Speech, I observe that it appears, in volume, to be the smallest compared with any of the speeches made in previous years, but it is laden with plans and promises for the future well-being of our country.

Already so much has been said about most of the salient points contained in the Address, but if only for the sake of emphasis, I wish to speak very briefly on some of them.

One of these points deals with the Organisation of African Unity. It is pleasing to know that the people of Africa who for a long time had been looked upon as backward, have been able to organise, with creditable success, their countries into a very useful and dynamic body, well able to handle the affairs of African countries. The role being played by the O.A.U. in handling disputes arising from territorial boundaries is really very commendable. I wish the O.A.U. will continue with its very nice work. If only the warring countries of Africa can heed the intervention of this great body, I think Africa will be one of the brightest spots in the world, and that is my earnest prayer.

One of the points yet to be decided upon by the O.A.U. is the question of the setting up of the African High Command. If I understand

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that to mean a standing international army, then I think it is a very bright idea, if only it will help in eliminating the humiliation of emergent African countries having to turn to their old colonial masters to intervene in their own internal affairs. That is one advantage. However, it has one problem, and that is the question of funds. I know for certain that even a bigger international organisation like the United Nations Organisation, finds it difficult to get funds with which to maintain its forces in the Congo. If only the O.A.U. can organise their affairs in such a way as to find the necessary funds with which to set up and maintain an African High Command. I will give it my whole-hearted blessing.

We are all very happy with the work of maintenance of our internal security by the Nigeria Police. According to His Excellency the President, much is being done to ensure the expansion of the Police Force. I welcome the idea of expanding the Police Force. But the members of the Police Force are among those workers in the country to-day who suffer in silence. They have no trade union to champion their cause. I know for certain that one cannot do anything to ensure efficiency if one fails to remove the causes of discontent in the Police Force. One cause of such discontent is the question of promotion. Out of every ten promotions made in the Police Force, only one may be said to be based on merit; the other nine are based on nepotism. That is causing a lot of trouble in the Force. Those of us who are outside the Police Force do not seem to appreciate this.

I once came across a constable, and in the course of our conversation, he disclosed to me that he was enlisted in 1938 and up till the moment of making this speech in the Senate Chamber, this man is still a first class constable! From 1938 to 1964 is a period of 26 years! Is that not the fault of the Police authorities? Is it wise for somebody to be detained in the Police Force for 26 years and allowed to remain in one rank, with a large family, with some of his children in the secondary school and with a meagre salary? How can he be happy? How do we expect him to serve wholeheartedly? Well, if the honest and hard-working ones are allowed to work under this condition, frustration and inefficiency will certainly result.

I would suggest that if somebody joins the Police Force after undergoing training at the Police College and works for about three, four or five years, and is found inefficient by all means, the best thing to do is to sack him. But if he should be retained beyond that period, then it is assumed that he is efficient in his job and as such should be compensated by way of promotion. Therefore, while we talk of expansion, we must first of all talk of eliminating this source of discontent. That is the only way to convince members of the Police Force of our sincerity and sense of impartiality and justice.

I would like to congratulate our retiring Inspector-General of Police, Mr Hodge. Ever since assuming office, the country has seen so many Constitutional changes with their attendant security problems. This man has proved his mettle and was able to cope with the volume of work. I think it is only proper that we should register our congratulations to him. While he retires, I hope Nigeria will for long cherish the good work that he has done for this country.

I would also like to congratulate Mr L. O. Edet, the first indigenous Deputy Inspector-General of Police. I hope that he has understudied the senior people, especially the present Inspector-General. As he is the first indigenous Deputy Inspector-General, I hope that very soon we will see him as the first indigenous Inspector-General of the Nigeria Police Force. Therefore, one of his first assignments, or may I say tests, will be this question of promotion. We shall keep our eyes open to see that he eliminates discontent. He should see to it that efficiency is maintained in the Police Force by promoting people when they are due for it and not necessarily basing promotion on nepotism. If one has no god-father and if one has no long leg, one can never get what one wants. That sort of thing should die away; there should be no question of having god-fathers in the Police Force. If anybody is due for promotion, let him be promoted and if a man is retained beyond five years and he does not get the promotion he merits, well those responsible for the promotion should sack themselves for failing to discharge their duties efficiently.

I come now to the point concerning the Railway Corporation—the building and assembling of wagons in Nigeria. This is



indeed welcome news. The building and assembling of wagons in Nigeria is definitely overdue. Failure to do that before this time has been responsible for quite a number of the difficulties the Corporation is experiencing.

If the Railway Corporation introduces the building and assembling of wagons in Nigeria, it will ensure the use of locally produced materials; that is one big advantage. It will also help the Corporation to design wagons to suit the present status of the country.

Recently, I travelled by train from the East to the North. The compartment in which five of my friends and myself were was a disgrace to the dignity of our nation. It was very dirty, unsightly, stinking and full of bed-bugs. It was also ill-equipped.

It was also annoying to observe that there was not even one restaurant for people travelling for such a long time and going to such a distant place. In other words, you could not get anything to eat even with your currency notes. You could only brandish them in the air, you could get nothing to buy; that was most disgraceful.

I think that when the building and assembling of Railway wagons is undertaken these difficulties will be eliminated and one other advantage will be that wagons will be supplied in sufficient numbers.

For the present, wagons are not sufficient and the shortage leads to all sorts of corrupt practices. I know of traders who have to bribe the senior railway men before they can get coaches for their goods and that sort of thing is shameful. For want of wagons our trade suffers and traders are involved in very heavy financial losses.

Every Saturday evening, we hear the radio advertiser asking and begging us to use the railway. How can I use the Railway when its coaches are jerky and stinking? I will not use it for anything even if you pay me for it. Let the advertiser keep on singing. If he does not improve the conditions in the Railway Corporation, patronage will gradually run out and competition with the lorry owners will eventually kick the railway out of the show.

I agree that I should use the Railway and I agree also that I should dance to the tune of the advertiser's music, but the authorities concerned should improve the wagons.

The next point I would like to make is on the question of indigenous contractors. I have always made my views clear on this. I want our indigenous contractors to be encouraged, but I fail to agree that it should be at all costs. Only those of them that are competent enough should be given contracts and I know we have quite a number of them that are good enough; some are not good at all and we cannot, in the name of patriotism, throw away the money of the tax payers down the drains.

One of the ways in which these indigenous contractors can improve their lot is by equipping themselves. They should have the tools and also the personnel, especially the engineers. Unfortunately for them, engineers are not easy to come by because the demand is very great. I think the easiest way of getting them, if these indigenous contractors are to improve their lot, is to sponsor engineering students in our institutions. They should send our students there to be trained as engineers. Such students should be bonded so that when they finish their training they can work for them. If these engineering students are bonded, they can easily offer their services to those who sponsored them.

The next point is about low-cost housing scheme. We hear that Lagos inhabitants in the low-income group will own houses; that is quite good. But I think to have a scheme that will make every Lagos inhabitant own a house is like putting the cart before the horse. What we want now is not that everybody should own a house, but that every citizen of Lagos should be comfortably and conveniently accommodated.

In fact, those who are able to own houses, already own houses in Lagos. It is only those who are tenants that are victims of circumstance in this city. What I am saying is that first of all, the scheme must ensure that cheap and durable buildings are provided at reasonable cost to accommodate everybody.

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The second phase then may be that relating to houses which could be owned by those capable of owning them and this is exactly the practice in civilised countries. I wish to illustrate with an example I had seen myself in an oversea country. Sometime last year I was in Mexico City and one of the things that fascinated me was the housing scheme of the Institute of Social Security in Mexico. It is a joint affair of the government and all the employers of labour in Mexico. They have a common pool to which they contribute funds and then the authorities use this money. They have a bright idea of setting up rehabilitation centres. One of them which we had the privilege of seeing is called "Independence Housing Centre" and it has a population of 15,000. Modern buildings are put up at very low rents; in fact, token rents are paid.

One impressive feature was that only people in the low income group live in the rehabilitation centre. In the centre itself apart from the beautiful buildings put up there are other amenities like health centres, schools, swimming pools, theatres, and all sorts of recreational facilities provided free. Very reasonable rents are paid for accommodation.

This is the kind of thing we want now and not a scheme whereby everyone can own a house. We have our fellow human beings being driven out from the bar beach without any hope of alternative accommodation. All I am saying is that while the scheme enunciated in the Speech is highly commendable, we should, first and foremost, try to provide cheap but decent accommodation for the low income group of workers in this country.

I have to wind up and in doing so I want to touch on a very delicate matter. This time it is not the census, because I know it has been ruled out of order, but another matter which is very explosive and I hope I will not be ruled out. Last week nearly every Member of the Northern House of Assembly who contributed to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor of the North called for the expulsion of the Ibos in the North.

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** On a point of order, the Senator is speaking on something that does not come within the item that we are discussing now.

**The President :** Senator Ukattah is irrelevant.

**Senator Ukattah :** I have to drop it for I am too old to disobey the President, and, in any case, I think my point is understood.

I will wind up by saying that when we speak of the unity of this country it must come from our hearts, and every action that will militate against what we preach must be guarded against. I think unity is dear to all of us; but any attitude that will be in conflict with that great desire should be highly deplored by everyone of us. I therefore appeal to each and everyone here, there and yonder to guard against any statement that will be prejudicial to the solidarity and unity of this country.

I beg to support.

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** Before I come to the real business I would like to correct one impression created, I think, by either Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff or Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia on this question of peace and unity in this country. I think we should not wash our dirty linen in the public.

It has been said that the Prime Minister is God-fearing and that the President is a wise man and as such the latter should always advise the former. This is good. The Prime Minister has a lot of experience in him and he has got many advisers around him. I therefore do not think that there is any reason why we should go all out to suggest that the Prime Minister should convene a meeting of elders for the sole purpose of advising him.

**A Senator :** The Senator is entitled to his opinion.

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** Coming now to the real business, the Mover of this Motion (I am sorry he is not present) in the course of his speech said that the President was very grand in his Field Marshal uniform.

Last year I remember saying that the President should put on an African attire so that his personality, the dignity of his office and, most of all, the image of the African could be properly projected. A man like the President will surely look grand in anything he wears, whether it is English or African and, in fact, it does not matter whatever he wears; but what I feel is that the President of such a big country like Nigeria should put on something African.

He should not be dressed like, say, the Clerk of the Parliaments, or like a Doctor or even like a student who has got to put on a particular type of uniform, as a matter of course.

All I am saying is that Dr Azikiwe, our President, should on ceremonial occasions wear a big gown like those worn by the people of the North to make him a complete African. I think every true lover of Africa will agree with me. I have been hammering on this point and I will continue to do so until the President sees with me. As I said earlier on, if the President looks very grand when he wears the uniform of a Field Marshal he will look grander in an African attire.

There are one or two things which were not sufficiently dealt with in the Speech. The first concerns the question of water supply in the rural areas. The supply of water may not be so acute in places like the Western Region, the Eastern Region or the Lagos area, but as far as the North is concerned it is one of the most acute problems we are faced with. This is evidenced by the fact that in the Province of Ilorin where I come from the women set out to fetch water around 2 a.m. daily.

In the far North as far as Bornu, there are what we call boreholes. With the help of the Regional Government the people now have what is known as Rural Water Supply. Money is given to the people and they dig very deep wells out of which they get water but the number of wells that are dug is not sufficient to cater for the population.

**A Senator:** On a point of order, water supply is a Regional matter.

**Senator Fulani:** The people about whom I have been talking, are part and parcel of the Federation and that is why I have brought this matter here. A special fund should be set aside to help, through the Regional Government, those people who suffer from acute shortage of water.

Some of my fellow Senators have already said something about farming, and our farming implements. Most of our implements especially, hoes have been in use since the days of our great, great, grandfathers. There have been no changes whatsoever made on them up to the present time. The hoe has the same old blade, the same old handle and people still bend down when they are using it.

When I went to the Moor Plantation, I had to learn how to use a hoe. The only new thing I could find at the Moor Plantation was called "Indian hoe". It is a long hoe with a short blade which digs the soil and goes on. It is not good at all. I think it is high time that the Federal Government introduced modern farming implements into this country because if they do not do so I wonder who is going to do it.

I think that once these two problems are effectively tackled, the majority of the difficulties existing not only in the North, but also in other parts of the Federation, will be solved and the masses will feel that the Federal Government is doing something in their own interest and for their well-being.

I feel that many things have been neglected in the rural areas and I therefore, often feel that there ought to be somebody who should be in charge of rural affairs and rural areas and whose duty it would be to cater for the welfare of the people.

There should be a Minister of Rural Areas who will cater for the people and be a liaison officer between the Government and the people who are left behind. He should be able to tour round and see the people in their homes, see how they live, what they eat and what they suffer. This will be a sort of a Utopian Government—the Government which goes to see its people, knows what the people suffer and what the people want.

In the President's Speech no mention was made of the Niger Dam which is important to us, because as far as we are concerned, it goes through the North. This is one of the projects in the Six-Year Development Plan and there should therefore have been a definite mention of what has been done about it, and of what is going to be done.

As has already been said by Senator Ukattah on the Health Service scheme, five health Centres are going to be set up in Lagos. I think that a city of the size of Lagos should have more than five Health Centres.

**Senator Dr E. A. Esin:** There are going to be eleven centres.

**Senator Fulani:** I have been told now that six more Health Centres have been built which brings the number up to eleven. Nevertheless, I feel that eleven Health Centres are still not enough to cater for the population of Lagos. Ikoyi area alone requires at least two

[SENATOR FULANI]

Health Centres. When I was down with fever, I had to be taken to the hospital because I could not be attended to at Ikoyi. This is a task facing the Federal Government and I do hope that more and more of such centres should be provided for the welfare of the Senators and the masses.

Another important point which I would like to mention is the representation of Africans on the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations Organisation. This subject has been dealt with by the President. I feel that in order to show the importance of Africa, Africans should press for equal representations on all important and vital Committees of the U.N.O.

This will ensure that no decision on any matter is taken without the agreement of all African countries. This is the only way in which we can present our views. I do not intend to speak very long, and I wish, before I sit down, to congratulate the President on his very fine Speech and to say, as I have said before, that I (perhaps others do not agree with me) would like him, during the next Budget Session, to wear an African dress.

I would like to welcome all the new Members from the Mid-West. I wish them every happiness here.

I would also like to congratulate our newly appointed President of the Senate in the person of Dr Orizu. We should give unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Dr Orizu richly deserves being appointed the President of the Senate. I wish him long life.

**The President:** Senator Mrs Kerry. (*Applause*).

**Senator Mrs Bernice U. Kerry:** May I take this opportunity to thank our President, the Head of our State, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, for the very good work he has done to bring Nigeria out from bondage, so that we are now a free country with light and a shining example for all Africa. (*Applause*).

I also thank Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the head of our Government, who is a cool-headed man, for the great part he has played in maintaining the peace and unity of this country.

May I use this time also to thank all those who have made the creation of the Mid-West State a reality.

I thank the Government which remembered that it is necessary to send a woman to the Senate, and especially the Premier of the Mid-Western Region in the person of Chief the hon D. C. Osadebay, who has bestowed this honour on me as the first woman Senator from that Region. This shows that this great man, Chief Osadebay, has great regard for women. We all know that without the help of an intelligent woman, a man can do nothing. (*Applause*) A good woman produces good children and good children make a good nation. (*Hear, hear*).

As we are saying all this, I should like the Government of the Federation to remember our poor women who are backward in everything, and to help them in promoting the standard of their education, the standard of their trading and other things. In this way, they will be able to maintain and produce very good children for this country.

I want the Government to think seriously about our boys and girls—the future fathers and mothers—who pass out from schools and start roaming the streets and swarming into the hotels in this country. Some of them have the brains to learn more, but nobody is available to care for them or to help them. I am now appealing to the Government of the Federation to think of what to do about all these children left behind.

Again, our girls and young women are subjected to great temptations when they travel away from their homes to townships and Regional capitals in search of work. I am appealing to the Government of the Federation to see to it that good hostels are built in every Region to accommodate our women and girls whenever they travel out to other places. Nobody should blame his children when they misbehave while he has not afforded them protection and security.

Finally, I strongly appeal to the Eastern and Northern Governments to emulate the Mid-Western and Western Regions who have sent two of our womenfolks to the Senate. We want women from every part of this Federation to be represented in the highest Legislature of our land. (*Applause*).

Mr President, we pray that the Almighty God may guide you and help you in your new office. (*Applause*).

**Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu:** I rise to support the Motion so ably moved by

Senator E. A. Lagunju and seconded by Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba—

*"That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :*

*"Your Excellency,*

*We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament"*.

I would like to seize this opportunity of paying my humble tribute to His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, not only for his past achievements as a journalist, as a legislator and as the foremost nationalist who led this country from the colonial yoke to independence, but also for his role as a one-time Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, and now as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In his exalted office, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has shown that Africans are great statesmen. His Excellency is a person who strongly believes in fairplay and justice, and these two great attributes in him have made it possible for him to work harmoniously with his friend, Sir Abubakar, who to-day leads the Coalition Government. It will take days and days to speak on the achievements of His Excellency, the President. All that I can now add is that on behalf of the Senate, I wish him good health so that this country will continue to benefit from his wise counsel.

May I also seize this opportunity to congratulate the President of the Senate, Dr Nwafor Orizu, on his election unopposed to his new office. As was wisely said by Senator Ejaife who nominated him, Dr Orizu is not only a seasoned legislator and politician, but also a shrewd and great statesman. I wish him luck in his new office.

Now, in his Address, His Excellency made reference to certain events and matters that have engaged the attention of the people of this great country during the past twelve months. Said he—

*"It is my privilege to address you to-day at this first Budget Meeting of Parliament since our constitutional change from monarchy to republic in October last year. Before outlining the policy of my Government for the coming year, I wish to record my satisfaction*

*with the orderly arrangements that culminated in the successful creation of a Mid-Western Region of Nigeria last month."*

On behalf of the people of the Mid-Western Region of Nigeria, I express my gratitude to all those persons who made the creation of the State possible. My gratitude particularly goes to the Prime Minister, the Regional Governments, the leader of the N.C.N.C., Dr Okpara the erstwhile President of this Senate, Chief Osadebay, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, all the members of the Federal Government and a host of others for their consistency and determination in the creation of the Mid-West State.

The struggle for the creation of the Mid-West State will remain the most enlightened and consistent struggle for the creation of new states in this Republic. It started from the Floor of the Western Nigeria Legislature when the then Government of that Region initiated and passed a Motion for the creation of the new State. From there the matter moved to London and was tabled during the Constitutional Conference. This culminated in the appointment of the Willink Commission on the creation of States and the subsequent inclusion in our Constitution of the Constitutional Procedure for the Creation of new States.

May I now say that the creation of States in this Federation should not be made a matter for political manoeuvres. Everyone here will agree with me that there will never be any lasting peace in this country until this matter is handled properly, and that now, and closed for ever.

This country will be making a ridicule of herself if we continue to table on the Floor of Parliament spasmodic Motions for the creation of new States. The rulers of this country are great men and mature politicians. What they are required to do, and what they can do, is to get together now at a round table conference and appoint a high powered committee which will tour this country and divide it into as many viable states as possible, taking into consideration the ethnic groupings of such States. This is what we expect our leaders to do. It makes us look ridiculous to the outside world if we continue to play politics with every matter. So, my plea is that the country should be divided up into as many states as possible and that we should put a stop to this era of insincerity and abuse of power in the matter

[SENATOR CHIEF OPUTA-OTUTU]

of the creation of states. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

His Excellency did also make reference to the foreign policy of this country :

*"This Government will continue to cooperate with other African countries and will also support the United Nations Organisation as the best hope of mankind for promoting peace and security"*.

May I also say that the foreign policy of this country appears to be confused. One can hardly predict what will be the stand of the present Government on certain matters which may come up in the world body. Our foreign policy should be clarified and defined and this country should no more tolerate any ambiguous sermons in the world organisation on controversial matters, especially those in which other African states have taken a stand. I would therefore say that this country should make it abundantly clear to her representatives and delegates to the world body that Nigeria supports the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations.

I like to pay my tribute to the High Court Judges for their sense of impartiality in their most difficult tasks which they are bound to perform without fear or favour. At this juncture, I want to pay my tribute to the great and magnimous role played by Justice Mbanefo whose services in Trinidad have earned this country many praises from no less a person than the Premier of that fast growing country, Dr Williams.

I would like to warn that our High Court Judges should be very careful of their connections with tribal organisations in this country. Recently some High Court Judges took part in the inauguration of a tribal union. I would like to say that they mean well. Politicians who in most cases, sponsor these organisations, would always say that their motto is the unity and welfare of ethnic groups. I would like to say that all tribal organisations in this country have some kind of political and ideological sympathy, and this is why it is dangerous for a High Court Judge to be actively connected with tribal organisations. Their relatives and friends who are members of these organisations are sufficiently enlightened to take care of these organisations. They should be very careful with some politicians whose real aims and

object will finally prove to be the use of their great names and sacred offices for their selfish benefits and advantages.

On the question of education, I like to support the previous speakers who have called for identical syllabuses and curricula for our primary and secondary schools throughout the Federation. It is true that there is nothing in the Constitution barring one system of education for the whole country. In the Colonial days, a standard six pass in Enugu was the same as in Ibadan or Kaduna. To-day there have been several changes, and all these tend to lower the standard of education. In some Regions, we have eighth-year primary education, and in others we have six years for the same course. I feel that the Ministers of Education should come together and fashion out a system which will improve and raise our standard of secondary education.

On the strengthening of our armed forces, I like to say that our Government has taken the right step in the right direction. This country's internal and external security must be strong so that we can combat any evil forces that may threaten the security of the State. But I make bold to say that it is not a wise thing to concentrate all the military installations in one area. With our limited resources, we should spread our military installations over the length and breadth of our country.

It is a well-known fact that military installations in Great Britain, France and America are scattered all over the countries. This not only makes the defence of these countries effective, but also keeps them from easy reach and total destruction by their enemies.

I should like to say a few words on peace and tranquillity in this Federation. His Excellency did appeal to the great leaders of this great nation sometime ago not to allow their consciences to run riot. I think I shall be expressing the view of this Senate when I say that the leaders of this great nation should continue to solve their problems peacefully as they have done in the past.

If I remember rightly, in one of the constitutional conferences, there was a topic on which the delegates had very strong views. Some wanted the Police regionalised and some did not, but after some heart-to-heart talk at the Conference table, there was some understanding and the matter which we thought they

could not resolve was resolved in a friendly and satisfactory manner. We like this spirit to be shown by our leaders on some controversial matters which may threaten the unity of this country. They have met on several occasions to solve difficult matters, and I maintain that they should use the same medium to solve any controversial matter which may threaten the peace of this country.

On behalf of the Senate, I am now asking the Prime Minister to call his colleagues together, and like mature and seasoned statesmen, tackle matters with stout hearts and with the same spirit with which they have piloted the affairs of this country successfully.

I would like to suggest that this is the most opportune time to legislate against any tribal politics. Any political parties founded on tribe should be banned immediately. It will be foolhardy to think of breaking up the Republic. Our motto should be "one Nigeria", On our Coat of Arms, we have "Unity and Faith". May I say then: Forward ever, backward never".

Before I resume my seat, I would like to thank the Federal Government for its efforts to improve our communications.

The roads are being expanded and new bridges are replacing old ones. With these improvements on our roads accidents will greatly be reduced, but the reduction of accident cannot sufficiently be attained without a tightening up of some of the provisions of our status law. Motor accidents continue to mount because most drivers themselves are careless, drive at unreasonably high speeds, and these are followed by either short terms of imprisonment or payment of small sums of money in courts.

I would like also to say that the forthcoming Federal Elections should be very free and fair. It has become a common habit for some Local Authorities in rural areas in particular to sidetrack the law by trying to rig elections. Efforts should be made to ensure that polling-booths are properly built and that ballot papers are not tampered with.

During elections these days we hear of ballot papers being dumped into ballot boxes, and of ballot papers being tampered with. All sorts of things are said about ballot papers. These allegations are very serious, and in some cases they have been proved beyond reasonable doubt,

The forthcoming Federal Elections should be free and fair since these are going to be the first general federal elections after the attainment of our Independence and Republican status. I appeal, therefore, to the Prime Minister, and the Federal Government to do everything possible to prepare for these elections. It would be a shame to hear about these nauseating rumours about ballot papers' leakages and so on. I feel I should emphasise this point because the forthcoming federal elections will be a real test of our sincerity, honesty of purpose, and ability to lead and rule.

It is not my intention to take a great deal of the time of the Senate since this is my maiden speech but I would like to seize this opportunity again to thank the Senators who have welcomed those of us who have come from the Mid-West. I think I can assure Senators that we are going to work harmoniously with every other Senator. We are going to obey the Standing Orders, and we are going to do all we can to see to it that debates in this Senate are very high.

Thank you very much, Mr President.

**Senator Hassan Rafindadi** : I am grateful to you, Mr President, for granting me this opportunity to contribute to this debate, and I seize this opportunity to congratulate the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for delivering such a comprehensive Speech. I also wish to congratulate the Prime Minister and all the Ministers of the Federal Government in their arduous task of steering the ship of State through stormy weather and turbulent waters.

The change from monarchy to republic has brought with it many teething troubles, and this, we all know, is characteristic of the growth of many children. The temperature has risen high, and only statesmanship of the highest order can normalise the situation. The situation needs calm and restraint so that the healthy growth of our young Republic can be achieved.

The greatest enemies of our country to-day are those people who make irresponsible statements which are inimical to the peace, unity, stability, and orderly progress of our dear country. This country has already made a man for herself in the world through her orderly progress and good government, and majority of our leaders as politicians and

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statesmen have been recognised all over the world. It is, therefore, binding not only on all our leaders but on each and everyone of us to see that this is sustained.

The Speech gives a comprehensive review of the activities of the Federal Government during the year, covering economic, social, and political fields. Firstly, I would not fail to pin-point some degree of monotony in some of the items, which keep on repeating themselves year in and year out with little or no alteration. It is evident that if Nigeria is to play her full part in Africa and international affairs she needs an atmosphere of peace and stability whereby she could fulfil all her obligations.

In the field of education the Speech mentioned a re-examination of the existing curricula of our primary, secondary, and technical schools. This is a welcome relief to all those who have been watching the trend of events in this field.

Hitherto, the curricula of our schools have been colonial in context, and such curricula will never give balanced training to our young men and women. They are tribalistic, and have been responsible to a large extent for the exodus of boys from the rural to the urban areas in search of white-collar jobs. It is hoped, however, that this change should not only cater for the needs of our children but for the needs of a full Nigerian society. In fact, this is what it should be and should have been.

The existing curricula should be completely decolonised, and should give way to a more progressive and dynamic one which would meet the full need of the Nigerian society.

The formation of the National Advisory Council on Technical Education is welcome, as no industrial development can effectively take place without proper regard to technical education.

The Speech also mentioned a proposal to develop agriculture with a view to stepping up production. It is true that the present set up calls for a more realistic and dynamic project to meet the problem of agriculture because it is vital. It is the main industry of our people and provides a greater part of the revenue of the Government in this country.

This being so any attempt to raise productivity will automatically raise the income of these people, and any attempt to bring about improvement in the matter of agriculture must take into account the reform of all our agrarian societies. Here, I am in complete agreement with the Senator who proposed the setting up of some sort of authority to cater for the need and welfare of all our people in the rural areas.

At this juncture, I will humbly suggest the creation of a new Ministry to be called, the Ministry of Agrarian Development. It will integrate the activities of the various Ministries that are concerned with the improvement of the lot of the people in the rural areas. In other words, the efforts of the people will be integrated with those of the Government, thus bringing the people into the activities of the whole nation and thereby enabling the people to contribute fully to a planned national economy.

This scheme will enable the people to become more productive thus increasing their *per capita* income, which in turn will increase the national income of the whole country. The new Ministry of Agrarian Development, if created, will work with its counterparts in the Regions and through it, all the scientific researches in agriculture, forestry and veterinary would be channelled to the farmers in the rural areas. At the same time, the Federal Government should give aid to the Regions to see that the plans are properly carried out.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan :** In contributing to the debate on the Motion for an Address to the President for His Speech to both Houses of Parliament, may I take this opportunity to say a big welcome to my sister from the Mid-West. For the past four years, I have been wishing and hoping that something would happen to make it possible for more women to come to the Senate. The Senate is becoming very important in the affairs of our nation and women should not be left out. It is a shame that only one woman had been taking care of women affairs for the whole of the country.

Now that we are two, I think our voices will be louder. I welcome her and I hope the little both us can do will go down in history



that women have contributed their own quota to the development of this country.

I also welcome our brothers from the Mid-West. Praises have been showered on those who helped in the creation of the Mid-Western Region. I would like to say that women who have nothing to do with legislation or party politics have done quite a lot in order to bring about the creation of the Mid-Western Region. So, if praises are to be showered on those who passed the legislation, Senators should please not forget the women outside who through their devotion to the men, their little campaign in market places, and their sympathy for the political parties in the Mid-West helped in the creation of the Region.

I think we need not belabour ourselves in praising our President of the Republic. He has always been with us and he has not done anything not worthy of praise. As a Senator said, this is an annual occurrence and I do not think it is out of place if we all say a big "thank you" and how much we do enjoy the Speech of our noble President once a year. Since we always get what we expect from him, I think we should always be proud of him as a noble son of Nigeria.

Much has been said on education by other Senators but I do not think that all the points that should be mentioned for the improvement of education have been touched. We have been saying times without number in this Senate and imploring the Federal Government to make education a federal subject.

How can education be left as the responsibility of the Regional Governments when what we need most in this country is an educated public. The standard of education required in this country should be planned in the centre so that the Regions can copy from the Federal Government. I am not saying there should be no variation but the variation should not be too much as it is now. The gap is too wide.

In the Western Region, the system of education is different from the one being practised in the Eastern Region. It is the same thing in the Northern Region. Pupils coming from the Regions to Lagos are always told that their standard is below the standard in Lagos.

I feel a plan should be made whereby everything about education in Nigeria is put in the hands of the Federal Government and the Regions can copy from the Federal Govern-

ment. I also think it is not only book work that should be taken care of in our education system. Disunity and affluence in politics contribute to mis-education in this country. When everybody has a good education, politics will not be a paying job.

Politicians just get up and tell the masses, most of whom are illiterates, things that are untrue so that they can be nominated for election. Because politicians say sweet things and gesticulate a lot people say they are good speakers and they are sent back to Parliament. The result is that politicians come here and they want to stay here as long as possible. They are not interested in going back and fostering unity because this will deny them of what they have been enjoying.

If politicians will go back to their constituencies and tell the people the truth, the much desired unity of this country will be achieved. Senators are aware that legislation cannot be passed to restrict politicians from going to their constituencies to talk to their people. Legislation cannot be enacted to restrict people from making lengthy speeches. Nobody can restrict politicians from going to tell their people what they did not see or hear. Therefore, politicians should learn to tell their people the truth.

With regard to education, I do not think the radio and television services are doing much to foster the unity of this country. Things that should only be said once for the sake of peace and tranquillity of this country are broadcast several times. For instance, a topic that should be broadcast once is repeated about seven times, merely to cause disunity. I do not know why this should be so. There is no education in telling the public repeatedly that this Minister has opposed that Minister. I suppose we installed the radio and television service for the purpose of educating our people and not merely to tell them that this political party is against that political party. We women who constitute the majority of the population of this country together with our children, are opposed to this type of education through the radio and television. The radio and television are meant to teach the people how to foster unity, how best to do our work, and how best to solve this problem of unemployment in this country.

Coming to the question of unemployment, I have earlier on said that the radio and television services should be used to teach the public

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how best to solve the problem of unemployment. People should be taught how to be profitably employed. There are people here who work day in day out and who can be termed as unemployed because they do not know how to gain from their daily labour. It is the duty of the Government to teach them how to profit from their labour. This point concerns women mostly. Some women toil daily and yet gain nothing from their labour. The type of education we require from our press, radio and television services is that which teaches us how best to do our work well so as to profit by it. Unemployment is the cause of discontent in the country now.

I do not think that if Government creates more industries, the question of unemployment will be solved. This is so because we still have people who are very lazy and would not like to work. In trying to get employment for the people, we must also remember to teach them the benefits to be derived from being in any kind of work. So many of us do not know that it is good to work. Again, there are people here who would not like to do the type of work they are best suited for, but rather would prefer to be appointed next to the Permanent Secretary of any Ministry. They assume that they are suitable to occupy only dignified positions instead of going to the factory to work. All those people who are waiting to work in higher positions only should be brought out and told to go and work wherever there is job. There are so many such people in Nigeria today.

The Speech mentioned something about the introduction of a Metropolitan Low Cost Housing Scheme to help Lagos inhabitants in the low-income group to buy houses. I support the Senator who said earlier on that that is not the first thing to be done. We want everybody in Lagos to be able to enjoy a hygienic and comfortable surroundings. People should not be forced to buy low-cost houses when they cannot keep them clean. If people are each given a very comfortable room and parlour which will be very well looked after, then the Government will have done a good thing for them. It is not good having good houses at Ikoyi, Victoria Island, Lagos Island and then going to the far corner to see slums. I therefore appeal to the L.E.D.B., the Lagos City Council and the Government to see what they can do about this. It is not decent to find good houses with smelling gutters near

them. There are as many smelling gutters in Lagos, and this type of thing should not be allowed to exist in our Federal capital. The Government should try to teach the inhabitants the best way to take care of their houses. I do not mean that it is only the people of Lagos that should be taught the best way to keep their houses clean, but also the people in all the Regions. But if Lagos is clean, Enugu, Ibadan and Kaduna will follow her example.

I also understand that the Police Force will be expanded. This is good and proper. But we should try to encourage them. They have done a lot of good work and as such require increased pay in order to live well. They should be treated very well so as to make them proud of their profession. There are so many people who would not like to join the Police Force not because they do not like the Force, but because of lack of encouragement by way of promotion and good salary. We should first of all increase their salaries before expanding the Force. There is too much unrest in the world now. We hear of war here *coup d'etat* and riots there. But Nigeria is the only country in Africa that is blessed with a peaceful set of people. We can disagree about the census, and yet nothing will come out of it. I am sure of that. It is not our nature to fight one another to a finish. We are always sensible, reasonable and realistic enough to settle our affairs and that is why we have the power of influencing the nation in particular, and Africa in general. We women are very proud of the place we hold in the world to-day. The position we hold in the world is a very good one and we are not going to allow internal strife to disrupt us.

We are very lucky to have people like our noble President who abhors violence, our God-fearing Prime Minister and also the Premiers of the Regions who are all well-seasoned people. They do not want their homes to be destroyed. They are not going to create any battlefield for the commoners to fight in. Whatever anybody says here about our internal squabbles, cannot upset me because I know that in the long run, we shall come together and find a realistic approach to this problem of census.

I now come back to the Police. We must all realise that our policemen are the keepers of our peace and this they do by keeping the devils out of our doors. They do not make

us suffer unnecessarily and they do so much for us that we should take care of them. The Army too should be taken care of.

We always neglect the Prison Warders. The lot of these people should be improved. The Prison Warders are the people who take care of the prisoners and therefore, they should be taken care of. In considering the expansion of the Police, the Army and the Prison Warders should also be remembered.

I would like to say something about farming. So many people say that we are not progressing as far as farming is concerned because we have not got enough agricultural equipment. The ones we have are too big and are not suitable for our farmers' use.

Until we learn to co-operate and form large co-operative Farmers' Unions, we are not going to benefit by the present equipment being imported into Nigeria. If we want to use this big equipment, we must have acres of land to cultivate. The Government should create a Ministry of Rural Development which will look into the suggestion of having big Co-operative Farmers' Unions. These Farmers' Unions would take care of our farm products.

I now come to small investments. Some of the investors who come to this country to establish industries do not ask for people who have little money to invest. They want people with £5,000 upwards. If we establish small industries, these will look after people who have £1 to invest and as a result we will not send much of the money abroad. If a woman invested a pound in an industry and she knows that next month she could invest another pound, she would not use her money in buying gold or buying wearing apparel or going to shops to buy pairs of shoes. This Ministry of Rural Development will take care, not only of the farmers, but of the small industries and also small investors.

Before I wind up, I want to say something about health. I have said something about it before. I am happy that Lagos is being taken care of because the President's Speech has outlined all that is going to be done to improve the health of the people of Lagos. We in the Regions, would like the same thing to be done for us. School children need a lot of nourishment.

Primary Schools in the Western Region are fortunate to be having free milk from an

American organisation. This organisation sends free milk to every school in the West because milk is a necessity. Now that we are thinking about improving our farming methods, we should also think of producing milk for distribution to school children. Many of our school children live on gari, yarm and plantain all the time. If they can add milk to these it will help them to grow well and also to develop strong bones.

Before I sit down—because I know it is time for us to close—I would like to say that I was one of those Senators who walked out when our President was being elected. We did it not because we wanted to spite anybody, but because we wanted to maintain policy. I am not going to narrate why or give details of our walk-out here. We only did it in order to uphold the dignity of the Senate. We could have stayed and pressed for a Division but we felt that in this Senate we must, at any rate, unite. We also felt that staging a peaceful walk-out and coming back was sufficient for elder statesmen.

It is in the Lower House that they throw brick-bats at one another. Some people thought that because we could not put our suggestion through, we left and that we should sit down and try to cast aspersions. That will not help the country in the long run. Fighting a person is good, but fighting the whole country by publicising it in a very bad way is not good for our country.

Now that we have come back, if we do not even want to welcome the President on any ground whatsoever, we should welcome him because he is a young man. He has sat down since morning and has not called for a break because he has the spirit of youth in him.

One preacher was once going along the street. He was a very good man for that matter but if anybody said that one man was bad, the preacher would look back and say he was bad but he would also add "but he had beautiful eyes". If anybody told the preacher that somebody was a rogue, he would say, "oh yes, he was a rogue, but he gave three pence to a beggar yesterday." Then somebody asked the preacher "what about the devil", and the preacher replied, "but the devil has beautiful appearance". The devil is always with beautiful appearance.

I am not saying that the President is a devil, but if there is going to be any condemnation at

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all, it will not be from a woman, for I can only see his beautiful appearance. As he has promised us that he will serve us well, I welcome him.

**The President :** It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended until 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Senator Chief E. E. Boyo :** Mr President, fellow Senators, His Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, President and Commander-in-Chief of our Federal Republic of Nigeria, in his excellent opening Speech high-lighted some of the historic moments of the past few months, the greatest of which was our constitutional change from monarchy to republic in October last year. He directed our attention to some of the major development programmes which will be placed before Parliament. The Speech embodies a good deal of the kind of development that will take us further along the road that the more advanced countries have passed through. The Federal Government is to be congratulated for its foresight in the planning of the future of our great Republic.

Those of us from the Mid-West would, I hope, be forgiven—since charity begins at home—for regarding the creation of our new Region as one of the most important landmarks in our development, and I wish to place on record my thanks to the new Premier and members of his Government; those eminent sons of the Mid-West who worked tirelessly for the new State, especially Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh; and the Federal Government itself for the individual and collective role it played in the creation of the new Region.

As new-comers to the field, it is inevitable that the desire for the Mid-West not to lag behind the rest of the Federation should be paramount in the minds of those of us who have been chosen to represent her. Therefore, any requests from us for a preferential treatment to help bridge the gap between the new Region and the other parts of the country should be met with understanding and kindness.

In the Speech we are told that the Government envisages a further development of Trunk 'A' Roads. It is my hope that the topography of our Region would make it possible for construction to be carried out easily.

The oil industry potentials of our Delta Areas are great and, if adequately and carefully tapped, are likely to give considerable yields for many years to come—yields which we can reasonably hope will provide the wherewithal needed for the development of our Region and that of the Federation as a whole.

As one born in the Delta area and brought up near its rivers and waterways, the project of land reclamation in the Lagos area is one which I naturally see with admiration and, perhaps, a little envy because I would wish to see such a scheme extended to the Delta Areas where there is scarcity of land.

The greatest and most urgent need of our new Region is the development of our human resources. This is so because of the size of our population. We need more and better educational institutions for the training of our young sons and daughters; more and better health facilities and, in fact, a little more of each of those things outlined in the Speech. Lest it be thought that we shall only come here full of requests, I wish to assure you, Mr President, that there is tremendous willingness on our part to contribute our own bit in the fulfilment of the aspirations of the peoples of this country.

The role played by Nigeria in African affairs is one which merits special commendation. As was apparent during the recent O.A.U. meeting in Lagos, Nigeria has again demonstrated that it may well become the symbol of unity for all Africa, and a clear indication that the African can truly manage his own affairs. I do sincerely hope that Senators will always bear this in mind whenever they are discussing African and international affairs, because in the past the African was very much maligned and mis-used by the European countries. The time for redress has now come and we cannot afford to fail.

In Technology, we must make it possible for our sons and daughters to train in science and medicine so that they can be fully equipped to contribute their own share to the development of this nation. This is necessary because no country can rightfully make a claim to international leadership unless its people are qualified to make original contributions to basic knowledge. It is very gratifying indeed that a National Council for Science and Technology is envisaged and the need for research by our own people in Nigerian

institutions of higher learning recognised. To ensure that we get mentally alert Nigerians to train effectively in science, medicine and other subjects, in numbers that are large enough for our needs, we must of necessity clothe, feed and educate them, and, of course, provide them with good health.

Plans to eradicate diseases like malaria and small-pox which for centuries have ravaged our people and sapped the energy of our own people, must be given priority. We can do this by getting organisations like the World Health Organisation to assist us in the way that they are assisting other countries of the world.

Mr President, Thank you.

**Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo :** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his Address delivered to the Joint Sitting of Parliament.

I observe that steps will be taken during this session to bring before this House legislation for better regulation and promotion of internal trade. I also notice that a Bill will be introduced to regulate insurance as well as hire-purchases business.

I am very happy that such a Bill will be introduced, but I would like to sound a note of warning about the type of incompatible agreements which the insurance companies and motor dealers usually enter into with their customers. There is no difference between the insurance companies and the motor dealers because motor dealers possess the insurance companies' agreements along with their own before they deliver their vehicle to the buyer. The insurance companies only accept the comprehensive policy in the first year, but as soon as payment is made and the vehicle has become the property of the buyer, the insurance companies automatically resort to third party policy and act against the buyer. I am appealing to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria to look into this matter so that the companies could enter into mutual agreement with buyers instead of their making it a one sided agreement.

Before I take my seat, I have to congratulate you, Mr President, on your appointment as President of the Nigerian Senate.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** I rise to support the Motion of thanks to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe. May I extend my special congratulation to him for the Address which he delivered with ability, intelligence, energy and with very splendid success. As a matter of fact, everybody must have admired the very splendid dress that he wore. The uniform of the Field Marshall which the President of the Federal Republic wore befits his humble person. The solemn way in which he walked into the House, and his elegant movement really attracted attention. He delivered his speech with a tone which gladdened all hearts, stirred the blood and almost brought tears to the eyes. He did this with that majestic air which gives real honour to the Federation of Nigeria.

I most thank not only the President of the Republic, but also the Prime Minister and the Premiers of the East, North, West, and Mid-West for their co-operative effort in the promotion of the interest of this country, and for projecting Nigeria to the outside world in a way that it is looked upon as a country to be respected.

I disregard the present seeming disturbances—I say it is only seeming because where there are intelligent heads together, there is bound to be at least a little bit of momentary disagreement or something of that nature. Anyway, I do not think there is any serious disagreement at the moment; but I know that these intelligent heads taken together can give Nigeria the prestige we are fighting for.

While congratulating these people, I must turn to the Senators here. They have been making a wonderful contribution to the success of this Federation. We are the Members of the Upper House and fathers to the people of this country, and it is a thing that we have to thank God for.

Turning to the matter of the civil service, the civil servants, in addition to those that I have already mentioned, are the people that I always have in the forefront of my eyes and my heart when I think of this Federation. They are the actual people who are helping us a great deal with their honesty and efficiency to make Nigeria what it is to-day. For these reasons, I think they are worthy of my personal congratulation.

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Going further in the Speech of the President we will see that something has been said about Defence. This is a good idea. It is something that we have been clamouring for in this country, and that is why I take great interest in this matter whenever it is raised on the Floor of this House. I have said when talking of Defence—the enlargement of the Army and the strengthening of the Police Force—that the Ministers concerned with these various departments should study their respective departments in the way that a teacher studies his pupil. It is necessary for a teacher to study his pupil because the children come from different homes, and it would be difficult for him to impart his knowledge to them without knowing them properly. It is therefore the duty of the various departments of these Ministries to study the actual position of both the Army and the Police Force. Again, I must also say that there should be no discrimination in the recruitment of people into these departments. The people recruited should be judged on merits, capabilities and characters. As I have previously said, we should as far as the civil service is concerned, try to keep away from this disease which is trying to destroy every country—this disease of tribalism.

I notice in the President's Speech that he made mention of widening of roads. There is one mistake that we make in this country, that is, we spend 20 per cent of the money we have to build roads and then use 80 per cent for the maintenance of the roads, unlike what is done in other countries. We should spend at least 80 per cent of our money in the building of roads and then get as many labourers as possible to do the maintenance. It is no use building roads that cannot take two cars conveniently and then have an army of labourers to maintain them. Let us build these trunk roads as solidly as we can and then get a few hands to maintain them. It was for this reason that I tried last time to point out to the Government that there is no need bringing in big American cars when we are not prepared to build roads through which two cars can pass conveniently. If our roads cannot take two cars conveniently, then we might as well limit ourselves to smaller cars.

If one goes to America and other places like that, one can see how wide their roads are. They are the people who have these big cars.

When we talk of accidents and such things, we should remember that it is due to the type of roads that we have and the type of cars that we use.

On this very matter too, I pointed out the other time that the greatest thing that we can do to this country is to educate the masses as regards the use of roads. We should educate the masses, especially the children on the use of road signs. They should also be taught to know that they have to look at both sides of the road before crossing, because failure to do this is one of the things that cause road accidents in our country to-day.

I should like to make a few comments on electricity. It is true that electricity has been extended to many places. We do not deny that, but we are still not satisfied. Most of us come from the rural areas. I am sure that only very few Senators here, apart from those from Lagos, come from real townships. Before we say that the country is developed, we should not judge the capital of the big towns. I personally would not judge the development of the country from what I see here in Lagos or Enugu or Kaduna or Kano, and so on, but from what I see in the rural areas.

While passing through the country-side, I like to see what is obtaining in the rural areas, whether they have the essential factors of life-water, light and so on. We should really concentrate upon the development of the rural areas now. We should not say that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to look after Lagos only. In the matter of electricity, for instance, the Federal Government also guarantees the whole country. The Federal Government should extend its development to the rural areas; they should not stop with the townships. I personally, like every other person here, would wish to have electricity extended to my own clan where I am the head. After all why should those in the townships enjoy the benefits of the Government and those in the rural areas should not? Apart from all that, this thing also is a paying concern because people have to pay for it and the money so realised will go into the covers of the Government.

In the matter of education, I personally feel that at the moment we are not doing well enough. In many civilised countries, graduates hold certain posts that standard six holders are

holding in this country. In order to bring about educational upliftment in this country, it should not be a thing for Lagos alone. We should bring about uniformity in education. As a matter of fact, the different Regional Governments are already carrying immense responsibilities.

We should take as an example a new Region like the Mid-West. Can we say that we are going to leave education to them and that we are going to leave the improvement of all the other things for which people are making immediate demands to them? That will be too much. The Federal Government as the father of all the other Governments in the Regions should take up responsibility for education and make standards uniform, so that a boy who is a standard six holder from one Region can be accepted as such in other Regions.

Technical education now is becoming very important and the Government should not concentrate its attention on the teaching of science alone. Everywhere one hears of science, science here and science there; why should we not emphasise technical education also? Technical education must be given due attention in the country to-day, if we want to keep abreast of the modern times. Therefore, while we are making our curricula, we should try to think of science as well as technical subjects, physical development and, so on.

One thing that has really attracted my attention very much is this question of unity. We keep speaking of African unity. Of course, I would not say that there is disunity in this country, except when it comes to the time of election or a party tries to show that it is in existence. People must blow their own trumpet. That does not mean that there is no real unity in the country. But, first of all, before we emphasise African unity, we should see that there is real unity in the country.

I would like to repeat one thing that I always say in this place. One astronomer was studying the stars and all the heavenly bodies. While he was going from one place to another, looking up, counting the stars and doing this and that, very unfortunately he fell into a pit which was quite close to an old woman's dwelling place. He raised an alarm, but he had nobody at all to get him out of the pit. The old woman, however, went to him and

asked him what had happened to him. He replied that he unfortunately fell into the pit while he was studying the stars and the other heavenly bodies. The old woman observed that he was a foolish man, for he should have first of all studied his own surroundings before studying the stars and all the heavenly bodies.

Charity must have to begin from home. I would very much like to see the Prime Minister and all the Regional Premiers standing together and taking a photograph. This is the sort of thing that obtains in other countries as we see in our television sets. One will really think that there is unity in this country if these people can be seen moving together, sitting together and exchanging views about the development of this country and not about all these things that threaten the peace of this country.

Before anybody gets into a position of responsibility, the most important attribute he must have is, of course, the spirit of tolerance. These people must tolerate each other; they must have things in common; they must have sympathy for each other, and they must reason with each other irrespective of whatever the circumstances may be, because we are all looking on them. This is how I view the whole situation. It is after we have been satisfied that the position of the country is in good state, that we can pursue African unity which we all so much want.

In the course of his Speech, His Excellency said that we must devise measures to stamp out certain diseases that are trying to devastate the lives of the people of this country. I think one of the surest ways of getting about this is that we should send people not only to train as doctors, but also to specialise in such fields of medicine as will enable them to look after some at least of the common diseases and find ways of exterminating them.

Another thing that has attracted my attention very prominently is this matter of having a classified census of public beggars. Each man is entitled to his own opinion, but I feel that in a country such as ours where we have large areas of waste land, we should not continue to have beggars. We can establish technical schools for them and let them make use of their hands. What happens is that we encourage these people by giving them money, hence they continue begging.

[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

I know a blind man in my area who has studied by overseas tuition and is now able to read and write, even more than some people can do with two eyes. He had never been to school previously, but he can now take dictation, transcribe it and read everything. Why should we not establish schools for them and let them have the joy of learning? Most of these people can be used in making roads and other things that we know can be useful to this country. In this way, they will be able to earn their living. We should not encourage them by calling them beggars and making them to sit here and there to ask for alms. I think we are rich enough in this country. This is the richest country one can think of, in spite of some financial difficulties that we experience from time to time. My suggestion, therefore, is that schools should be established for the blind, the maimed and others and let them use their hands, those that have eyes to use their eyes, and to become useful men and women in the country.

Again, the President mentioned something about the Ex-Servicemen. I like this very much. After all, in the olden days, Ex-Servicemen never paid tax. In the colonial days, some of them were not very poor but now some of them are as poor as church rats. Something should be done for them, for after all, they saved the country, and if anything goes wrong now, some of them will be recalled to resume their work.

The next point is the question of television. Television should be of educational importance, and not just a matter of sitting down every evening to watch how Europeans do their boxing and wrestling. I have not got a television set, but whenever I go into the Ministers' houses, we see how the Europeans do their boxing and wrestling.

It should be a source of furthering our education and that of our children. Our children should know through this medium the great men in our society. Before we ask people to tell us about other people, we and our children should first of all know everything about our own country.

In the olden days, and in certain schools that I used to know, including the school that I attended, children were generally taught something about the great men of our country. I think we should be able to teach our children

through the medium of television, something about tools, agricultural developments, the development in different places in the Federation and most of the things we are doing to further the development of our great nation, instead of showing boxing everytime.

When we come to the development of agriculture, the most important things we should do to help our people, as I said last time, is to allow science masters in the schools to teach people every where. For example, in the Eastern Region, we have agricultural officers who show by means of examples how to cultivate the land. The masses should be trained. It is this mass training that is very useful because what is being produced in the schools does not feed the masses. Men and women should be trained in the right way of cultivating the land.

We have a scheme for giving loans to the farmers and some of the farmers get up to between £5,000 to £50,000. This loan is given to those who are already very rich. Unless people show their assets and acres of land, they never receive the loans. The result is that only those who are very rich are enjoying the loans.

We must make provision for some women to get some money with which to develop the land and produce the food we want. We say we are raising the standard of living of the people and the poor ones are suffering because they are poor. If we really want to improve the standard of living in this country we should help the poor ones and not those who are already rich.

Loans should be given to all and not only to people who can produce security. The small farmers should get loan to improve their farms. We should get a group of people together and teach them how to cultivate the land so that they can pay back instalmentally from the little they can get. It is almost useless to teach the people without giving them the money to develop.

Before thanking the present President on his success in the recent election, I have to thank, first and foremost, the past Presidents. This is important. The role that the Presidents have played are such that they have left very good record.

The first President I saw here was Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and he was highly respected. He was extremely tolerant; his very look, his



smiles, and the way he conducted the affairs of the Senate gave credit to the Senate. When he was made the first Governor-General of the Federation, another person, barrister Osadebay, a distinguished African as well as a person of great ability, energy and character held the post and he was a credit to this Senate too.

I observe that those persons were chosen from outside to man the affairs of the Senate; but very fortunately, I think this country is progressing; we have been ripe enough now as to be able to select a person here to take the Chair, and I believe that the present President will follow the footsteps of his predecessors in office. I hope he will keep the humour which enabled us to relax in the past. We know him and we believe that he will keep up what his predecessors had done.

I beg to support.

**Senator J. M. Egbuson :** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President of the Republic for his Speech. It is not, of course, my first time to hear His Excellency make a Speech but as a Senator it is my first time to hear him. I thank my Mid-Western Region Government which has sent me here.

At the end of His Excellency's Speech I heard some hon. Members say that unlike some of his predecessors, Zik's voice did not change throughout the reading of his Speech, and that he did not take sips of water during the delivery of his speech. I am very glad to see that he is in very good health, and I pray that God Almighty may continue to bless him with good health.

I would like to touch a few of the points raised in the Speech. My first point is on African unity and the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Dahomey and the Government of the Republic of Nigeria. It is hoped that the Republic of Ghana will soon be included in the arrangement regarding customs facilities.

When Ghana was known as the Gold Coast, the colonial power of Britain almost made us, that is Nigeria and Gold Coast, to think that we were one. Since Gold Coast changed her name to Ghana things have changed. I do not know if the change in the name is responsible for the relationship that now exists between Nigeria and Ghana. I wish she had remained as Gold Coast.

I do not understand the reason for this change. We have heard of a telephone link with some of our neighbouring States, but what about Ghana? It is my earnest hope that the Nigerian Government will do all in its power to re-establish good relationship with her without losing face.

On internal security, I am glad to hear from the Speech that the Nigeria Police is to be expanded to meet its growing demand. I do not, however, agree that this expansion should be related to the increase in population. We all know that the men in rural areas do not need the services of the Police. They do not require Police units to be stationed in their villages. If they even have a Police Unit all the police men serving in that Unit will soon find out that there is not much work for them to do. We all know that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Police should concentrate on the big towns and villages.

It is a matter for regret that civilisation should be the forerunner of crime. That is why it is good for industries to be cited in the rural areas to prevent young school leavers from pouring into large cities only to become civilised in crime.

I heard over the radio recently that the local Government Police Force in the West is to be placed on the same footing as the Nigeria Police Force. I believe that this is as far as service conditions are concerned. The Local Government Police have always been an appendage of the Nigeria Police which serve as their God-father. Many Nigeria Police Officers are seconded to the Local Government Police in this way. My humble view is that the time has come for the Local Government Police to be merged with the Nigeria Police. There are already many Nigeria Police Officers in the Local Government Police personnel who are qualified in every respect. It is necessary that all the Police in the Forces country, namely the Nigeria Police and the Local Government Police should owe allegiance direct to the Republic. If this is done politicians and political parties may find it unnecessary to keep and maintain bodyguards and thugs which are fast becoming a menace in the country.

Recruitment into the Police Force should cease to be on tribal basis. For example it is true that if a non-native of Akure applies for recruitment at Akure, the first thing the

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Officer would tell him is that he does not belong to the area and he would be advised to go to his tribe of origin to be recruited. I think it is unfair for a Nigerian to be sent away from one town to another to look for employment in the same Force.

But the point here is that he must not take part of the quota of the natives of that place. I think emphasis should be on qualification and not on tribe. Candidates for employment, no matter to which clan or tribe they belong, should be recruited anywhere in the country. This is one way of eradicating tribalism in the country.

We often hear over the radio or read in our newspapers that a policeman has lost his life perhaps while engaged in quelling a riot. I know that in such a case the policeman's family or dependants are entitled to some sort of gratuity, but I think that is not sufficient. The time has come now, as we hear of such incidents so often, when Government should insure the lives of policemen attached to the riot squad so that if anything happens to them their family or dependants may get some benefit out of it.

I now wish to talk on Defence. Time was when the old Marine Department recruited only men who could swim. It is likely that the Nigerian Navy is also keeping to this rule as far as possible. Ability is not the most important attribute. The time has now come when education should count, and care should be taken that recruits do not get in merely by saying that they can swim or by saying that they come from the Rivers areas. If we want brave men in this service,—men who cannot swim can never be brave men on board a battleship—recruitment drive should be extended to the villages around our rivers in order to attract suitable candidates.

I am glad to say that the Army was my first choice when I left school. I sent in a written application, and the reply I got was that I was not suitable. I was more than six feet tall, and my chest measurement was adequate despite my secondary education. My application was turned down because I could not speak the Hausa language the medium of which all instructions to recruits were being done at that time. That was the reason why I am not an ex-Serviceman in this country to-day.

I wish to suggest that the recruitment centres for the Army should be established in at least every Regional Capital. At present if a man applies to the District Office in Benin or Warri he might be told to go to Enugu or Zaria where again he might be told that the Ijaws are not good fighters or that in the Army we do not have Itsekiris.

Instead of encouraging people joining the army they are actually being driven away.

Now I know I can quote the case of a young man who has been trying to get into the army for the past five years. Every time I went home on leave he would come to me to ask for a letter of introduction to go and join the army. I always said to him, "Look, it is easier for you to get into the Police," for at that time I was a policeman, and the young man would say "No, I do not want to join the Police. I go into the army". But each time I directed him to go to the recruiting centre at Enugu, he would be rejected and up till now he has not got into the job that he likes to do.

It would appear that most of the trainings in the army are at present being done in the North. If there is land space in the South I suggest that something should be done to train people in the South as well. I am thinking of the Defence Industries Corporation and Ordnance Factories envisaged in the Speech delivered by the President.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** On a point of order, these depots, for one reason or the other, are sited in the North but the personnel in charge of recruitment are exclusively Southerners.

**The President:** I do not see the point of order in this.

**Senator Egbuson:** I now come to the Airways. I am glad to hear Senators advocate for internal services. Let us educate the travelling masses to use the air services to get from one place to another in Nigeria and not only to get out of Nigeria. In this I hope the Government will not forget to have sea planes for use on the river ports such as the Western and Eastern Ijaw Divisions where transport facilities are so negligible.

Arrangements should therefore be made for the Civil Aviation Training Centre to be established in Zaria and to which reference

has been made at page two, of the Speech to have its counterpart for sea-plane personnel training at Patani in the Western Ijaw in the Mid-West or in Yenagoa in the Eastern Region or even at both places.

The Victoria Beach, Lagos has much of its land already lost to the sea. Houses and property have also been lost to the sea. This is a great pity. Sometime ago, I tried to buy a house at the Victoria Beach from a Greek national. We did not quite agree on the price and so the deal flopped. But I was very lucky because a month or six weeks thereafter, I found that the house was no more standing there. It had been washed away into the sea. I was very fortunate indeed.

I visited the beach over the week-end. I do not know how far away it has been washed out into the sea—I mean the house in question—nor do I know how far away into the sea the old C.M.S. House, which Boy Scouts always used for camping in the twenties, now is. Nobody can think of, or remember it now. It is, therefore, gratifying to note that the Government now intends to check the erosion. The beach is now visited by many people on site-seeing. The sea breeze is really very healthy. I suggest that Government should now provide good toilets for viewers. At present every bit of grass space is used as latrine in the full view of men and women who are squatting in the open.

I am glad to know that in the Six-Year Development Plan efforts will be made to widen our roads and bridges in the attempt to reduce accidents. From my experience it is not the widening of roads that will help to reduce the incidents of accidents. As a matter of fact, on a wide, fine, straight road, drivers are apt to speed taking advantage of the smoothness of the road and these drivers generally end up in disaster. But on a very bad piece of road you can hardly think of getting motor accidents, because once drivers get near such a piece of bad road they slow down change gear and are extra careful to go through. It is on the good part of the road that our drivers get into trouble.

Nevertheless, it is a good thing to widen our roads and bridges. Sometime ago, in some part of the Federation I was lucky to be present at the opening of a new bridge and the Minister of works, after the opening ceremony, started going round talking to the invitees. We had

all earlier retired to a place for some light refreshment and it was during this that the Minister started going round.

Presently, he came to where I was standing with some friends and he said, "This is the best bridge we have built in this area for many years now and it was designed by us." Then I asked him: "Sir, why is the bridge so narrow? Why is it that though the international conventional sign for bridges is well designed to indicate that there is a bridge ahead of you and only the word "bridge" is written on it, it is not applied here, and all we have here in Nigeria is a notice board with the words "Narrow bridge." Now that we have got everything in our hands why do we still build narrow bridges on which two vehicles cannot pass at the same time."

He had earlier told us that the A.D.Os. and the D.Os. who built the bridges in the past made them for themselves to go and collect taxes. They did not know that Nigerians would ever have vehicles on the roads. But when I asked the Minister this question, which I put in a very humble way, the Minister walked away instead of giving me an answer and up till to-day he has not said anything to me.

What we need do in this country to reduce accidents is to have better drivers. At the present moment our drivers are mostly illiterates. I know that if anybody calls any of us or even any illiterate man driving his own car, "driver", the person so called will feel insulted for being called, a "driver" so it is in this country.

The job of driving a car is frowned upon and looked down upon. Educated men therefore do not take up this sort of employment and until we get intelligent people, educated people driving on our roads these accidents will not stop. They will continue because all the illiterate drivers care to do is to get their licences by hook or crook. For how do they come to own licences if not by forgery and impersonation. They get master drivers, their teachers, to go and take tests with the apprentices' photographs in their pockets and by some clever manipulation, when the master has passed it is the apprentice's photograph and his name that are given to the licensing authorities for the issue of a new licence. That is one murderer on the road. I had the privilege of conducting a driving test once.

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There are some road signs printed in the highway code for learner drivers to learn, like "go slow" or "major road ahead". I decided on one occasion not to test a learner driver on the road signs in the highway code alone. While the learner driver was looking on, I wrote a few things. One was "danger, no road" in block capital letters and showed it to this man. I said "what would this indicate on the road". He could not read, but all the time I was under the impression that he could read because every sign I showed to him he knew and repeated all of them like a parrot. He looked at what I wrote once again and said "go ahead". In other words, if he had seen any sign with "danger, no road" he would have gone ahead.

A lot of our drivers on the road smoke indian hemp; they feel that indian hemp gives them some sort of strength. I am glad a Senator made mention of drivers driving all the way from Oron to Lagos. They feel that the smoking of indian hemp will keep them awake all through the night. I am glad that the Leader of the Senate, Dr Majekodunmi, is here. I think he will agree that whatever strength indian hemp gives a man, it is only temporary, it soon vanishes, and having sapped the smokers' energy, the after effect is terrible. No doubt, indian hemp smokers cause accidents on the road. I do not know what we can do to stop people from smoking indian hemp. It looks as if indian hemp has come to stay in this country; it is being cultivated everywhere and there are many people smoking it. One smells the odour even in houses, places one does not expect to see indian hemp.

What about our lorries? The owners of the lorries themselves do not care; they do everything to buy old parts. A commercial vehicle is supposed to undergo a six monthly test for a certificate of road worthiness. A lorry owner or even a taxi driver would not think twice, all he does instead of fitting new tyres to his lorry is that he borrows or hires good looking tyres and fits them on to his lorry, and when he has got the certificate of road-worthiness, the tyres are returned to the owner. Some people make a trade of this. They keep sets of tyres for the purpose of fitting them to vehicles so that they can collect certificates of road-worthiness. The lorry or taxi owners do not think that this is for their own safety.

They call certificate of road-worthiness "road worriness". It is a worry to them and they do everything to by-pass it.

Again, every commercial vehicle is supposed to write at the back of the vehicle in plain legible letters and figures—"maximum speed, 35 m.p.h.". Unfortunately, I do not know whether this thing is required by law to be written at the back of the lorries because the driver, when he is at the steering, does not even remember what is written at the back of the lorry. I think it should be written in front of the driver so that he can see it every time. Since it is written at the back, he forgets and does not care. How many of our commercial vehicles on the road go at a maximum speed of 35 m.p.h.?

**A Senator:** They cannot read.

**Senator Egbuson:** They cannot read but the law says that they must write something that they cannot read and write it at a place where they cannot see it. I do not see the sense in that at all. Some of the lorry owners or drivers write a lot of *nom-de-plume* on their vehicle such as "slow and steady", but do they go slow on the road? They do not even know what it means. Some write "sea-plane", I think that is correct because they want to fly the whole time as a sea-plane does.

Some lorries in particular carry passengers as well as load, and when there is an accident, especially a collision, it is not because of the the collision that many passengers die, a lot of passengers die because the loads fall on them, break their bones, break their heads or kill them. Unless a lorry falls into a water-logged ditch, there are always some survivors. If it is on the ground, a passenger may be lucky to escape with only some scratches. It is when these heavy loads fall on passengers that they are maimed or killed.

Some years ago, I heard there was a move to make all passengers travel in buses and for loads to go by lorries. I do not know why the suggestion was shelved and up till to-day it has not seen the light of day. May I say that Armel's Transport is doing that: all their passengers from the Mid-West to Lagos come in buses and loads go by lorries. Why can some of our big businessmen not do this?

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi:** On a point of order, will the Senator please declare his interest in Armel's Transport?

**Senator Egbuson :** I own no lorry or bus on the road. I have no shares in Armel's Transport. The owners of Armel's Transport do not know me. Take up any newspaper in the morning, it is not difficult to find reports of road accidents involving the loss of many lives. It is news, and without thinking of what the news means, somebody's husband, somebody's wife, somebody's child is gone. All we care to do is to read the name and see if they are related to us or if we know them, and we send a telegram, and that is the end of it. What are we really doing to stop or reduce accidents on our roads ?

My suggestion, briefly, is that while the roads and bridges are being widened, only people who can read should be given licences to drive. There should be more vehicle inspection officers.

At the moment they are so overworked that they have no time to come on the road to see whether the vehicle for which they issued a certificate of road-worthiness is in the same state as it was when it was issued with a certificate. They see it six months later, which is useless, and, of course, the same process is followed. A vehicle inspection officer should be made available to instruct, correct and advise drivers as well as motor owners. More policemen should be put on the roads to watch speeding and other reckless acts.

**Some Senators :** We do not agree with that. The policemen will only fill their pockets with money.

**Senator Egbuson :** Do not give them money. The policemen put on the roads should see to it that disabled vehicles are removed. Sometimes, when a vehicle is involved in an accident, it is allowed to remain on the side of the road for months. This type of vehicle should be removed. The policemen should see to it that all the roads are safe for users. As I said earlier on, I think the time has come to legislate against the carrying of passengers—men and women—and loads and animals together. In the old French Cameroun, if a lorry is found carrying passengers, human beings, loads and goats together, the owner of the lorry, the driver and the passengers will all be fined on the spot.

**Some Senators :** What about the goats ?

**Senator Egbuson :** That may sound hard, but it is done in the French Cameroun.

With regard to telecommunication services, it is regrettable that the Government continues to give unto him that has and takes away from him that has not even that which he has. This type of thing was done in the olden times, but we are now living in modern times, where everybody contributes directly or indirectly to the stability of the country. If Senators went to my own area, they would find no telephone links in the whole of the division. There is supposed to be a V.H.F. station at Bomadi, Patani but the instruments there do not work. When our President (then Governor-General of the Federation) was about to visit *Patani* technicians were sent there to put things right. The technicians remained there while the then Governor-General was around, and no sooner he went away than the technicians also went away and the faults restored.

There is no telephone service in the whole Division. There is also no proper post office. There are a few scattered postal agencies, and mails carried from Warri post office are conveyed in canoes. Sometimes, if we are lucky, these mails get into a canoe which is driven by an outboard motor engine. However, it should not be forgotten that these engines are continually breaking down.

It may be proper to inform the Government that reports are always made that money orders, postal orders and parcels are missing from time to time. This may be due to the fact that there is no system of letter delivery, and if a postal agency is situated in a particular village and that village has a small dispute with the next village, the mails belonging to the other village will either be held up or tampered with. This is because the village in which the postal agency is situated would want to know what the sons and daughters of the other village abroad are saying about their dispute.

Furthermore, postal orders or money orders can be bought from the postal agencies, but if a money order or postal order is sent to our people, they cannot cash it; the postal agencies say that they have no cash. Our people can only buy postal orders but cannot cash them. Therefore, it is a one-way traffic. I hope that this anomaly will be corrected as soon as possible before the Ikorodu transmitting

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station which is aimed at bringing this country closer to other parts of the world comes into operation. If this is not done quickly, it means that that part of the country will not be brought closer to the outside world.

The Inland waterways run transport service twice monthly from Lagos to my own village. This boat which is called "Robin" is always breaking down. It has leaked on many occasions and passengers were asked to assist in bailing out water with buckets. This boat is supposed to leave Lagos on the 1st and the 15th of every month. The voyage which was scheduled to start on the 15th of this month returned from Western Ijaw yesterday because of breakdown and could not come at the scheduled time. It was due to go back on the 15th, but it only arrived no Lagos on the 16th. This boat is long overdue for replacement. Our people at home have been afraid to make some representations about it since they believe that half bread is better than none.

Nigeria is very much blessed with mineral resources. I am sure that if the Whitemen had seen all the mineral deposits that we are now digging out, they could have turned this country into Congo. Now that we are in control, why do we allow oil prospecting companies to burn out the gas which they find side by side with petrol? At any place where Shell B.P. or any other firm prospecting for oil finds oil, a lot of gas is also found there, but they are burnt out. I am not a technician or an engineer, but this is what I have seen. These prospecting companies say that they do not want gas, but instead they run their pipes down the well and bring it up to the top of the earth and put fire on to it and this fire burns day and night, month after month and year after year until the whole gas is completely burnt out, simply because the companies do not want it. It is so in the East.

**Some Senators :** Where has the Senator seen such a thing?

**Senator Egbuson :** I have seen the oil wells in the East and how the Shell B.P. burnt out the gas in those oil wells. In Isoko Division which is very near my own home, the same thing is being done. Is it true that gas is useless to this country? When gasoline came

into this country and people with diesel engine bought it, gas was very cheap. Now the price of gasoline is very high almost the cost of petrol, and yet we are wasting this gasoline. We are wasting it because we do not want it! Some of our Leaders have seen this. They do go to Afam, they go to Ogoni to see this oil well and they have seen this fire. I wonder if they ever stopped to ask what the fire was. They are burning now as I am speaking, and yet we are told that gas can be used for all sorts of thing even for electricity.

I would like to talk about health. I would only make some observations because time is against me. It is true that since our white District Officers and Residents went away from this country, Sanitary Inspectors make friends with mosquitoes now. They do nothing to kill the mosquitoes and mosquitoes fly up. I do not know if they do not go up as far as the *Ilegogoros* this time. They come upstairs, and yet people say that mosquitoes do not fly high. They have strengthened their wings and they do fly high. Sanitary Inspectors do not bother their heads about them. If you telephone a Sanitary Inspector or a Health Superintendent, he will tell you to ring the local council. If you ring the council, the council say that the health people will come and see it, and nothing is done at all. I think they are more engaged in looking after the meat stalls without any ability to improve the quality of the meat that we eat.

I would now speak about agriculture. Sometime ago, I read in the newspapers that a sugar factory was to be built in Ilorin. I do not know if we are eating sugar from that factory now. But why should we have only one sugar factory? There is plenty of sugar-cane along the Niger Delta. The natives produce a lot of sugar-cane which could be turned into sugar if a factory was built there. There is also plenty of fish in the Niger and down Forcados by the sea. Why do you want to go to Lake Chad? By all means go to Lake Chad to look for fish. But what about fish near us here? The Niger Delta is also very good for rice plantation. When the President of the Republic last visited the Niger Delta area, he had no difficulty in saying that from the Niger Delta such food could be produced to feed the whole of Nigeria and even our neighbouring countries; yet nothing has been done in that line.

I would like to conclude before my time runs out. I should like to say that the unity of this country largely depends on how much and how soon the Government brings up the backward and neglected areas to the standard of the lucky areas in the Federation. Why should Government concentrate on places, towns, and villages already developed? What about the rest of the Federation?

I am very glad that at this time last week when the newspapers were trying to suggest that there was going to be trouble in this country, I came to this Senate one morning and I was told that Dr K. O. Mbadiwe had been given a ministerial appointment and also that Mr Mbazulike Amechi had also been given a portfolio. I think we must say something about our Prime Minister who permitted this to be done or did this particularly at this time. I think he has been very generous and he has been very good. I wish more of our politicians could do this sort of thing because this will bring peace and harmony to this country. I would like to suggest that our God-fearing Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, when next time he takes a holiday, should not go to his farm but he should travel to some of the outlandish places. We like to see him, we want to know him. A lot of people have not seen our Prime Minister in person since he was installed. I think it will do the country a lot of good if Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa can be persuaded to travel round a little bit.

I would now like to say something about our language. A long time ago, it was suggested that Hausa might be the *lingua franca* in this country. Recently, I heard over the wireless that Hausa must be taught in the Northern schools. In the interest of the Federation and the unity of this country, instead of teaching a Hausa man Hausa, why not teach him Ibo? Let all Hausas learn Ibo and let Ibos in the East learn Hausa. Let all Yorubas in the West learn Benin, Itsekiri or Ijaw or whichever is easier for them and we can learn another major language in the country. I am sure, Mr President, that if we can understand ourselves properly, trouble will be minimised in this country.

I can see that every Senator is looking at his time now. I had better wind up with my congratulation to the President of the Senate on his appointment.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi** : I assure you that I am not going to speak for as long a time as my Friend, Senator Egbuson. But I wish to state that the work of the Government Bench has been made very light indeed because the debate on the Motion for an Address, by tradition, affords every Senator an opportunity of reviewing the work of Government and its policy and saying very clearly and in the most unequivocal terms whether or not he agrees with the policy which was laid before Parliament in the President's Speech to the Joint Sitting of Parliament. Throughout this debate, I think all the Senators who have contributed to the debate have expressed agreement with the policy as enunciated in the Speech by the President.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank those Senators who have contributed to this debate. I would like to assure all Senators that the words of advice which they have given in one or two instances in which they feel that the Government have not measured up to the standard set for them, will be taken seriously by the Ministry concerned.

As I already pointed out, I do not intend to speak at great length because we shall all still have an opportunity of saying something about the work of this Government during the debate on the budget. But I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to you, Mr President, to review your allocation of seats in this Senate because it appears you have put our friends from the Mid-West all in the same row, and I think they will constitute a formidable bloc here in the Senate.

Our first President, in his great wisdom in allocating the seats of the Senate, very wisely distributed the Senators from the different parts of the country and put them together, and we would like to see you continue with this tradition. I would in fact, particularly like to see the lady-Senator from the Mid-West sit between a Northerner and a Westerner; I think it will not be good for her to sit beside her fellow Mid-Westerners alone because, after all the lady-Senator from the West is already sitting beside an Easterner.

It is not out of disrespect for the Mid-Westerners that I say this, but I think if we let them constitute a bloc here it will be out of proportion to the size of the new Region.

[SENATOR CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI]

I am not questioning your authority to allocate the seats in the Senate as you wish, but for the unity and spirit we have been working with here in the Senate we would like very much to see these people near us so as not to make them constitute a bloc.

Mr President, I thank you for the opportunity you have given us all to contribute to this debate and I think we have all had a chance of saying something about the President's Speech. As there is nothing more for us to add as far as the Government Bench is concerned, may I say that we have been very much gratified by the very nice things that Senators have said about the policies enunciated in the Speech, and we would like to suggest that the Question be now put.

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

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth:—

"Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament".

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn till Friday, 20th March.—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Senate do now adjourn till Friday, 20th March.

*Adjourned accordingly at 4.33 p.m.*



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 20th March, 1964

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

NOTICE OF MOTION

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION—ELECTION OF  
MEMBERS

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I move, That Senator J. I. G. Onyia be member of the Committee of Selection.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That Senator J. I. G. Onyia be member of the Committee of Selection.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make supplementary provision for the purposes of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federation as respects the election and removal of the President of the Republic; and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

Senators would recall that when we introduced the Republican Constitution last October it was pointed out that part of the new arrangements that are to be found in Chapter IV of our Constitution for the election and removal of the President must be the subject of a subsequent Bill. The present Bill is, therefore, an attempt to satisfy the requirements of section 40 of the Constitution.

There are two parts to this Bill. The first part covers sections 1 to 6 which deal exclusively with the mode of electing a new President by means of Presidential ballots. The second part covering sections 7 to 9 deals with the procedure for setting up a joint committee of both Houses for the purposes of carrying out investigations into any allegation that might have been made against the President under the requirements of section 38 of the Constitution.

I think Senators would like to have some idea of certain features of this Bill. The first concerns what we have put into section 1 (1) as regards the order of the person to preside whenever there is a joint meeting of both Houses whether for the purposes of electing a new President or of removing him from office. The President of the Senate will normally preside, but in his absence the Speaker of the House of Representatives; in their absence then the Deputy President of the Senate will preside, and in the absence of the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Deputy President of Senate, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives will preside. If none of these four is available, then the Prime Minister will nominate somebody to preside on such a meeting.

The provisions under section 1 (2) are also important in that it is laid down there that where both Houses have not set up a new body of Standing Orders to regulate such proceedings then the proceedings will continue to be regulated by the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives. It is within the province of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to get together and frame new rules for that purpose.

Under section 2 of the Bill will be found the arrangements that have been made for the actual conduct of the Presidential ballots. For instance, one has a list of the persons entitled to vote at the relevant election meeting. 500 ballot papers will be printed and numbered. This is to take into consideration the fact that there are 312 Members in the Lower House and 56 in this one, and also to permit of forfeited papers so that we do not run short of papers in such elections.

I think it is useful to draw your attention to section 2(2)(e) of the Bill which gives additional protection to all the candidates for election to the office of the President of the Republic; that is to say, both the Prime Minister as well as the candidate concerned can nominate certain individuals—one each from either House—to watch their interest and to watch the conduct of the election.

I do not think I need to go into the details of sections 3 and 4 which deal with the actual voting procedure as well as the mode of counting the votes that have been cast, except,

## [ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

of course, the point that what we have in these sections are not different from what is already both in the White Paper on the Republican Constitution and in the Constitution itself—that if there are more than one candidate, then we would proceed to take each candidate and vote for him one by one, and the last candidate with the least number of votes will be eliminated at the end of one ballot. There will be a second ballot for the other candidate until the whole number is reduced to one.

Section 6 is straightforward in that it explains that an election comes to an end as soon as the person presiding makes a declaration to that effect and writes out a certificate that the particular candidate is duly elected.

Section 7 sets out the provision relating to the establishment of the joint committee of both Houses which is charged with responsibility for investigating any allegation that may have been made against the President touching his office. I think it is important to remember that the question of setting up this committee will only arise after the Motion to the effect that the President has committed misbehaviour in the sense of section 38 of the Constitution has been passed in the House in which it originates by not less than two-thirds of all those who took part in the proceedings.

Before a Motion can be entertained for such a purpose (it is useful to remind ourselves) there must be at least one-quarter of the total membership of that House supporting the Motion before it could be allowed to be debated at all. This means, in practice, that in the Senate, no less than 14 senators will be prepared to put their names to the paper and say that they believe there is a *prima facie* case against the President and that they wish this Motion be tabled. In the House of Representatives, seventy-eight Members must support the Motion in writing, or the Motion cannot at all be debated. When the Motion has been introduced in that way, and carried by a two-thirds majority, then the setting up of the committee envisaged in section 7 will arise.

The Committee is composed of twelve members : four to represent the Senate and four to represent the House of Representatives. The remaining four will be selected by the Prime Minister in the proportion of two from

the Senate and two from the House of Representatives. When it is remembered that the Committee is expected to work together and that as far as possible, all members should take part—you will find that in subsection (4) of section 7—and when it is also remembered that the Committee may function by means of a quorum—which you will find in section 8 (3)—then you will discover that if there is difficulty or disagreement between both Houses, it might be that that matter cannot go forward, and in order to redress the imbalance, it would be necessary for the Prime Minister to supplement the four that may come from either House by the additional four from both Houses so that the Committee can do its work.

The Committee is in the nature of a preliminary investigator in a criminal trial, and the ultimate decision will rest with both Houses sitting together to consider the report and decide whether or not a really good case has been made out against the President.

There is another reason for providing that the Prime Minister should have this power to nominate two members from either House : that is that although the parties in both Houses may be unequally represented, which is normally to be expected, and so the membership of the four from each House might reflect the majority on the Committee, by this power vested in the Prime Minister, the imbalance may be slightly redressed if he is free now to examine the membership of those that have been put forward by both Houses and see that other shades of political opinions are represented on that Committee in order to secure a fair and just result.

It has been suggested that this is putting too much power into the hands of the Prime Minister. But all the arguments that one has heard have failed to answer the question that I have put to the one or two members in the Lower House who raised the point : could any Member suggest an effective alternative, remembering that in discharging this task the Prime Minister would have to take his Cabinet into consideration ? I cannot imagine any Prime Minister performing this particular task without due regard to the opinion in the country as represented in Parliament.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia** : That can be expected only in a democratic country.

**Dr Elias :** I am sure Senator Chief Onyia would be the first to admit that what all our recent visitors have been saying about this country shows that we are regarded as the most adult and probably the most democratic country in the continent of Africa.

In section 8, we set out arrangements whereby the Committee will be given power to enquire fully into the allegations referred to with the help of a Supreme Court Judge, to be nominated by the Prime Minister. It is not right that we should bring the judiciary into this and vest the power of nominating such a judge in the Chief Justice of the Federation, because the business of electing the President or removing him is an entirely political function for Parliament and Parliament alone. But in order to be sure that frivolous allegations are not allowed to go unchallenged or uninvestigated, and to protect the interest of the candidate involved, it is necessary that arrangements should be made in such a way that only the type of evidence that can be adduced in the High Court in any part of the Federation will be acceptable to the Committee in proving the guilt of the person whose character is being impugned.

The task of the judicial assessor in this regard is a very important one. If Senators will look at some of the provisions, for instance sections 6 and 7 in particular, they will find that the judicial assessor has very great power indeed. For example, the Committee cannot punish or condemn unless they agree that the case is a fit one for such punishment. It is also the duty of the Committee to ensure that proper procedures are followed in sifting the evidence of the allegations against the President and making sure that nothing will be allowed to go back to the joint meeting of the House which cannot satisfy the strictest judicial scrutiny.

When the Committee has finished its work, under section 9 it is its duty to report its findings to the joint meetings of both Houses of Parliament, and at that point the Committee stands dissolved.

You will notice, therefore, that we have not allowed the Committee to be a permanent body because, for obvious reasons, that would be highly undesirable. It should be that the Committee is constituted as and when it is

deemed necessary, with due regard to what I have said, to the opinions in the House and of course, in the country as well.

It has also been asked elsewhere, why did we not specify the kind of conduct that will be regarded as misbehaviour? Well, that is a very difficult question, and I am not aware of any other Legislature in any other part of the world, including our own in which that has been done. It is a very invidious exercise which no responsible Legislature has undertaken so far to do. If Senators will look at at section, 117 and 124 of our Constitution, which provide for the removal of High Court and Supreme Court judges in the Federation, they will find that we have also said that a judge may be removed for proved misbehaviour if the motion for it is supported by a two-third majority. We have not set out what constitutes misbehaviour, and those of us who are trained in English Common Law know that there is no statutory definition of misbehaviour in England itself, but all lawyers who have studied this subject know that this is the proper procedure.

The courts have a series of judicial decisions defining the criteria for holding a behaviour to be a misconduct. And when Senators look at the provision of the Constitution, granting complete immunity from legal process to the President of the Republic, as well as the Governors of the Regions, they will find that the kind of allegation which would induce Parliament to consider that the holder of an office such as that of the President should be removed, must be a really grave one.

Mr President, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health** Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I beg to move, That the debate be now adjourned.

**The President :** Why ?

**Senator Chief Onyia :** See Standing Order 30 (1) page 23—

*"A Senator who wishes to postpone to some future occasion the further discussion of a question which has been proposed from the chair may claim to move 'That the debate be now adjourned'".*

I have a thousand and one reasons for moving this Motion, and I wish to say that

[SENATOR CHIEF ONYIA]

what an elderly man sees sitting down, a youngman cannot see standing up.

The Upper House of any Federal Legislature in any country is meant to be a place where there is calm atmosphere for elderly people to think very deeply of all the circumstances in the country, ever before giving their consent to any Bill passed in the lower House. In the lower House it will be noticed that youngmen go there to play party politics, but in the Upper House they should be checked by their fathers and mothers. So, when they have finished their political games, all their deliberations will have to come to their fathers and mothers in a House like this for quiet and calm deliberation. In the country to-day, I understand people think that this place is for rubber-stamping of Bills and Motions passed in the Lower House and it would appear to be so.

In the first place, I know some of us Senators did not know that we were coming to-day to deliberate on any issue. Not one of the Senators I know was prepared for any debate this morning and now we are being taken for a ride. Must we rubber-stamp what we should sit down and deliberate and think about; must we rubber-stamp and commit our children?

Afterall, those who make the law in the Lower House and in the country are doing so for our children. We must protect them. We should not be carried away by what they say. When they have finished with their academic discussions and what not, the Bills will come here and we have to think of what they have said in a calm atmosphere and either give it our blessing or defer it. That is why this Upper House is the highest legislature. We are not going to be used as rubber-stamp.

Now, to begin with, I have not received a copy of this Bill. I have not received it. I am hearing of it here. The first time I heard of this Bill was in the Presidential Address. I have been expecting the Bill to read, but I have not seen it. I know also that many of us have not received this Bill up to this day.

How can we come here to rubber-stamp the Bill and commit the nation, commit our children and commit posterity? That is number one.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): On a point of order,

the Senator is misleading the House. This Bill has been published in the Gazette and every Senator ought to have had copies of it on the first day that Parliament met. I think it is wrong to say that nobody has had a copy of this Bill yet.

**The President**: Your point of order is accepted.

**Senator Chief Onyia**: I am not misleading the House pardon me to say that. The Gazette referred to by the Minister might have been sent to the older Senators. The Senators from the Mid-West were appointed only on the 11th of this month and we came here on the 12th, so that copies were not given to us.

I have not got it and I am sure other Senator from the Mid-West have not got it. The hon. Minister of Health should, therefore, understand that I am not misleading the House at all. I am speaking the truth, I am here to speak the truth and I shall continue to speak nothing but the truth.

Up to yesterday I was looking for the card which was distributed to everybody about the visit to Parliament to-day of the British Prime Minister. I could not find it. I went to my dip and to every nook and corner. It is only this morning that one was given to me. That is another example and if I had come here to say that I did not get this card, somebody would have risen from his seat to say that Chief Onyia is misleading the House. I am not made of that stuff. I am made of the stuff that speaks the truth and sticks to it, damning all the consequences.

Now, if we are going to be used as a rubber-stamp, if we are not going to think of any issue before giving our consent, if we the elderly statesmen are going to commit the posterity on what may be precipitous, let us go on.

I am not saying that there is something wrong in the Bill itself as it is for the implementation of a section of the Constitution of Republic of Nigeria, but we should not deceive ourselves. Do we not know the atmosphere, the polluted atmosphere pervading the country to-day?

Anybody who says that he does not know deceives himself and deceives his children.

The atmosphere is to-day not peaceful and not calm and anything like this which we do at this time is open to suspicion. It may be founded or unfounded, but we can never go away from the fact that taking this action at this time is most inappropriate.

We have children and we must protect them. Personally, at least I have eight of my children living in Lagos to-day and if anything happens in Lagos, I will be the worst for it myself. So, I must protect my children and everybody has a duty to protect his or her children too. Let us deliberate without thinking of politics, or whether we belong to this or that area.

What I am thinking of here now in debating this issue and in asking that this Bill be deferred is not politics. I do not think of politics. I think of the atmosphere in the country to-day. I think of the overall interest of the country to-day.

Let anybody get up here as a father or mother who is afraid of God and tell the Senate that he or she is not aware that the atmosphere in Nigeria to-day is changed. Let such a person get up here and say so. We should not at this critical moment begin to drag a Bill connected with the father of the nation, how we can remove him, how we can do this or that. And even that word "removing" is sufficient to engender suspicion in the world at this critical moment. Why not defer the whole thing until the atmosphere is calm and peaceful before we can come and debate it? The whole thing appears a fallacy.

That is what our people are saying in every nook and corner of this country. Unless, of course, we here are not interested in our children, unless we do not mix with the common people, unless we are arm-chair rulers, remaining in our offices where only big men like ourselves visit us, then we cannot know what is happening in the country.

Anybody who knows what is happening in the street will be the last person to bring this Bill at this critical moment.

I started my debate the other day here by asking that elderly statesmen, those above 55 years of age, those with age and experience, should be set up in this Senate to be able to prevent any act that may be reckless. That will help to adjust things and prevent disunity.

I will be the last man to support violence because I know the reason. It is not only that I have an interest, it is also that I have my children to protect.

Nobody here who has a child would like his or her child to die. I will be the last man to agree on an issue in this country which will bring war. I will be the last man to bring any fight within the country. Can anybody who pushes us to fight create one child for any of us here? Who can create a child? Those who want people's children to go and die cannot create one child and give to any of us?

**Several Senators :** None, not even the Minister of Health.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** Can the Minister of Health do that? Those of us that have contributed a lot in man power for the increase of the population of Nigeria will see to it that there is peace and tranquillity in this country and that we live in peace and unity.

I will not encourage anything that will engender suspicion. If Senators would think over the present state of affairs in Nigeria, and about the atmosphere pervading in the country to-day, then they will realise their duties as fathers and mothers and leave alone the question of regions or anything at all.

Senators should think about their children and the country. This is not the time, I am sure, to deal with this Bill. Senators will agree with me that it is necessary to adjourn the debate on this Bill, unless we agree that the Senate is a rubber stamp. If we are not a rubber stamp, let us defer this Bill.

**Senator Abubakar Bale :** On a point of order, I think I agree with the Senator that we should defer this Bill, but I will not agree with the suggestion that this House is regarded as a rubber stamp. We have not been regarded as such before. The Senate is not a rubber stamp.

**The President :** The Senator is assuring the Senators that this House is not regarded as a rubber stamp.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** Thank you. All I am saying is that this is not the appropriate time to introduce this Bill and that Senators are not ready for it. We must be given full time to think over it and debate it. There is no need

[SENATOR CHIEF ONYIA]

to be in a hurry. I am appealing to Senators that this Bill should be deferred until the atmosphere in the country is congenial.

Mr President, I beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** I rise to second the Motion. In doing so, I would like to make it clear that in fairness to the Government, copies of this Bill were distributed from the first day we met here, but it did not ever occur to us that we will be debating this Bill to-day.

I do not see anything wrong with the provisions of the Bill. What I am against is the time of presentation. There are many more important issues in the country on which legislation is most urgently required. It is not on a simple thing like the procedure to be adopted in electing a President. The President we have now was just elected the other day and there is no immediate need for the election of another one. I am not saying that the present President will be there for ever, but I know that as long as the President likes to be there, the nation would want him to continue being there.

**The President :** The question now, is not how to remove the present President. What we are discussing is the office of the President.

**Senator Ukattah :** I am speaking along that line. There is no immediate need for this Bill to be passed now and apart from that, we must all face facts. The presentation of this Bill at this time, casts a very big shadow of doubt and suspicion in the minds of the people of this country. We must admit that all is not well with Nigeria to-day.

The Census controversy is still raging and Senators will remember the conflicting views provocative and recriminatory statements arising out of it. It will be very, very wrong to allow this Bill to be passed at this time and I think that Senators, right as they are, will agree with me that there is no immediate need for this Bill to be passed.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** On a point of order, I think that the Standing Order 30 (2) which we are now debating says—

*The debate on any such Motion shall be confined to the matter of the Motion.*

and the debate in which the Senator is indulging now will equally come under the debate of the Second Reading of this Bill.

**The President :** Will the Senator, please confine himself to the Motion.

**Senator Ukattah :** I am confining myself to the Motion, unless the Minister is trying to bring something extraneous to my speech. If the Minister is opposed to the Motion, then he should give his reasons. I cannot just say that I second the Motion and that the Bill be deferred without telling the Senators why.

I am saying that the atmosphere is not cordial. The national unity of the country is being threatened. Conflicting views and provocative statements have been expressed all over the country.

**Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu :** On a point of order, I thought that the Senator was asking that the Bill be deferred temporarily because the time of its introduction is inappropriate, but from what I am hearing from him now, I do not know whether he wants the Bill to be deferred indefinitely. The Senator should be precise.

**The President :** Let us give him chance to carry on. Please proceed.

**Senator Ukattah :** The Senator was anticipating the Bill. To my mind, Mr President, there is no point of order. I am saying that the debate on this Bill should be deferred from this date to six months hence. I do not think that it is something that will require our going home for two weeks and coming back to debate the Bill.

The debate should be deferred for a long time, unless by the help of God, the present atmosphere is cleared within that period. This Bill should be shelved. We must be sure that there is no ulterior motive in presenting this Bill at this time.

We are not against the provisions of the Bill, excepting a few observations which I would like to make. The Bill is in keeping with the Constitution of the Republic. I have nothing against it, but it is the time of presentation that I am quarrelling with, and I am asking the Senators to look at it from that angle and agree with me that the Bill be deferred for six months.

I beg to second.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) :** May I explain briefly that I have no personal stake in the matter and I am rather surprised to hear the

suggestion that there has been an ulterior motive in my bringing forward this Bill at this time. Anyone who looks at the text of the Bill will appreciate that Bills of this kind are not produced overnight, and I am sure that not even in the United Kingdom, can the greatest expert in drafting, produce this Bill in two months.

It took us four months to produce this Bill and I am sure that any Attorney-General of a country like ours, having this duty laid upon him by the Constitution, will be failing woefully in his duty, if after six months, he has not produced this Bill to complete the Constitutional requirements in our fundamental law.

Secondly, it is necessary—

**The President :** Order, order. It is now 9.50 a.m. and sitting is suspended.

*Sitting suspended : 9.50 a.m.*

*Parliament assembled : 10 a.m.*

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM

(The President of the Senate in the Chair)

**Sergeant-at-Arms** (standing on the uppermost step) : The Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home.

**The President :** Is it the pleasure of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives that Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, be heard in this Chamber ?

*(There was general assent).*

*Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, entered the Chamber, led by the Sergeant-At-Arms.*

**The President :** The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, our august visitor, the Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home is a man who hardly needs any introduction.

He was the fourteenth Earl of Home, a title which was created as far back as 1604. He was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1937 to 1939 ; Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary Foreign Office, 1945 ; Minister of State Scottish Office, 1951 to 1955 ; Secretary

of State for Commonwealth Relations, 1955 to 1960 ; Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council, 1957 to 1960 ; and he was the British Foreign Secretary before he was elevated to his present post.

We all remember particularly last October, in the life of this great man when, among so many contenders, he emerged victorious as Prime Minister of Great Britain. *(Applause).* The British House of Commons should be congratulated on making it possible for this eminent statesman to have an opportunity of serving his country in his present capacity.

Since he took over as the Prime Minister of Great Britain he has proved not only to the British electorate but also to the whole world that he is equal to the task. We in Africa look forward to a continuation of the policy of the wind of change, a policy which opened a new and distinct chapter in British colonial diplomacy. This policy, we hope, will be applied to the remaining British colonial territories in Africa. It is a policy of righteousness and justice, a policy which will stand the test of time.

We all in this joint Assembly feel ourselves highly honoured that barely six months after his appointment as Prime Minister, Sir Alec has not only found time, in spite of his onerous duties, to visit this Republic, but he has also accommodated in his programme an address to a joint sitting of the highest Legislature of the land.

It is, I think, most gratifying to us, in a world which is busy redressing the wrongs of privilege, to welcome among us Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who represents the genuine resolve of the enlightened nobility to protect freedom everywhere in the world.

We warmly welcome him to Nigeria and wish him a happy stay among our people. *(Applause).*

**Sir Alec Douglas-Home :** Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, honourable Members of Parliament :

Perhaps the highest single honour that a man can have is to be elected by his fellow citizens and to represent them in the Councils of his own nation. I therefore count it a double privilege that as a Member of Parliament in the

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British House of Commons you allow me to come here to address the highest Council of the Nigerian people.

I have come to Nigeria, Mr President, as your guest because I feel the need of counsel with your Prime Minister and his colleagues at a moment which could be decisive in the history of the world, and I have come to you in the Nigerian Parliament to share with you, if I may, my pre-occupations about the state of the world, on the basis that a problem shared between friends shrinks to half its size. As one of our great poets once said :

A good friend redoubleth joys  
And cutteth griefs in halves.

Sir, I have come here in the middle of your Budget Session hoping to get some hints for our own Budget. (*Applause*). It is a pleasure to come, and perhaps it is not inappropriate that on a day when Nigeria meets Ghana on the cricket field I am going to say something about the Commonwealth; and perhaps I might say that having begun in the Lower House in Britain and having gone to the Upper House and come back to the Lower House, I know something about parliamentary institutions and have a great respect for them.

So my theme to-day is the quest for order in the international society, in a perplexed and a most perplexing time as the world spins on into the second-half of the 20th century. My belief is that this unique Commonwealth partnership and I choose my word carefully because there is no other association like the Commonwealth partnership in the world—if we have the will and the wit and the wisdom to make it so, can play, and I repeat the world, a unique part and a unique role in bringing harmony and neighbourliness to mankind.

And where better to debate this theme than in the Nigerian Parliament with the present law givers of the Nigerian nation; a new partner in the Commonwealth, it is true, in years but a senior partner in size and in influence in this great Continent of Africa? (*Applause*). For it is, Mr President, a truth which every legislator knows and a principle which Nigeria has upheld with distinction that if the civic peace is to be held then the rule of law must be preserved within a nation; and if the civic peace is to endure then that law must rest on consent; and while the majority is entitled and,

indeed, has the duty to rule, nevertheless the rights of minorities must be protected. (*Applause*). The order established by the law must be just and must be seen and must be felt to be so. (*Hear, hear*).

As with the affairs of one nation so it is with the affairs of the world, although it is a hundred times more difficult because there are hundreds and more nations, each jealous of its own sovereignty and each determined to promote its own interests; and these are human emotions and legitimate emotions until they spill over beyond the call of reason and patriotism.

Within each democratic nation Parliament draws up rules of conduct, the police see that the rules are kept, and judges are there to punish the malefactors. But, Sir, in the international society we have not developed anywhere near that stage. It is true that we have laid the foundations in the charter of the United Nations in the Security Council, and in the International Court; and it is true, too, that the United Nations has done and can record good work, both in the Middle East and in the Congo, and we profoundly hope to-day in the Island of Cyprus. But the world arrangements for keeping the peace are, Mr President, rudimentary in their form and subject to improvisation; and while we and our friends will always do everything that we possibly can to strengthen the effective peace keeping capacity of the United Nations the pace will be a crawl until the member-nations agree on common standards of value, on common standards of justice and apply the principles of international law without prejudice or favour. In the world as it is this can only be done if, for instance, we can reconcile the differences between the Communist World and the rest; and if we can reconcile, too, the aspirations of the old colonial powers with the new independent nations.

In these tasks my country is impatient to make progress because, Sir, unless we do it the best we can do in keeping the peace is to make do and mend. And that is not good enough in a nuclear age. Clearly enough the place where the peace has been held for the last twenty years has been in that Continent which has set the worst example of all, and that is Europe. But here, if I am to report to you truthfully, the peace is not kept by the Security Council nor by an international Police Force nor, it must be admitted, by universal goodwill. It is kept by



that most dreadful of all man-made appliances—the nuclear bomb. It is in Europe that life as we know it could have been most easily destroyed in the last few years. There the nuclear powers are in closest confrontation on matters which are vital to their existence.

It is perhaps hard for hon. Members in the Parliament of Nigeria to realise that we in Britain go about our daily business covered everyday by quantities of missiles directed at us; and we do so, Mr President, because the balance of power is held. It was only when the balance of power was upset—when the rockets appeared in Cuba—that the whole of mankind trembled; and yet I think I can say to-day that the wisdom and instinct for preservation are prevailing.

In 1962 the high risk policies threatened to bring us to a dead end. If the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 did not actually set us on the road to reconciliation I felt, when I was there—because I was one of the signatories for a nuclear power—I felt that at any rate, it had turned us to face in the right direction. In 1964 the United States is selling wheat to Russia to meet the needs of a communist neighbour, and that is the moral to be drawn here; and I believe that if we are wise we will never turn round and I believe that I can say that we will never now turn back on the old course of destruction. (*Applause*).

So long as the challenge by the Communists to our way of life was there, the countries of the Atlantic Community, Mr President, had no choice but to meet it, whatever the cost, you may think, in wastage of manpower and material wealth. And perhaps it is difficult, sometimes, for a country which quite rightly wishes to be unaligned to understand our problem and what it was; at least I hope I can say what it was. But India knows it now, and many a newly independent country now knows the meaning of subversion. If we have, as I hope we have, convinced all who will deal in force that force cannot pay a profit, we now have to show them that subversion which is the exploitation of your neighbour's troubles and difficulties and grievances, and generally stirring the pot of trouble—all of which you are experiencing in the Continent of Africa—cannot pay a profit either. And then, Sir, we will be able to mark not only the end of the cold war but start a period

of genuine co-operation between the Soviet Union and the free world; and I would like to say here in the Parliament of Nigeria that in the view of the British Parliament that cannot be too soon.

Mr President, the clash between East and West was not in reality a local foolish conflict between Europeans who allowed jealousies to only hard. It was about a basic thing; it was about the nature of man—whether man should be his own master or whether man should be a slave; and on an international scale this problem of the dignity of man was one that stirred West Africans to the soul.

You fought against slavery and you won the right for respect for individual man and I am proud to say that in that we were your ally. And so these, the thaw in cold war and the prospect of better relations between the Soviet Union and the free World are the great key changes that I see coming over the world to-day.

If in a nuclear age the Soviet Union and the West are agreed that the use of force to settle their arguments is out, then disputes will be settled by negotiation and the merits of rival courses and creeds will be settled by example.

The next and the second great key change which has a more immediate impact, perhaps upon Africa, is the end of the colonial era. Basically, you and we in Britain have the same ideas—they are at work among your people and ours—that nations should be free in dignity and honour. And, because we have felt this freedom, and because freedom is in the blood of the British people, the seeds of freedom were in our political system from the start. If we seemed slow in granting independence to some colonial territories, Mr President, it was because we knew our own island's story. It is easy to say freedom, it is much more difficult to practise it and we in Britain know that democracy must not only be on the lips of the people, it must be in the people's hearts. (*Hear, hear*).

In your great continent, everything has conspired to telescope hundreds of years of trial and error and experience and arrive by a short cut at full democracy. As Commonwealth Secretary, I often used to talk to my African friends about our anxieties in Britain about the pace of advance. Nigeria achieved freedom and order with impressive speed;

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some others have either not been so fortunate or not been so wise. But if it was a choice between going slowly and being estranged from our friends and going quickly and keeping our friends, we in Britain unhesitatingly chose to go quickly and keep our friends. (*Hear, hear*). When we lowered our flag and when the flags of independent nations were substituted for the Union Jack, it was with the intention that the nations which substituted their flags for ours should stand independent not for a day, but forever. (*Hear, hear*).

I can never forget the speech of your hon. Prime Minister on the day when I was in the United Nations and had the privilege of introducing Nigeria to that Assembly. That speech struck a new and distinctive note, a note of self-reliance, of self-discipline, of authority and of responsibility. It was, if I may say so with humility and respect, the wisdom which proclaims the pride of nationhood yet the humility of man before the might of the universe. And all who heard it went away with faith. (*Applause*).

Just as those of us in the north and in Europe have to put behind us the habits of war, and the habits of mind which crystalised into the crises between the East and the West, so you and we, having changed our former relations, must change our ways of thinking lest we be petrified into the old postures and find ourselves condemned to a new division between men.

Mr President, there are still problems to be solved in Southern Africa and the last, or perhaps naturally the hardest to solve. We are looking for an agreed solution and when a solution is found, it is our hope that it will be one which can be supported by all the Commonwealth. I ask you to give us some patience and understanding while we pursue our task. I ask that because I think in the whole of our colonial history, from the moment that we began to transform an empire into a Commonwealth, we have never yet failed in any solution and never yet had a solution which had not been accepted by all. (*Applause*).

The evolution of the old Commonwealth into the new is almost completed and colonialism is dead; but there is something which might destroy the friendship of the new

Commonwealth, and that is "neo-colonialism". I would like to say to you in the simplest and most direct terms that that word finds no place in the dictionary for our political terms in the United Kingdom. We simply do not know its meaning. (*Laughter*).

Let us, therefore, take this slander out of the shadows of the mind and expose it to the clear light of day, where it will evaporate like the hot air which it is and we will not allow it to destroy the relationship among the Commonwealth of nations, but rather turn our minds to the problems which lie ahead—the harnessing of the inventiveness and the technology of the 20th century, to satisfy the hungry, to cure the sick and to meet the thirst for knowledge, which exists in so much of the world.

I had only to spend twenty-four hours in Lagos to hear and see how you are taking charge of these problems and the experience, energy and purpose with which you are tackling them. Perhaps, Sir, one day a young Nigerian poet looking back will say—

Blessed was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was heaven.

But you in your Budget Session of Parliament know how much there is still to do; and the question is how your friends—and I hope I may put Britain high among them—can help in these tasks. The victory against poverty, or if I may put it more positively, the betterment of life for all our people cannot be won by one country alone. It must be a combined operation because in this matter, Mr President, the nations are inter-dependent.

The first need is for capital, the second need for confidence. The capital must be attracted if it is to fructify and in the end of the day that amounts to the degree of understanding that there is between the countries which would receive it and the countries which have it to give. The confidence is a tender plant and we believe in Britain that the Commonwealth above all is a fertile ground for these great experiments, economic, social and political, and that we should work together in co-operation.

So far, the Commonwealth countries have been against institutionalising our association. We in Britain have sometimes thought that it would be a good thing to set-up a Commonwealth Economic Development Council, but

the lack of institutions does not prevent Britain from being the most important market for Commonwealth goods and a major supplier.

It would interest you to know that the Statisticians told us a short time ago that we were only going to have 55 million people in our country by 2,00 A.D., but they have now come along to tell us that we are going to be 69 million—another 14 million in thirty-five years! They will eat some of your produce all right—(Laughter)—and we shall be an expanding market for Commonwealth raw material and Commonwealth food in the next thirty or forty years. It does not prevent the British Government giving aid to the Commonwealth to the tune of £150 million a year or private investors placing another £150 million a year in overseas countries which are developing, and ninety per cent of that goes to the Commonwealth.

Such is our desire to strengthen Commonwealth relations that we have in our country to-day 40,000 Commonwealth students, and I would like you to know, Mr President, that we have a great pressure upon our university places and our Colleges of Technology to which our own boys and girls wish to go and yet we are quite willing and glad to reserve one place out of ten for a student from an overseas developing country. (Applause). I am happy to say that nine thousand of the total are Nigerians, and the more the better. (Hear, hear).

And the lack of formal arrangements did not prevent Britain giving help to five commonwealth countries in the last three months when they were in need—help which we were able to bring swiftly with precision and with success. In Cyprus we hope for a solution from an international force and an arbiter. In East Africa, we will leave those Commonwealth countries the moment we are no longer needed. In Malaya we will stay until Malaysia secures her independence without doubt.

Mr President, a wise man once said that to govern is to choose, and the choices are these, as I see them. Do we accept that the sheer diversity of the modern Commonwealth gives us no more scope for co-operation? I do not believe so; I reject that thesis. I do not believe that Nigerians in their Organisation of African Unity, which we welcome, and in which particularly we welcome your part, or that Britain in NATO, need impede fuller, richer relations between us. And our second

choice is this. Are we content just to soldier along rather comfortably as a family, recognising that the ties will get looser—first cousins to-day second cousins tomorrow until the relationship becomes too thin to be recognised? I reject that too. I will be very reluctant to settle for this. All life is change; we either have to grow or we decay, and Britain believes that the Commonwealth has great scope for growth, and it is that I have come here to your Parliament to say.

And so our third choice is this. Shall we try to turn without making the Commonwealth into a closed shop or an exclusive club to put more substance into our dealings with each other? That is my choice, and I hope it is yours too. But remember that the Commonwealth is what we make of it, and not dependent on Britain alone or Nigeria alone, but on what all can make of it. Britain believes that as the world moves on to inter-dependence the Commonwealth has an unrivalled opportunity to show it the way it should go.

There are many ways—trade, aid, investment, education, technical assistance, and perhaps above all, exchange of persons between us so that we understand each other. Mr President, the Commonwealth is not a public corporation; it is a family business; and as such we should get to know each other. And so, as I see it, the main function of a family of nations is to set the goal of policies, to establish just societies in our own countries and to carry out the relations of the good neighbour abroad.

The world is disorderly and the world is dangerous. There is much internal repression and far too much external aggression. Yet in every continent there are Commonwealth countries that cherish the law. So let us in our countries, in our conscience too, repudiate force in all our doings, except the force of example. Let us reject all power, except the power of persuasion.

There are many ways of government, but only one which is worth mentioning, and that is Government by the consent of those who are governed. There are many ways of cutting a dash on the world's stage, but only one relationship which is worthwhile, and that is the relationship of the good neighbour. And so I would like to see each and all in the Commonwealth set an example in these things. In the Commonwealth we are a point of contact between races

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and creeds, and a leaven in the body politic of the world. So let us determine in the councils of the world ; in the United Nations, in the Organisation of African Unity or wherever we meet, in pacts of collective security or when men meet together that the voice of the Commonwealth countries shall be heard on the side of reason, sanity and commonsense. And let Nigeria and Britain set the example and stand up in the councils of the world and speak the truth.

(General Acclamation).

**The President :** Mr Speaker, will you, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives rise with me as a tribute to Sir Alec Douglas-Home as he withdraws.

(Standing ovation as Sir Alec Douglas-Home withdraws).

**The President :** Senators will now withdraw to the other place.

*The Senate resumed : 10.50 a.m.*

(The President in the Chair)

PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL :

RESUMED DEBATE ON SECOND READING

**Dr Elias :** What I would like to add to what I was saying before we adjourned for the Joint Session of Parliament is that this Bill had been prepared in the last four months and had been in circulation for nearly three weeks before the event to which reference has been made ever took place.

The Census results were not out before this Bill had been seen and considered by Cabinet and all those shades of opinion that ought to have been consulted had been duly consulted.

The Bill having been in circulation and having been designed, as you rightly pointed out Mr President, to govern the election and removal of President, has no subjective implication of any kind. It was never designed for an individual but designed to govern a situation that could possibly arise at any moment.

Added to the fact that such a Bill ought to have been introduced within six months of the coming into force of our new Constitution is the fact that although one could provide for

the reasonable operations of nature, one cannot always guard against her fantastic possibilities.

We cannot at all rule out the possibility of an accident. Let us for one moment consider what would happen to the whole country if as a result of an accident the present holder of the office dies—I fervently pray God forbid—or should suffer some incapacity or even an accident by air or even by water. We shall then be in such a position that there would be no law to govern the election of another President until the whole country would have quickly summoned Parliament purposely for the sake of passing this particular Bill.

It is that aspect of the matter that I ask all Senators to consider seriously whether because of our fears and suspicions we should make a law that is required by the Constitution to govern all situations and which could be invoked and used until when an occasion arises or whether we should, because of our fears and suspicions, suspend the normal operations of Government until an event forces our hands to start summoning Parliament to pass this Bill ; then Parliament will start to make arrangements for drawing up the rules that should govern the proceedings of a Joint Sitting of Parliament.

These are the considerations which I would like to give to Senators. Whichever way you decide as regards this Bill, has nothing to do with me at all, but I thought I should explain this background.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Senator S. Eytayo :** I agree partly with the Mover of this Motion and at the same time, I disagree with him. I agree with him that the debate on this Bill should be postponed till another time, may be tomorrow or next week so that we shall have sufficient time to go over the Bill and to contribute intelligently to the debate on it.

I am however opposed to the fact that the Bill should be deferred for six months because it appears to me that people will be reading another meaning into the Bill. I do not think that the Bill is designed to throw out the present holder of the office.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** On a point of order, in the dilatory Motion, there was no imputation whatsoever of any motive.

**The President :** Senator Eytayo did not say so. What he said was that we should not postpone it for six months so that people might not read another meaning into it.

**Senator Eytayo :** That is the point I am making. If we postpone it till six months, people will be reading another meaning into the debate. On the other hand, we should thank the Attorney-General for bringing this Bill at this time. We all know that he is a lawyer of an international repute who will not contribute to anything that will be derogatory to this nation.

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** We must be grateful to the Mover of this Motion and the seconder as well.

As elder statesmen, I think it is right that we should look before we leap. If this Bill had been brought before this time there would be no complaint. But as things are at present, we should exercise caution. I know that the Bill had been approved by those in authority before it was brought to this Senate ; nevertheless, we should not pass it now. As the Mover of this Motion has said, the Bill should be deferred for six months before passing it.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I seem to disagree with the Mover of this Motion to a certain extent. I quite agree that we have been taken unawares to-day because when we were coming this morning we were not prepared to come to do any business in the Senate. We thought that we would only go to the Lower House and listen to the address of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and from there, we would disperse. It was to our utmost surprise that when we came this morning we saw certain Bills on the Order Paper.

In view of the fact that we are not prepared to do any business to-day, I would suggest that this Bill be deferred for about two to three weeks. But to suggest that this Bill be delayed or deferred for six months, I do not think that is a very responsible suggestion. Can anyone imagine that Nigeria having attained republican status has not got the necessary safeguards in the Constitution ? We entered into a republican status six months ago. It is not reasonable to delay this Bill for six months.

I would like to say that there is no motive at all in this Bill. It has not been brought

forward for a particular person ; in fact, nobody is aspiring to the post of the President of the Republic at the moment.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** On a point of order, I am surprised to hear that nobody is aspiring to the post of the President.

**The President :** That is a point of information. Senator Abaagu should please proceed.

**Senator Abaagu :** I think the majority of the Senators are not aspiring to the post of the President. The present holder of the post is one of the few persons in the Federation who are acceptable to all the Regions. I therefore suggest, very strongly that the Bill be delayed for about two weeks. When we come back we shall pass it.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** I rise to oppose the dilatory Motion. I am doing this with the serious understanding of the situation which the Mover has placed before the Senate. No doubt the atmosphere is charged. It is this period when the atmosphere is charged that we elder statesmen and women should handle the situation, otherwise we shall be playing into the hands of newspapers who will be saying that there is rancour here and there. Supposing we postpone the passing of this Bill till the next six months during which time we believe that this tense atmosphere must have calmed down, and we discover at that time that things still remain as they are now, what shall we do ? Do we then keep postponing till an indefinite period ? We should not be afraid of any particular incident as such. We should proceed with what has been laid down in the Constitution for us to do. Only by doing our work constitutionally could we prove that we are experienced statesmen.

I also like to mention that if we postponed this Bill for discussion at a later date, we shall be playing into the hands of the younger elements and the man in the street. Then will they have the chance to point accusing fingers at us and say that we the Senators who are supposed to help solve difficult situations are delaying action on important matters and delaying the passage of important Bills.

We should be worthy leaders of this nation and of our present generation. We should not allow any situation to overpower us. We

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should proceed as if there were no difficulty, because if we keep reading fears into the activities of our Government and of this august House, I am afraid we shall not be able to do the work entrusted to us and solve difficult situations. We can solve difficult situations by going right into them, playing our role as honestly as we can, and then at the conclusion of serious activities we wait and see the results of our good labour.

I do not believe that as soon as we pass this Bill any person or group of persons will proceed to dismiss the President. This is just the fear that some people are reading into the Bill. That will not be possible. I am aware that here and there people talk at large. I am also aware that these people who talk in this way are people who really should not do so. But we should not fear them. We are grown-ups and experienced enough to realise that this tense situation is just a question of time. The more we fear to deal with a problem like this, the more we give people outside Parliament the chance to speculate. It does not really matter what they say. What really matters is our understanding of the things we are doing. We should deal with difficult situations and have so much confidence in our actions that we should be able to go back to the people and tell them that they have nothing to fear and that problems that would otherwise have brought misunderstanding have been solved through our action. But if we delay, I am afraid we shall have no time or pride to do this.

I know that the tense atmosphere in our country is getting calmer and calmer day by day. There is no doubt about that. But I have got no means to be able to forecast that within the next six months everything would have calmed down completely. I like to hold the bull by the horns, and I believe that this is the way that Senators of our type should deal with difficult situations.

**Senator P. A. Ogundice :** Mr President, I should not have risen to oppose this Bill at all. But may I suggest that this Bill be postponed for a short period of about a couple of days, not six months. My reason for this suggestion is not because I think there is any motive behind this Bill. We must actually continue to have Bills and Bills in this House. But the point I want to make is that whereas the

Attorney-General—and this is exactly what many of our Ministers do—with all his knowledge and understanding, has taken four or six months to prepare a Bill the Bill is just pushed to us here to be passed within half an hour or so.

**The President :** The last speaker has already heard that this Bill was given out long ago. At least this is what I have been given to understand.

**Dr Elias :** Might I say that that line of argument would appear a little curious, because all the Bills that have been brought into this House have been preceded by two or three years of thought and the act of drafting. Should we suggest therefore that Senators should be given three years to consider these Bills before they are passed ?

**Senator Ogundice :** My own contribution to the main debate is that there is no necessity for postponing the passing of this Bill except for two or three days or probably a week for people who have not yet studied the Bill to do so and understand fully the implications of it. But for me personally I do not have any feelings that the Attorney-General had somebody in his mind against whom he wanted to direct this Bill when he was preparing the Bill. Let us all understand that every Bill is a double-edged sword. Even if a Bill is aimed at somebody to-day, things could change overnight and the same Bill goes the opposite direction and, like the double-edged sword, hurts the very person who made the Bill and who thought that he was preparing it against the other person. Personally, I am not in favour of any delay of action. I am quite satisfied with the Bill and I feel that we should allow it to be passed.

We should follow the very good piece of advice of Senator Onyia who has already given us food for thought about what elderly people of our type should do in an atmosphere like this. We cannot have more elderly men than are assembled here—anyway I am quite fifty-five and I know I fall into the group of those to be selected for consideration ! If there is anything that this House can do to show the great responsibility that we shoulder and to show our place of honour, let us think of it now. In fact, it is at a time like this, when the atmosphere is so charged, when there seems to be difficulties in the air, that we can show our place as fathers

of the people. We can do this without any particular reference to any Bill. Personally, I feel that this Bill is just natural, and we might as well allow it to be passed to-day.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** As a matter of fact, when I moved this Motion for adjournment of the debate, I did not stipulate any time at all. So anybody who says that I said six months must be making a mistake. It was only the Seconder of the Motion who mentioned six months, but the Mover has not accepted or rejected it. The question of six months came in during the debate.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the debate be now adjourned.

*Debate to be resumed—Friday, 10th April, 1964.*

#### QUEEN'S COUNSEL (ABOLITION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) :** I rise to move—

That an Act to abolish the rank of Queen's Counsel; and for connected purposes, be read a Second time.

When Nigeria became a Republic last year it was obvious that we could no longer retain this particular title of Queen's Counsel for our senior lawyers. The Government accordingly took a decision at the time that changes be made in such fields as Crown Counsel or "the Queen" against somebody in criminal cases. We have since, of course, found alternatives to those.

Then last November, at their annual conference, the Nigerian Bar Association adopted a resolution which was later considered by the General Council of the Bar for Nigeria, of which I am Chairman, and we decided that the title of Queen's Counsel should be abolished and that necessary legislation should be introduced to give effect to that decision.

The Bill before you is accordingly designed to put an end to the practice of senior members of the profession using the title "Q.C." after their names and also enjoying certain privileges in the courts if and when they do appear.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu) :** I beg to second.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** This is a very good Bill, and I know it will not be controversial. It has come at a very good time, and I hope that all Senators in this Upper House will unanimously agree that it is already high time for foreign titles like the "Q.C." which we have inherited from our one time overlords, to be scrapped.

We have the brains in the legal field, and these people can design new titles. On the chieftaincy line, we also have people who can equally design titles, and we should continue to have these titles. It should be the duty of the members of the legal profession to think of new titles which could be a sort of enticement and encouragement—something in recognition of their achievements.

While we should definitely abandon or abolish the title of "Q.C.", I strongly advise that people who are competent to do so should design new titles which would befit our legal men who are serving the country and people who in their legal practices have shown that they ought to earn certain honours which would have a national prestige which could take the place of the old Q.C. title.

With these few remarks, I wholeheartedly support the abolition of the old title of Queen's Counsel.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** I appreciate the energy of our Attorney-General and Minister of Justice in presenting this Bill for the abolition of the rank of Queen's Counsel. It is really a very nice one, and I agree with him very much because, at the moment, this is no longer befitting the status of this country. The title of Queen's Counsel was known in Nigeria as far back as some years ago, though knighthood and so on and so forth came into this country a very long time ago.

If the question of the abolition of the rank of Queen's Counsel should emanate from the Minister of Justice, why should he not make provision for other honours like the Knighthood to be abolished? I strongly plead that all foreign honours be abolished, and I am appealing to him to look into this. We want the abolition of all foreign titles.

On the Queen's Birthday one hears here and there about people being honoured with K.B.E., O.B.E., and so on and so forth. If we pass this Bill now, it would appear that we are just

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

sending out a bird with one wing. What about the other wing? If we want to abolish foreign titles, why can we not take the whole lot of them in bulk—O.B.E., M.B.E., I.S.O., K.B.E., and so on and so forth. The point is that if one abolishes my own title, I might ask why other titles are not abolished, and I might regard his action as a sentimental one.

I am appealing to the Attorney-General to look into this. I differ strongly from the views that all other foreign titles should be accepted. The time has come now for us to abolish all foreign honours. We must call a spade a spade. Let us go back to the land. We have got our Obis, Obas, and chiefs here. Let everybody go back to his tribe and find out why certain titles are given out. Let us find the meaning of our titles when these are being conferred on us. If one does not know one can find out from one's own people. What is the meaning of I.S.O., M.B.E., and so on and so forth? One would have to look them up in the dictionary.

**A Senator :** O.B.E. is Obedient Servant of the Empire.

**Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu :** For how long is one going to be an obedient servant of the Empire? There is no longer any need for one to be an obedient servant of the Empire since we are now independent and should be able to know what is important for us.

As elderly and mature people who can reason for the future, we set aside a certain Bill two minutes ago because we considered that it would be too premature to take a decision on it in this then. I am, therefore, appealing, through the President of the Senate, to the Attorney-General to look equally into the question of abolishing all foreign titles in this country as soon as possible. I know that he is very busy, but I am sure he will be able to tackle it.

With these few remarks perhaps, the Attorney-General might be able to say something on this.

**Dr Elias :** As I explained briefly, this Bill is before us to abolish an existing Act of Parliament. There is a Queen's Counsel Act of Parliament which we can now abolish by means of legislation.

But concerning all foreign honours like K.B.E. and O.B.E., these are not regulated by any law. So, there is no law for me to abolish by means

of a Bill here. It is a policy decision entirely outside my range and outside my Ministry.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu) :** I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill entitled the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Bill.

This Bill seeks to establish a corporation to operate, maintain and control factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and material, to provide for alteration in any such manufacture, storage and disposal at any time ; and for related matters.

In 1963, the Council of Ministers authorised the signing of contract with a German firm for the establishment of an ordnance factory. Consequently, arrangements for the establishment were pursued and work has since proceeded simultaneously with the building of a factory at Kaduna. It is my pleasure to announce that the factory will go into production towards the end of this year.

The need for an ordnance factory is quite obvious. It is primarily to manufacture arms and ammunition for the use of our Armed Forces and for the use of the Nigeria Police and the preventive service of the Board of Customs and Excise. Once the factory starts production, it is expected to meet our requirements of arms and ammunition for our Armed Forces. This means that we would no longer have to depend upon outside sources for the supply of light arms—a point, no doubt, which will favour our balance of trade and a welcome step not only for reasons of security but also as a contribution towards the development of Nigeria's economy.

Moreover, the ordnance factory would be by its nature a starting point of an elaborate organisation which this nation requires in order to make rapid industrial progress.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a Defence Industries Corporation. The Corporation, when established, will take charge of the



administration of the ordnance factory under the direction of the Minister of Defence. The Corporation which is being proposed is different from any existing statutory corporation in that its membership is composed mainly of civil servants. This is so because of the need to insulate the production of arms and ammunition from politics and to ensure efficient organisation and direct control by the Minister of Defence.

The Bill also provides for inspection and testing of weapons and ammunition. The Corporation is also empowered to appoint its staff and to regulate its services by establishing organisational structure which will enable it to perform its functions effectively.

In view of the secret nature of the business of ordnance factory, members of the staff of the Corporation will not be allowed to take part in any strike.

The Bill also makes provision for the financial administration of the factory, as it is intended that the Corporation should be self-supporting and profit-making. Provision has been made for the auditing of accounts and inspection of the books by the Director of Audit.

Apart from the manufacture of arms and ammunition, the ordnance factory shall also undertake other duties, such as the manufacture of civilian goods. These will include cutting tools, hand tools, bicycles, small electric motors, shot-guns, shot-gun ammunition, *et cetera*.

This is a non-controversial Bill, and I commend it to Senators. I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health** Senator (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu** : Let us thank the Minister of State for his timely Bill, because the time is overdue when Nigeria should have started to manufacture her own ammunition. I say this on account of the present disturbed and turbulent atmosphere in the whole world. I would, therefore, suggest that when the Board begins to explore ways of recruiting staff or instructors, there should be no discrimination. I again suggest that instructors or manufacturers should be recruited from both the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States of America. These people are well-known in their superior production of arms.

I hope that we shall manufacture sufficient quantities of arms so that when the time comes for us to raise arms against South Africa and the minority government of Southern Rhodesia, we shall be in a position to attack them more successfully.

I beg to support.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem** : This is a straightforward Bill. There is not much in it that anyone can quarrel with. However, I would have thought that in considering the nature of this Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria, the ordnance factory ought not to be sited at the same place as the Defence Academy. We must realise that in the event of war such a place becomes a military objective and is easily vulnerable from the air. The ordnance factory should be sited far away from our Defence Academy.

In section 3 of the Bill, we are told that the Minister may from time to time appoint a fit person to be general manager of the Corporation. What is the qualification of this fit person? Is there anything preventing the Minister from appointing a messenger in the office to be the general manager of the Corporation and say that he is fit? I would like that phrase "fit person" to be qualified a little more.

There is again in section 7 of the Ordinance the provision that if the estimated expenditure approved for a financial year is exceeded without the prior approval in writing of the Minister, members of the Corporation shall be liable to a surcharge on salary or allowances as the case may be, at the instigation of the Director of Audit.

I wonder why the legal draftsmen chose that word "instigation" of the Director of Audit. The word has a sinister connotation and I would have preferred the words "at the instance of" the Director of Audit because the word "instigation" carries with it some bad idea.

Again, we note that the members of this Corporation cannot go on strike. That is as it should be. But if we are going to keep people who are going to be deprived of their fundamental human right of collective bargaining, then it is incumbent on the Government to see to it that their conditions of service are very favourable so that they will have no cause to regret joining this Corporation.

[SENATOR NZEREM]

I notice throughout the Bill that there is no restriction on the public going to visit the Ordnance factory. I feel very strongly that the factory should be placed out of bounds to the general public, and no one should be allowed to carry a camera there. All these should have been provided for in the Bill. It is not my intention to talk too much about this Bill. If these omissions are inadvertent, I hope they will be looked into in subsequent amendments to the Ordinance.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu** : I beg to support the Bill, but I would like to make some few observations.

The last speaker, Senator Nzerem, has actually struck the nail on the head. He mentioned that there is a military academy in Kaduna, and that it would be unwise for us to establish an ordnance factory in the same place.

It would have been wiser if we sought a more secure place to establish such an important factory which is for the purpose of manufacturing our ammunition.

As I said in my contribution to the debate on the President's Address, I said that the time for us to re-examine our military installation, where they are and how we can place them. It is not wise for us to concentrate them in one place. It would be wise if we start now to spread these installations and a start could be made with the Ordnance Factory which is for the manufacture of ammunition.

I would also like to support the views expressed by Senator Nzerem that there should have been included in this Bill more security measures so that the factory could be barred from the general public or men going to the factory to take pictures or to do anything that will make the place insecure. I would like to ask the Minister of Defence to find ways and means by which this could be effected.

With these short remarks, I beg to support this Bill.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh** : I rise to support the Bill now under discussion, but in supporting it, I have a few remarks to make. That is about the location of our military installations. I really feel that every region in this country needs protection.

I feel that this Bill should provide for the installation or location of this factory in some other place apart from Kaduna. That is my suggestion on this issue.

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu)** : During the debate, some Senators made points which I thought I should clarify before the Question is put. The first point dealt with the question of defining who is supposed to be a fit person to be appointed the General Manager as contemplated in the Bill.

By this person we mean a person who will satisfy—

**Senator Ogundipe** : The Minister is expected to give or make general observation when the debate on this Bill is about to close. There are many members who still want to contribute to the debate on this Bill.

**The President** : The debate is not closing yet. The Minister is just informing you on some points.

**Mr Mbu** : The President is in charge of the Senate. In any case, the person to be appointed will have to meet the requirements which will be set out in our advertisement.

The Corporation will put out proper advertisements, and those who feel they are qualified will apply. I can assure you that the criteria would be such that will be acceptable anywhere. Therefore only the best will be good for us.

A point was also made about the need to insulate the members of the industry from taking strike actions. This is necessary in view of the security arrangement involved in this industry, which cannot be otherwise. But I can assure Senators that this does not in any way minimise the rights which staff and workers under this corporation will enjoy under the protection of the Minister of Defence.

It may be appreciated that it is a common practice that no members of the armed forces or even the Police for that matter, are allowed to strike because of the nature of their work but this does not preclude them from having their remedies met when there is a case for such remedy to be looked into. Therefore, the Minister of Defence, who has overall responsibility in this matter can always give directions

to the Corporation to look into certain grievances and in some cases, he could intervene himself.

Another point was made about the need to ensure that the factory is kept out of bounds. If Senators look at Regulation 12, they will see that the powers envisaged therein are enough to enable the Minister of Defence to regulate or issue general or specific regulations and one of these could well be the keeping of the factory out of bounds. So, there is no *lacuna*, as one would want to say, in this Bill. We have anticipated the need for security and the provisions in section 12, will meet the point made by Senators.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, I made it clear to the Members that we are very well aware of the need to disperse our defence factories. I would like to say it again that we have this point very much in mind and we have not glossed over it.

The Bill envisages not the installation of one defence industry but defence industries. We shall take this point into serious consideration and make sure that all necessary securities are ensured.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** I rise to support this Bill. It is just unfortunate that it has come too late. The nation has spent some money at the taxpayers' expense, in installing an industry up North and this industry will be going into production within the next few months. Now, a Bill is being rushed through to go with this type of business.

Supposing, for purposes of argument, that the Senate throws out this Bill, what will happen to the installation already started in the

North? That is why I say that it is rather too late in coming. This Bill should have preceded the installation at all costs.

The question of manufacturing ammunition in one place and keeping the Ordnance depot and storage at the same place, will not be advisable in view of the fact that these days are days of uncertainty all over the world. In the event of an air attack, both the factory and the Ordnance depot including the manufactured materials, would be destroyed.

I think we should have gone up North to do the manufacture and somewhere down South to do the storage. If this Bill had been brought in earlier, I would have suggested somewhere like Calabar as a nice centre for storage in view of the fact that the Camerouns have now formed their own separate country and the defence in the East has become a problem. In other words, the Federal Government has had an increase in responsibility to cater for Nigerian's Eastern coast, and that could have separated the manufactured goods from the place of manufacture, thereby killing two birds with one stone.

*And it being 11.45 a.m. the President proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed—Friday, 10th April.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn till Friday, 10th April, 1964.—(SENATOR DR E. A. ESIN).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m. till Friday, 10th April, 1964.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA

Friday, 10th April, 1964

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (16th March) as follows :

*I have received with great satisfaction the expression of your thanks for the Speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament.*

(General Acclamation.)

## BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to make the following Business Statement.

To-day, the business of the Senate will be found in the Order Paper.

Tomorrow, Saturday the 11th, there will be Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) (No.2) Bill—Second Reading ; Lagos Executive Development Board Bill—Second Reading and other stages ; Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill—Second Reading and other stages ; Nigeria Legion Bill—Second Reading and other stages.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(20TH MARCH)

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Senator Albaji Abubakar Garba** : This Bill is a very welcome legislation for, when it is passed into law, it will clearly show to the world that in Nigeria no man is above the law ; I repeat, no one is above the law in Nigeria. But the procedure of electing a President by a joint meeting of both Houses of Parliament is, to me, a sort of nomination or a short-term election.

Our Attorney-General and Minister of Justice will be the first man, I am sure, to see that justice must not only be done but must seem to have been done.

I have no doubt that Members of the Lower House are the accredited representatives of the whole Federation. But in my own opinion, the public, the whole nation, should be asked to elect the President of their own choice.

I support the Bill in principle.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju** : I rise to support the Presidential Proceedings Bill. The former speaker has said that nobody is above the law. Personally, I see this Bill as a corollary to the former Bill—the Bill about the appointment of a President. Wherever you have a Bill of that nature, there must be a corollary to it. In other words, there must be checks and balances in our Constitution. The fact that the present holder of that post is above board—he is a man regarded by the whole nation as a father—does not mean that the law must not be made. When we make the law, we do so in anticipation. We do not have to see something come to pass before we come round and say, "All right, it is now time for us to make the law," just as we are doing in the present Presidential Proceedings Bill.

We have already passed in this Senate the Bill about the appointment of a President, and there must be a necessary adjunct to that. In other words, just as we have the rainy season and we also have the dry season, so also we have sun-shine and we have clouds. Similarly, you have appointment and deposition of Chiefs in the different Regional Legislatures. In the same manner, at the Federal level (which, of course, should be the pattern for the whole nation to follow) there must be some checks.

I sincerely hope that we Senators should not be under a misapprehension, or, shall I say, under any apprehension. The fact that a Bill is passed into law merely shows the world that we are prepared for anything at any time. We do not have to wait until something happens before we get up and say, "All right, let us summon Parliament". It is high time for us to do this. I think really that this is a welcome piece of legislation.

I beg to support.

**Senator T. Olamijulo** : In supporting this Bill, I feel that we have done our duty as Senators up till this day, and we are going to continue to do our duty. The fact that many of us opposed the passing of this Bill last time shows that we are reasonable. We wanted to know the views of the people.

**Senator P. A. Ogunjipe :** On a point of order, may I know if a Senator is allowed to speak twice on the same Bill? I remember that the Senator spoke on this particular Bill last time.

**The President :** He did not speak before. Will the Senator proceed?

**Senator Olamijulo :** The fact that many people spoke against this Bill the other time shows that we are matured people. We would like to know the views of the people. The country was cloudy at that time. As such, we would like to show now that we are prepared to support the Bill wholeheartedly. Many people were against it at the first time because we would like to know the views of the people, whether they support it wholeheartedly or not.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** I can see that some people are labouring under some misapprehension that some people opposed this Bill. Nobody in this House, including myself who moved the dilatory Motion, opposed this Bill. All I said, supported by others here, was that the Bill was ill-timed.

Now that the tension threatening the unity of the country has died down, we can proceed with the passage of the Bill. I hope our leaders will not allow the calmness to be like that which precedes volcanic eruption. The Bill is innocuous. However, this is an opportunity to say a few words about our unity.

The President of the Republic is the symbol of our unity. He has shown that during the tension that arose in the country recently. I must warn, and seriously too, those who aspire (and I know we all aspire) to become the President of the Republic in future. I know it is a legitimate aspiration. But we must be sure that whoever is going to be the President of this Republic must be above board. He must have acquitted himself in the past very creditably. We must have the impression that that man has made contributions in this country, contributions well-known to every Tom, Dick and Harry. If anybody is imposed on this nation because he is a big man, or because he aspires, let it be realised that that will be the beginning of trouble.

When I speak about the President of the Republic being a symbol of unity, I do not think it would be inappropriate if I speak of all other things connected with our unity. Our National Anthem reminds us of unity. Our Flag reminds us also of our unity. I am sorry to say that our National Anthem, in my view, has a religious and not a national inspiration.

**The President :** You have to confine yourself to the Bill under discussion.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I might leave this until we come to the item dealing with the Estimate for the President.

**Senator Edward I. Onewokae :** Honestly speaking, I would like to associate myself with my fellow Senators and anyone who, as a lover of unity in Nigeria, opposes this Bill.

When this Bill was deferred on the 20th March, it was a great pleasure to me.

Our leaders preach unity, and we the disciples must see that the unity we preach becomes a reality. No one really opposes this Bill because it does not connect or concern any individual, but it is the timing of it that is wrong. You will agree with me that this is really a trying period for Nigeria, when the people are summing up the feelings about the census.

Now that this Bill is before this Senate, I think we must speak seriously about it. If this Senate has any power to shelve this Bill indefinitely, I would be one of the people to support such a move. But it is not within our power to shelve it indefinitely, I think we have to put it on record that this Bill be deferred for another six months.

In suggesting this, I am taking into consideration the situation now arising in the country—a situation in which we have so many tribalistic feelings, so many political feelings, party feelings. As such, it will not be out of order if this Bill is shelved or deferred for another six months. This will afford an opportunity for Senators to study it and know the implications. For instance, I am only seeing the Bill here to-day.

**The President :** Is the Senator saying that two weeks were not sufficient for him to read through this Bill?

**Senator Onewokae :** The notice was not passed to anybody, especially the new Senators in the Mid-West. That is why I say that this is perhaps my second time of seeing it.

Really, the interpretation of this Bill to the outside world at this moment must be associated with the present political tension in Nigeria. I know that many Members will say no, but conscientiously it is so. This Bill is ill-timed and, therefore, it should be shelved.

In winding up my debate, I strongly criticize this Bill at this moment. We want good government and we are the people who make the good government. If at this time when there are so many ugly feelings in the country about politics here and there, this Bill comes to this House to be passed into law, I will not support it.

I appeal to all my fellow Senators to agree with me that this Bill be deferred for a further six months period within which time, I presume, by God's Grace, everyone will have been able to read the handwriting on the wall about the unity of this country.

I beg to oppose this Bill.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** Mr President and my fellow Senators, this Presidential Proceedings Bill is one that requires a deep consideration. When I say a deep consideration, I do not mean consideration by people who deal with law. We are people of matured age; we are fathers; people who can reason; people who can see far into the future. I am grateful in one way in that immediately this House adjourned, I received some London papers from my children, not necessarily England though. There was a column there in which the same symbol of our unity—the President was being discussed elsewhere.

I must congratulate our Attorney-General because he might have seen this when he was preparing the Bill or he might have heard it elsewhere from his friends who perhaps initiated the idea. As we are all praying for the unity of Nigeria, the symbol of unity in Nigeria, we should not as fathers entertain any fears. If the father of a house starts to put fears into the minds of his children, such a house cannot stand. It is the position of the father to stand firmly, though there may be dangers in front of him. But as an elderly father, the man that has the control of his

house will know how to control his children, his people, his men as well as his own country. In the same way, we should be able to control and advise Members of this Parliament to which we duly belong.

Now, I do not think there is anything in this Bill that we need entertain fears about. We must not allow any animosity or fear to prejudice our minds against this Bill. Some of us perhaps who found time to read it through during these past few days will have seen, as a matter of fact, that when we were born, we were born two in this way. According to a Yoruba proverb, when a new child is delivered, the placenta follows and when the placenta refuses to come, it cannot be said that she has delivered safely. It is when the second one comes that they say, "Oh, she has delivered safely". It is the same thing now, and I know that it will be the duty of the doctor concerned to see that the baby is delivered safely.

We, as fathers in the Upper House, should look into this thing. I do not see why we should defer it for another six months. I do not know to what advantage it will be if we defer this Bill for six months. If some Senators have not had the time or the opportunity to study it, it is a different thing. The mere fact that one has not prepared himself thoroughly for an examination does not prevent the examiner from setting the question papers. It is left to the individual concerned to get prepared. What is the possibility that when we come here in six months' time there will not be any objections to it? After all, you cannot please the whole world. We are here as fathers and as we all know and we see what is going on, what we should all pray for and what we should ask God to guide us and direct us in is the unity of Nigeria. But once we start entertaining fears among ourselves, there may be disaster. If our children in the Lower House start to make noise, we should, as their fathers, put our hands on their heads and tell them to be quiet and that there is nothing wrong.

I am grateful to the Attorney-General for presenting this Bill. I was one of the people who said last time that this Bill should be deferred, and it was my pleasure when it was deferred. We have now had time to study it. It is a Bill worthy of emulation. It is for us to rebuild and recast, and if there is any mistake in the near future, we are here to rectify it. It

will not help us at all if we defer it now, and I do not think that we will be doing ourselves justice.

I know some of us said that if it took the Attorney-General four months to prepare this Bill, why should he want to rush it over in two days and that he should give us some time. I do not know why these Senators did not go home and read this Bill over seriously and bring their own views here. We should not entertain any fears and, therefore, we should not defer this Bill at all.

I beg to support.

**Senator Ekperiri Lamai :** In supporting this Bill, I beg to state that tribal feelings must continue to exist as long as there are ethnic groups in the community of this nation. Political differences must also exist as long as party politics is the order of the day. We quarrelled with this Bill and asked for its deferment because it was not brought to our notice before this House was asked to pass it. Nobody quarrelled with the propriety of this Bill. But what I think Members were saying, in which I joined, was that the timing was unfortunate because of the tension. But as long as there are ethnic groups, there must be tribal feelings and political differences; and if we want to defer the coming into law of this Bill because of political differences and tribal feelings, it means we have to wait till the doom's day.

Therefore, I think that the Bill is proper. We should not impute motives into the Bill. We should all want to see this Bill work when the time comes, and we shall be living witnesses to the real architectural work of the Attorney-General in presenting this Bill at this stage of our Constitutional progress.

In fact the Bill, in itself, is an essential factor which cannot be omitted if the whole constitution of Nigeria is to be followed. We cannot omit one part of the Constitution simply because we feel or anticipate that tribal feelings and political differences are making tensions high in the country.

Tension must continue to be high; political differences must continue and tribal feelings must still exist but laws must have their way in Parliament. I therefore think that there is no other time more suitable than this for the presentation of this Bill in this House.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** When a dilatory Motion was moved last month I was one of those who felt that we should proceed with the discussion of this Bill. Our postponement of discussions on this Bill was not necessitated by the fact that Senators had had no sufficient time to study the provisions of the Bill even though the Minister of Health laboured to prove that the Bill had been shown to Senators long enough and that anybody who had not read it had nobody to blame but himself.

Our fear at that time was that tension was rather high in the country and that it was very likely that this tension might have cooled down by this time. We have now come back to pick up the Bill and may I ask: have tempers cooled down? I do not think so.

During this interval we have had the chance to observe that never in the history of this country have we descended so low to tribalism than at the present time. We have observed that at no time in the history of this nation had the Prime Minister any occasion to warn the general public to respect the President of the Nation but it happened after we had left this House for our various homes on the Easter recess.

We would just be deceiving ourselves if we failed to accept that the situation in this country to-day is worse than we anticipated. I asked at that time whether it could be guaranteed by anybody or by any force whatsoever that within the period between our adjournment and this time things would improve in this country. I agree that as human beings we must anticipate but I am sure that in this case our anticipation has failed.

Now we are being called upon to deliberate on a Bill dealing with the removal of a President duly elected by us, and well-seated at this time when dismissal of persons in authority is the order of the day, when various Ministries are being probed, and when we are afraid whether some Members of our civil service have not in a way divulged official secrets by exposing all the internal workings of the Government departments.

I think that whatever prompted us to postpone discussions on this Bill for three weeks should now prompt us more to delay this Bill for the next six months. It need be the Bill

[SENATOR NWOKE]

should be thrown back to the Lower House and discussions on it should be started all over again.

How can this be done. Discussions on the Bill can start again when the Members of the Lower House have had time to think again on the implications of removing a President. They have to think again on how to cool down the atmosphere to make it suitable for the removal of a President without causing any misunderstanding in the country.

I would like to make myself at home with the happenings in this country at this time. I say this because if we went all out for this tribal warfare that is raging in this country to-day and allowed things to come to the sad end that such tribal warfare can bring, we would all come to regret it. Therefore during this period of unnecessary warfare which is now made necessary by events beyond our control—

**The President :** The Senator should please keep himself within the scope of the subject under discussion.

**Senator Nwoke :** What I am saying is within the scope of the subject under discussion because it deals with the present atmosphere which was anticipated by us three weeks ago. The present atmosphere is not conducive to discussing a Bill such as this.

**Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu :** On a point of Order, the Senator has no right to argue with the Chair.

**The President :** That is no point of order. Will Senator Nwoke continue with his speech please.

**Senator Nwoke :** I was not arguing with the President. And may I point out that it is wrong for Senator Yusifu to refer to the President as the "Chair", he is a President and not a Chairman.

I wish to end my contribution to this debate by asking all Senators to think again and whatever made us to defer this Bill three weeks ago has manifested itself again to make it necessary for us to send the Bill back to the Lower House in anticipation of its being brought back to us here in about six months time when, we think, the atmosphere will be less tense.

I beg to oppose.

**Senator Zanna Medala Abba Sheriff :**

I support this Bill wholeheartedly. There is no reason why Senators should feel that this Bill should be given any other chance. I mean that there is no reason why we should obstruct the passage of this Bill. This Bill was not initiated by any political party or designed to cater for the interests of any particular political party.

As the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice put it last time, the bringing up of this Bill was in continuance of the process of constitutional changes or amendments. This particular item was omitted in our Constitution and now he wants provisions to be made in our Constitution for a case like this.

Personally I see no reason why we should entertain any fear. First of all the post of the President is above politics and we have no quarrel with our present President despite our political differences and tribal warfare. He is unanimously accepted as President and there is no move by any political party or by the Government to think of his removal in any foreseeable future. Why then should we worry about a simple constitutional amendment and begin to introduce all sorts of things like the mounting of political tension in the country, *et cetera*. We created the tension. Irresponsible politicians generally all over the country created the tension and this is quite different from what is laid before us at present.

I think we should not cry wolf when there is no wolf. I am not in favour of shelving this Bill even for another hour. After all we have had copies of this Bill for a long time now and we have had every opportunity of going through it in detail. There is nothing hidden there, and I suppose we are all capable of understanding all the implications. So, why should we delay it? This is a perfectly clear Bill, and as the Attorney-General has said, as it is only a constitutional Amendment.

I think this should have been thought of long before this time, in fact at the time of drafting the constitution. When a man is appointed to fill any post, we should also think of how to remove him if he misbehaves. The two go together—appointment and dismissal. If we appointed the President and we thought there should be a provision in the Constitution for



his removal in the event of any misdemeanour on his part, it is all well and good. So, I see no point in further delaying this Bill and I support its passage.

**Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo :** I rise to support this Bill. Honestly, I do not see anything wrong with this Bill as it merely seeks to regulate the election and removal of the President whenever it is necessary to do so. Perhaps some people may have a different opinion about this Bill that there are ulterior motives behind it, but I do not think so myself.

We were to debate this Bill on the 20th March, but unfortunately it was adjourned until to-day. In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with this Bill. In debating this Bill, we must take for granted that we are not choosing or removing a President. What we are doing is to have a legislation for the election and removal of a President and nobody is being affected by it at the moment. What is now essential is that the opinion of the majority shall be accepted after vigorous protests by some few people. I beg to support.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** I think it is a healthy sign that people of mature judgment, such as Senators are, should see some inappropriateness in bringing the Bill at this time that is, at a time when there is so much tension, and I think the people who have been trying to introduce some delaying tactics in the past are really not to blame.

I think it is a good thing that having regard to the circumstances at the moment, when there are tribal and party conflicts and individuals are quarrelling among themselves, we should hesitate and consider whether or not it will not be immature to bring this Bill. But a good thing, I am sure, can be overdone and after the deferment of this Bill for nearly three weeks, I am sure that Senators have had plenty of time to settle down and to X-ray the Bill itself as a whole, clause by clause.

I am sure that after such exercise, we are now in a position to decide whether it is a good thing or not that this Bill should be passed.

I am very much impressed with the meticulous care with which this Bill has been treated, particularly the detailed attention given it sentence by sentence and clause by clause: the formation of committees, procedure and so

on, and I would like to register my very deep appreciation for the skill and patience exerted by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

I should have thought that why such care has been given to this Bill is because we regard the office of President as very, very important. The carefulness exercised on the preparation of this Bill is a reflection of the regard which we give to the office of the President. We have no doubt about the integrity of the present holder of the office which cannot in any way be called to question. The office itself we regard as the ship's anchor of the unity of this country and for these reasons, Sir, one should have thought, if I may say so, that the President should be given more powers than at the moment.

We in Nigeria are regarded as very conservative, conscious people, and our transition from tutelage into autonomy has been orderly and constitutional, without any trace of bitterness and violence. But sometimes caution can be overdone and I think it is about time we tried to be a little bolder than we are. In our days of tutelage we moulded our parliamentary procedure strictly after that of Westminster because we were then under Great Britain and it was then that we thought that our President should be almost as ceremonial as the Queen of England. I think however that it is about time we had a second look and see whether we cannot now invest the President with more executive powers.

**The President :** I would advise Senator Ejaife to confine his views to the subject under discussion.

**Senator Ejaife :** But I think because we regard the post of President as a very important one, and because we are going to devote so much time to the election of the President, we should as a result of that be quite sure that we are going to select a President whom we can trust and who can deliver the goods. And because we know that the President can be removed we should not be afraid of entrusting him with great powers.

Sir, I might have trod on the threshold of irrelevance but I think you will agree with me in the points I have made.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi :** I rise to oppose the passage of this Bill on the grounds that every Senator in this House knows that there is so much tension in this country at the moment. I do not agree with those who think that the tension has died down considerably although it is our wish that the tension should die altogether. We cannot say, at least for a moment, with any degree of certainty, that there is no motive behind the introduction of this Bill at this particular moment. When I say this, I am not in the least, alluding to the office of the Minister of Justice. One can never tell how things move in our country at the moment. I think that the time is still inopportune for this Bill to be brought to the Senate for consideration.

I was reading a pamphlet the other day and I came across what a Member in the Northern House said. I am not saying or thinking that this Bill is designed against the present holder of the office of the President.

**The President :** Senators should confine themselves to the matter under discussion. I am really very serious about this and I have my reasons. Senators should not go beyond that to discuss what has happened in the country or about the census or anything of the sort.

**Senator Chief Obi :** I am quoting from the *Hansard* of a recent Session of the Northern House of Assembly.

*We have all the time been hearing over the radio the newspapers and so on a certain gentleman directing the affairs against us in one corner. This gentleman who is always regarded as a statesman, we know him as a statesman and so on (Applause). I will like to know.....*

**Senator Abba Sheriff :** On a point of order, I think that if Senator Obi is allowed to read such a thing it will only aggravate the situation instead of lessening it.

**The President :** Let him finish reading.

**Senator Chief Obi :** *I will like to know the stand of this gentleman. Let him tell us what his stand is. He should desist and stop forthwith in attacks of Northern Nigeria or he should resign from his big post of President. To substantiate my suspicion about the Ibo idol, if*

*you can read the Daily Times of these two days ago you observe that he is openly siding Dr Okpara.....*

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief Majekodunmi) :** On a point of order, I think that we have been discussing this Bill for some time and Senators indicated that the reason why we wanted the Bill shelved the last time we met here was because of the tension in the country. Now I cannot see what contribution this quotation can make to the relaxation of the tension. I would like to appeal to Senators not to allow this Bill to deteriorate into tribal warfare.

**The President :** I would like Senator Obi to finish his reading before I make my ruling.

**Senator Chief Obi :** I was saying that there is no intention on my part, at least, to defend anybody at all. I am saying that this Bill is ill-timed. After all, there are many things for Nigeria to do than to hurry the passage of the Bill which purports to hold an inquisition on whoever may be the President of this country.

**The President :** I want to say that what the Senator has read is totally irrelevant to this Bill. I would not like it to come up again.

**Senator Chief Obi :** With these observations I oppose the passage of this Bill.

**Senator A. O. Airewele :** I beg to associate myself with those who have supported the Bill. Many people are of the opinion that the Bill is just like a woman under conception, and that the child might be born in controversy. That is why many of them are afraid. We can see that there is nothing in the Bill to cause any such fear.

A few days ago we all heard what the Prime Minister said. From his speech and from that of other people, Senators will see that what is wanted is that the man at the head should be a trustworthy and sincere man. It means that at the time of election we should be conscious to elect a good President.

I know that many Senators think that anything can happen at any time. I am assuring Senators that some of the politicians who are responsible for the present unrest are even trying to solve the problem now. There is nobody who wants trouble in the country. It will be better if the present tension is solved.

The President holds the chain of unity in this country and there is no time that a wrong President will be chosen. If a wrong President is chosen it must make the situation worse, but it is the wish of everybody that our country should have no more troubles. There is no ulterior motive behind this Bill. We must actually support it.

I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** It is very unfortunate that some people still read some motives into this Bill. To me I do not see any motive in the Bill. Some people think that there is a sort of conspiracy to remove somebody. If it was a conspiracy the Ministers would not have been unanimous in presenting this Bill. I think the majority of the Ministers are the admirers of the President. If there are thirty Ministers, about 29 of them are admirers of that gentleman.

I think we must remember that if there was any move to remove somebody we should have heard that for a long time because some leaders of political parties in this country have already made their own stand clear on the question of presidentship. They said that as far as the President is holding his present powers nobody is interested to unseat him. It is when the Government decides to give more powers to the President that the question of people aspiring to that post will arise. At the moment, I do not think that there is anybody aspiring to that post.

It will therefore be a waste of time to continue to say that the Bill should be deferred. We should not try to cry wolf when in fact there is not even a rat. So, I would now suggest that the Bill be passed, and I now 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 read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 7—(ESTABLISHMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE).*

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** I am a layman and that is why I want some clarification on subsection 4(b) of this Clause. With your permission, Mr President, I will read the portion I am referring to. It reads as follows :

*It shall be the duty of every member of the committee and the legal assessor to be present throughout every meeting of the committee unless he is excused from attendance by the committee on the ground of serious illness ; and a person who—*

*(a) is so excused ; or*

*(b) without being so excused is absent from a meeting of the committee,*

*shall cease to be a member of the committee or its assessor, as the case may be, and shall, in a case falling within paragraph (b) of this subsection, be guilty of contempt of the committee and punishable accordingly.*

Well, if a member of the committee is unavoidably absent from the meeting, say, through accident or illness or on his way to the meeting a bridge collapsed or something else happened to him, shall he be liable to any punishment ?

**Dr Elias :** The Senator has himself read out the whole lot and I am sure that he will appreciate that that particular case he has in mind would fall under 7(4)(a) and not under 7(4)(b).

Where one is prevented from attending a meeting by illness, from the very passage the Senator has read out, we made a provision for that. Surely, there will be a report of what has happened to the chairman of the committee, and that will be a complete answer to any charge that may be brought against whoever is absent under such a circumstance.

What is provided against is anybody taking a French leave from an important matter which is before the committee, because a member's choice would have been very carefully weighed before he is made a member of the committee. We do not want members of the committee to shirk their responsibility by staying away or attending meetings indifferently, because if a member is absent from a particular meeting of the committee he is not likely to be useful in any subsequent proceedings before the committee.

**The President :** Is the Senator now satisfied with the explanation?

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** Thank you, Mr President, I am satisfied.

*Clause 7—(ESTABLISHMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 8-10 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA BILL

#### ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING (20TH MARCH).

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** I just want to know what is the real order in this connection. This was the matter being debated before we rose. If you, Mr President, turn to the proceedings of the 20th of last month, you will find out that Senator Nwoke was speaking before we adjourned only because it was time for us to adjourn.

I would have thought that since we adjourned debate on this Bill before we adjourned sitting, now that we are back he should complete his speech before we proceed.

**The President :** That is a past issue. The matter cannot be raised now.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I think what Senator Chief Onyia was trying to say is that the Bill should not be presented as a new Bill, but—

**The President :** What I am saying is that the Senator who was speaking before we adjourned did not get up again. There is nothing we can do now but to proceed.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA)*

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** I beg to move the following Amendments standing in my name on the Order Paper—

Page C123, line 16, to leave out "Minister" and insert "Council of Ministers."

Page C123, line 22, to leave out "Minister" and insert "Council of Ministers."

In the Lower House the Government was rightly warned by several Members to avoid siting or concentrating defence factories in one place, but the matter was not driven home before the passage of the Bill. My Amendment mainly seeks to remove the concentration of power into one hand to operate defence factories in one place. It is a necessary safeguard to transfer this power to the Council of Ministers instead of to one Minister alone. An obstinate or a fanatical Minister into whose hands this power may fall may misuse it and site the defence factories in one place and one region regardless of the wishes of the people as expressed at the Lower House during the debate on this Bill.

We should not clothe one Minister with the power for operation, maintenance and control in such place or places in Nigeria as the Minister may require. If we do, the Minister can perform his functions as he pleases without the knowledge and consent of his fellow Ministers, and we, who have agreed to pass this Bill into law, to give him such an exclusive power, will stand to be condemned by posterity.

It is only when we have a man like my hon. Friend, the present Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, that we may have nothing to fear. But that is no guarantee that any one who may step into his shoes in future will hearken to the voice of the people and bother himself to read the views expressed by the Legislators before the law was made, empowering him to act alone.

Since the Council of Ministers is expected to wield some authorities as the Minister in this same clause, it is but reasonable that they should have collective responsibility for operation, maintenance and control in such places as they may require and not as one Minister may require.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Dr T. O. Elias) :** May I explain that the views expressed by Senator Chief Onyia

would not really arise in practice. There are two issues involved in this particular subsection of section 1.

The first point to make is that the fact that the Minister of Defence is given the power to nominate places where ordnance factories may be sited does not leave it in his exclusive discretion. Under section 93 of the Constitution, the principle of collective responsibility to which he referred governs this matter. Whenever any Minister is given overall responsibility for any matter coming within his portfolio, he is expected to bring the matter to Council; he does not decide it on his own. I know the belief is popular that when you mention a Minister in a Bill, it means that that Minister decides everything all on his own. In fact, Government does not operate in that way. Without letting out any Cabinet secret, a Council memorandum is always prepared, setting out the full details of the scheme proposed, sites suggested and so on, and all these will be fully debated in Council before a decision is taken. Very often the proposals of the Minister are overruled and modified and what comes out represents Cabinet decision, even though the Minister is mentioned by name. That is the first point.

The second point—I am sorry we have not the Laws of Nigeria here, the volume of 1960—I am referring to another Bill called the Army Act, 1960, section 6 of which lays down precisely the responsibilities of the Minister and of the Council of Ministers in regard to the armed forces. There you will notice that in line 20 we speak of the Council of Ministers authorising the disposal of the armed forces. That is in accordance with section 6 of that Act, but the same section 6 of that Act authorises the Minister in charge to bring to the Council of Ministers the matters which we specify in lines 16 and 20 to which Senator Chief Onyia is now directing his attention. So, the constitutional position as well as the provisions of the Army Act have been carefully considered before this particular sub-paragraph was provided and it is in full accord with the Constitution and the governing law.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** In view of the explanations made by the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, I beg to withdraw.

But you see, as legislators, not being conversant with all the laws he is mentioning now—we are not lawyers, we have not read them—

we would not know that such safeguards had already been provided in the Laws of Nigeria. In one clause "Minister" alone is used and in another clause "Council of Ministers" is used. So I started to think that once you want the Council of Ministers to have control at all, they should have control of all and not clothe one man with so much power.

Thank you, I wish to withdraw.

*Amendments, by leave, withdrawn.*

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

*Clause 3—(APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF GENERAL MANAGER).*

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** In Clause 3, subsection (1) it is said—

*The Minister may from time to time appoint a fit person to be general manager of the corporation. The general manager shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation, and as and when directed so to do, he shall give to the corporation such information as to the activities of the corporation as the Minister or the corporation may reasonably require.*

My contention is that the qualification of the person ought to be given. What prevents a Minister from appointing an Office Messenger as a fit person? You may think it is not possible, but politicians are capable of doing many things, and we should be very careful in our law.

**Several Senators :** No, no.

**Senator Nzerem :** Senators are saying no, no, but it has happened in the past, and may happen again.

I feel that, in view of the importance of the general manager, something like having business qualification or B.Sc. (Engineering) or some sort of qualification like that should be specified, so that the Minister himself may be guided, because it may not be the present Minister of Defence who will make that appointment. This law may not be amended for the next thirty or forty years. I am suggesting that the qualification of the person to be appointed as General Manager of the Corporation be given, and not merely to state that he should just be a fit person.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I think it is unfortunate that my Friend, Senator Nzerem, has assumed that messengers will never rise above their status in life. I think examples are

[SENATOR MAJEKODUNMI]

seen throughout the whole world where messengers have risen to become heads and chairmen of corporations. The Chairman has just reminded me that even the President of Soviet Russia, Mr Khrushchev, was a messenger before.

I think in a democratic society, opportunities should be given to everybody to improve his status. I am not saying that the Minister is going to appoint one of the messengers in his Ministry, but certainly he will appoint a fit and proper person to be the head of this Corporation. I think the law cannot tie him down to a description of the qualification of the person he should appoint.

**Dr Elias** : May I draw Senator's attention to at least two provisions of the Bill. Since Senator Nzerem is talking about the General Manager, I shall read the portions of the Bill which refers to the General Manager. Section 4 deals with all categories of staff, but section 4 (3) refers to the General Manager.

Section 4 (3) reads as follows—

*The general manager and other members of the staff of the corporation shall, unless exempted by the Minister, take such oaths as to secrecy and other matters as the Minister may from time to time direct.*

Now, section 4 (1) reads :

*Subject to the provisions of this section, the corporation may appoint such persons as members of its staff as it considers necessary and may approve conditions of service, including provision for the payment of pensions :*

*Provided that no pension scheme shall be put into operation without the prior approval in writing of the Federal Minister charged with responsibility for pensions.*

Now, if you turn later on to section 12, you will find that we already make allowance for the point raised by Senator Nzerem. Section 12 reads :

(1) *The Minister may make regulations generally for the purposes of this Act.*

(2) *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations—*

(a) *for prescribing the terms and conditions of service of the general manager and other servants of the corporation ;*

(b) *for regulating the procedure in the activities of the corporation other than at meetings ;*

(c) *for prescribing danger zones within or outside an ordnance factory.*

This is the normal way in which we always set up our corporations. You will not find in any of the existing pieces of legislation dealing with the various corporations, at any moment, any explicit statement that the holder of an office shall have a B.Sc. or an LL.B. degree. It is never done at all. They are always provided for in regulations for which we have made adequate provision in section 12 of this Bill.

**The Chairman** : Is Senator Nzerem now satisfied ?

**Senator J. K. Nzerem** : I do not think my objections are met. I wonder if the legal expert is now telling me that prescribing the terms and conditions of service is the same thing as determining a person's qualifications ? As far as I can see, since qualification is not stated, conditions of service should not be taken as embodying qualification.

**Dr Elias** : The terms and conditions of service embrace qualifications as well. These have to be determined before a person is appointed.

**Mr Nzerem** : If that is so, I am satisfied.

Clause 3—APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF GENERAL MANAGER—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 4-14—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

Sitting suspended : 10.27 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.45 a.m.

LAGOS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
(POWERS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule). I rise to move that this Bill be now read a Second time. This is a short Bill which I am taking on behalf of my Colleague the Minister of Lagos Affairs. As can be seen from the Bill itself, it is a non-

controversial Bill and one that merely seeks to give the Lagos Executive Development Board powers to act as an agent of the President of the Republic and as an agent of any Minister of the Government of the Federation on such terms as would be agreed upon between the Minister and the Board.

Under the Lagos Town Planning Act, the Lagos Development Board is empowered to undertake operations which are covered by schemes made under the authority of the Act. Occasionally, however, it undertakes execution of projects not covered by schemes under the Act, at the request of and on behalf of the Federal Government. A few of such projects are the South East Ikoyi Development, and the Victoria Island Reclamation and Site Development.

The propriety of such undertakings has been questioned and the Board's authority to undertake them has been challenged in the law courts and this has resulted in the delaying of payment of compensations, and the hardships to some of the claimants are considerable.

As the law now stands, no power is vested on the Board to undertake such works other than those relating to town planning scheme which the Minister of Lagos Affairs may direct. If, however, the Board is to operate outside these schemes, it is necessary to amend the Act to confer on the Minister of Lagos Affairs powers to authorise the Board to undertake such projects as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

This Bill, therefore, provides a means of extending the powers of the Lagos Executive Development Board, so as to enable it undertake these projects as an agent of the Federal Government.

As I said earlier, this Bill is non-controversial, very short and straightforward.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi** : As the hon. Minister of Mines and Power has said, this Bill is entirely non-controversial. There is no doubt that there is a shortage of living space in Lagos, and anything that can be done to relieve this situation, will be welcome.

I support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, ETC. (LAGOS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to make provision for the removal of motor vehicles left on highways in Lagos, be now read a Second time.

Senators will see that this Bill must come, as it has now come. It is not my intention to waste the time of this Senate by making a long speech to introduce a simple and straightforward Bill of this nature. This Bill seeks to make provision for the removal of vehicles that are left in the highways in Lagos.

This is a matter that is becoming more and more complex each day as more vehicles are put on the road. It is common knowledge that traffic is brought to a halt far too frequently by selfish acts of motorists who leave their vehicles in positions which prevent the free flow of traffic. Up to the present, this problem has been tackled by the by-laws of the Lagos City Council under its permissive powers.

By this Bill, fresh provisions will be made by which motor vehicles left in the highways in Lagos in breach of parking regulations can be removed and taken to vehicle parks which the Lagos City Council is being required to maintain.

By means of this Bill also, it is intended to deal with another very important problem, namely those vehicles unlawfully operating as taxis in the Federal Territory.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs has in the past received a number of delegations and petitions from Federal Taxi Drivers Union on this matter and he has given considerable thought to the ways and means of dealing with this problem effectively. This Bill, therefore, provides for the arrest of any person acting as the driver of a motor vehicle or the driver's assistant in such circumstances as a police officer reasonably believes that the motor vehicle is being used for contravention of any enactment relating to the use of taxis *et cetera*.

[MINISTER OF MINES & POWER]

I believe that with the judicious use of this power, the problem will be effectively dealt with. It is the intention of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, when the Bill becomes law, to ask the Lagos City Council to give it wide publicity so that motor car owners and taxi drivers will not complain of lack of publicity.

I beg to move.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I beg to second.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I must congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for introducing this Bill at this particular time. The traffic congestion in Lagos is such as warrants the enactment of this law. However, as the hon. Minister who introduced the Bill said, judicious use of the power will be of great benefit to the people—motorists in particular—in Lagos.

But a warning must be given to the police not to abuse the power. The Nigeria Police has a very good reputation, but I am afraid the Nigeria Traffic Police has not got an equally good reputation. I am not resident in Lagos and I do not know what they are capable of doing here. But in the provinces outside Lagos, as one travels from Lagos to the East, West, North or Mid-West, one sees to one's dismay, what our Traffic Police Officers can do.

I am hoping, however, that if a man's car breaks down on the road accidentally, the police will not come and take the car away and then put the man to court. A break down may be an act of God, for which an innocent person should not be held responsible.

So, I believe that with judicious use of this power, the Police will be doing a great service to motorists in Lagos and it is on this back ground that I support the Bill and welcome it wholeheartedly.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** This Bill is non-controversial and I congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for introducing this sort of Bill at this particular time. In spite of his onerous duties, he has found time to bring this pleasant piece of legislation.

There is, nevertheless, one aspect of the Bill that is rather doubtful, and that is Clause 1 (1)—Removal of vehicles from highways. I beg to quote :—

*Where a motor vehicle is stationary on a highway, any police officer of or above the rank of inspector may, subject to subsection (3) of this section, cause the vehicle to be removed to a removed vehicle park if—*

I do not know how long that standing vehicle might have been there. A lot of people come from the Regions and they do not know the traffic regulations operating here. An injudicious application of the law might embarrass far too many people who erroneously put their cars in the way. They will certainly start to struggle with some policemen or persons ordered by the Police to remove the vehicles.

In that particular case, I feel that they must state some reasonable and specific length of time during which vehicles have to stay on the road before they are removed. We know our people. A lot of them will pretend to be policemen just to find another way of stealing cars. So that as soon as one parks one's car on the road, one will see somebody struggling to remove it. If the remover is asked why he is doing so he will say that it is causing obstruction and must be removed.

As the hon. Minister has explained it to us, I do not think that anybody will quarrel with the law. However, in the case of licensed taxis, care should be taken to find out those that come from the Regions and are thus not duly licensed to operate in Lagos. In that event, I think it is only the security officers that can get round those people who operate illegally and bring them to book. I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator P. A. Ogunjipe :** In view of the congestion on the roads in Lagos, this Bill is very welcome. But, in support of the former Senators who spoke, I am afraid that the Police and the Lagos City authorities will easily abuse the power that this Bill seeks to give them unless they are properly warned.

The duty of the Police is not to harass people who are not likely to commit an offence except through ignorance. Their duty is to warn people, put them right and prevent them from committing an offence.



Unfortunately, this is not what happens in this country. In Lagos, of course, it is much better because many people know their right; the ordinary man-in-the-street seems to know his right and can probably argue with the Police and even tell them off.

In the Regions, the reverse is the case. A policeman often considers himself the sole authority, the over-lord. He is in many cases very proud and offensive. Of course, we Senators and Members of Parliament do not claim to be above the law. But if a Member of Parliament comes from the Regions with a semi-illiterate or an illiterate driver who cannot read the notices, no sooner the driver stops somewhere on the road than a police officer comes round and without even listening to any apology or explanation and takes it upon himself to harass the driver and cause his car to be taken away. This can be very annoying and embarrassing. So, we wish that the Police should be asked to be sympathetic and co-operative. They should warn and prevent people from breaking the law instead of taking advantage of their position to harass people.

I may just quote an example which is very relative to this. We all realise that the "Noiseless Zones" notices have recently come up. The first time I saw them myself, and I think I understand some English, I did not understand them to mean no hooting. I thought that "Noiseless Zone" referred to people, wayfarers, loafers, and others who have nothing to do but come to the Marina or somewhere around the area and begin to make a noise.

But one day my driver unfortunately hooted and a policeman came round. I did not cross-check before he did. I said to the policeman that I did not understand "Noiseless Zone" to mean no hooting. I simply understand it to mean that there should not be any noise. Well, if the policeman were polite he could have given the driver the first warning as that was the first offence he had committed.

After all, it was only a hoot; not a continuous hooting. But the policeman started to harass us. When I told him that I was a Senator he cashed on that to annoy me further. He decided to drag me to court. But I defeated him because I was never so sober. I did not understand "Noiseless Zone" to mean that. Of course, I was not the one driving at that moment.

The more our policemen can be considerate with people — particularly people who are ignorant of the law, although they should not indulge them — the better things will be for them, and the better recognition and sympathy we in this Parliament will have for their own good condition and improvement in their condition of service.

I have just said these few words to support the Bill. At the same time, I will say that the Police should please co-operate with drivers either of taxis or of private cars, but particularly of private cars. Owners of private cars are usually gentlemen and gentle women who are not interested in breaking the law.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu:** In supporting the Bill, I wish to associate myself with the previous speakers. In fact, this Bill seeks to ease congestion on Lagos roads. But, what matters most is the judicious application of the law. A car owner is usually in a dilemma if his car happens to break down.

For instance, if the car of a person coming from the regions breaks down in one of the Lagos roads, he has to look round for people to help him to remove it from the road. He may return to find that his car has been removed by the police to a place he does not know. When he eventually finds his car, he discovers, to his regret that some of the parts have been removed. For this reason, a strong warning must be given to the Police, that sufficient notice must be given to any car owner whose car is parked on the road. Definitely, nobody will like to leave his car if it breaks down on the road. But if it happens that a car breaks down and is left there for too long a time, the law should take its course.

My last warning is that the Police must be well advised not to remove a car on the road without giving sufficient notice to the owner.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator T. Olamijulo:** As others have said, there is nothing bad in this Bill at all. The fact is that nobody who goes about in his car would like it to break down on the road. Many a time, a new car gives trouble. If we agree on that, then it normally follows that old cars will give a lot of trouble as well.

[SENATOR OLAMIJULO]

It is very important that the police should be vigilant. Over zealotness can at times prevent people from appreciating the need for vigilance on the part of policemen. People coming from the interior to Lagos find it difficult to know exactly the rules and regulations operating in Lagos. Ignorance of the law will not prevent anybody from being penalised because in the absence of justice none of us would see salvation!

It is essential that police men should do their work with caution. It would be wrong for policemen to jump on any car owner without asking why the owner has left his car on the road. I think that the police should do their duty very well and exercise some patience along with it.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** This Bill is a welcome one. Our contributions are only designed to suggest ways and means by which the police should handle cars which are wrongly parked, not only when the cars are broken down, but when the cars are not properly parked.

Some people leave their cars where the cars can cause accidents. They leave their cars for a long time on very dangerous spots and go ashopping. Wrong parking of cars and lorries has caused many accidents on our roads. Some people leave their cars on the road when the cars develop engine trouble. If this happens at night, these people do not put on their headlights to show the oncoming traffic that cars are on the road, thereby causing accident.

The suggestion to prosecute anybody who parks his car in a wrong place is a very wise one. I commend the Minister for his foresight. In this way, the congestion of cars in the City of Lagos will be properly controlled.

Coming to the question of cars wrongly parked, I think the police should give sufficient notice to the car owners. If a car is wrongly parked and the owner or the driver of the car is available, I think the police should only ask the driver or the owner to remove it. If the owner of the car is available, the car should not be taken away. If the policeman takes the owner of the car to the station, leaving the car behind, some parts of the car might have been removed by the time the owner comes back.

It is essential that sufficient advice should be given to the police so that they would be very careful when they perform their duties.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju :** I rise to associate myself with the other Senators who have spoken about this progressive piece of legislation.

Lagos is the Federal capital. Whatever we can do to reduce the congestion and to improve parking conditions in the Federal capital is welcome. I sincerely hope that the Federal Government will come to the aid of the Lagos City Council in this matter.

It is not sufficient to pass a Bill of this nature without making adequate provisions for parking spaces. I hope that the Minister concerned will bring this to the notice of the Federal Government so that adequate provisions can be made for parking spaces, particularly at certain important shopping centres. The parking spaces may be provided underground or wherever competent engineers consider suitable. There should be enough parking spaces.

Side by side with this, I agree with the others who have spoken on this question of cars breaking down on the road. It could happen to anybody. After all human beings die and machines break down. There is nothing one can do about that. There should be something about time limit.

If a car breaks down on the road and it is in a particular corner, a time limit should be given within which the car should be removed. It may be three or four hours, or even a day, but the car should not be removed by the police until the time given has expired. So that if anything happens to anybody coming from the provinces, it is within his competence to look for those who can help him to remove the car or repair it in time and clear it off the road.

As the Bill now stands, there seems to be nothing about that. No provision is made as regards time limit. If a car breaks down this minute, the next minute the policemen will come round and begin to harass, embarrass the owner and of course remove the car immediately to another place where probably one has to spend a lot of money before one can have it back. I think it is necessary, at least, to think of the time element.

Then there is this question of publicity. It is very necessary that we write it out, if possible, in some main languages. Let people know where they are expected to park and what they should do at certain points. Get up posters and give them enough publicity so that people may know precisely what we are after.

On the question of taxis, we are agreed that all vehicles using our roads should be properly licensed and properly registered. But I sincerely hope we are not going to use this to reduce the number of taxis operating in the Federal Capital, because the more taxis we have the better for the users. In a free or open market, you can go and bargain with anybody, but when you reduce the number of taxis, you are in a fix because, whether you like it or not, you have to pay anything demanded. So, whatever we can do, it is necessary to have all the taxis properly licensed and registered, but I sincerely hope we will allow as many as possible to be licensed.

I beg to support.

**Senator P. Okoro :** In supporting this Bill, we must understand that the law is made for the comfort of man and for the protection of our people. We centre our attention on the Police at the moment. I am not defending the Police, but everything depends on the approach. I think we are mixing the breaking down of a car with the parking of a car. If a car is broken down in a place where cars should not be parked, nobody is expected to carry his car on his head at that moment.

If any policeman comes to you at that time, it is your duty to explain to the policeman (who is a human being like you and who is prepared to hear you).

**Several Senators :** Is Senator Okoro sure of what he is saying ?

**Senator Okoro :** I have had trouble some time ago with the Police. On explanation, they allowed me to go. Therefore, if we are adopting this Bill, it is of no use blaming the Police or telling the Police what to do. It is their duty to implement the Bill. We should first of all know how to approach people.

Somebody said that he is a Member of Parliament. Is it the rule that if a Member of Parliament goes against the law he should go scotfree ? (Some Senators : No.) Well, then

everything depends on the method of approach to the policemen.

A Senator is asking if I had been a policeman before. I wish to say that I was never a policeman.

If we are passing this Bill, we should do so without blaming the Police.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

THE REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, ETC. (LAGOS)  
BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM HIGHWAYS).*

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** It is a pity I was not given the chance to say something on this before we came into Committee. However, what I want to say is that there is sufficient ground that even in the City of Lagos there are lots of vehicles parked in the highways which ought not to be. I have myself reported this to both the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Lagos City Council and nobody has taken any action to remove these vehicles. When somebody goes out and his car breaks down, it is the duty of the Police or the City Council to remove it for the safety of other road users. If Senators will care to come with me, I can show them these vehicles along our highways and nobody is taking any action to remove them. I am appealing to the Minister to see to this.—

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** On a point of order, the Senator is not debating the Bill and I think he is irrelevant.

**Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu :** When they said 'reasonable grounds', what are reasonable grounds ? That is what I am trying to put to the Committee. If we are making law at all we should make law to protect everybody. Why should A and B be left out and C and D punished because their cars broke down on the road ?

I am inviting the Minister of Lagos Affairs as well as the City Council to look into that. There are thousands and one Lorries and buses on the highway to-day which are not removed and which constitute a danger to the public. I have seen it happen quite recently about two weeks ago. There are about four buses which

[SENATOR CHIEF HOPONU-WUSU] have broken down on the highway and they have not been removed up till to-day. The Police were invited to the scene and up till now they are still there.

**The Chairman :** I think the Senator speaking is out of order.

**Senator J. M. Egbuson :** Mr Chairman, I wish to speak on clause 1 subsection (1), and I quote :

*Where a motor vehicle is stationary on a highway, any police officer of or above the rank of inspector may, subject to subsection (3) of this section, cause the vehicle to be removed to a removed vehicle park—*

It would appear that the work of the Police, as far as this law is concerned, is very unpopular. I sympathise with the Police here. For instance, we have a policeman ordering a vehicle to be removed. If a vehicle is broken down maybe due to engine trouble, or it may be even due to tyre trouble, is a Police Inspector in a position to be able to cause such a vehicle to be removed? Why not make this the duty of a servant of the Council and leave the Police out of this entirely?

I do not see why the Police should be brought into this. After all, this law affects only Lagos, and the Lagos City Council is well staffed. It has enough of trained servants to do the work of the Police, especially as some Senators have expressed that the Police are corrupt. Policemen generally are good, but Traffic Police are of no use. Now, we are bringing Traffic Police into this. Why not leave the Police entirely out of this and get servants of the City Council to be the people responsible for seeing that disabled vehicles are cleared, and leave the Police entirely out?

After all, the Police have quite a number of important duties to perform for you and for me in this City of Lagos. It is my view that the Police should not be brought into this at all.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) :** Senators would agree with me that matters or laws of this kind should only be carried out by those people who understand the matters and who can

administer them very well. I do not think that it would be proper to ask somebody who knows nothing about the law to carry it out because he may miscarry out the law and the situation he would thereby create would be worse than what we are now expressing, particularly when the law is as it is in this case one that affects traffic conditions.

There is a section of the Police Force that is responsible for the traffic conditions, and for that reason therefore anything concerning vehicles should appropriately be the concern of that particular section. Since the removal of cars is something connected with traffic matters, I think the traffic section of the Police Force should be more appropriately responsible for this than anybody else. I do not think that Lagos City Council workers will be good enough for this job.

Now we have been talking about possible damages or some faults or other defects to cars. I think the Police may be able to find out when they come across any such vehicle wrongly packed whether there is this or that defect, whether it is a case of wilful wrong packing and they may be sympathetic towards the owner or driver of the car if the situation demands any sympathy. A labourer may not know these things and, therefore, may not be in a position to sympathise with the owner or driver of the vehicle. I do feel, and Senators will agree with me, that the Police should more appropriately be charged with this responsibility and not the Lagos City Council.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** The views expressed in this House are to the effect that cars, or vehicles generally, which break down on the roads should be taken care of and not automatically removed by anybody in charge of such removal. In consequence of this, I am moving an Amendment to insert after the word "power" the words "provided that the vehicle which breaks down does not stay there for more than fifteen minutes."

**Several Senators :** An hour will be better.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** Well, an hour is all right if that is the wish of Senators. What I am particular about is that there should be provision for a time limit after which such a vehicle should be removed by the people in charge of such removal.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** This is not the Senator's original Amendment. His Amendment stipulates a time limit of fifteen minutes. I do not think that he can now change the fifteen minutes to one hour.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** What I am particular about is that a time limit should be stipulated. I would not mind changing my original fifteen minutes to one hour if that is the opinion of this House, and I do not think that it is too late for me to amend my Amendment. I can amend it to read "an hour". According to the Standing Orders, we can still make amendments even at the stage when we are already speaking on any matter. The Minister is there to use his own discretion.

If the Minister feels that there should be a time limit provided for the car which breaks down to be on a particular spot before it falls under the clause of this law, he can say that a car that breaks down might be allowed to stay on the spot for such and such a time before it is removed. That is all that I am about.

If the Minister feels that the time limit is a reasonable provision to be added to this Bill, let him do it in the way he feels it should be done. It is, however, the opinion of all of us that there should be a time limit, otherwise a car that breaks down might not be given any chance at all. An unfortunate man's car might just develop engine trouble anywhere and the car might consequently break down. The Police might, without giving any chance for the owner to get it off the road, remove the car and the owner asked to pay removal fee before he can have his car back. To see that no such thing happens is my reason for moving this Amendment.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I would like to comment on Senator Chief Onyia's Amendment. For a car to break down is one thing, but it is another thing to determine for how long that car may be allowed to remain on the highway before it is removed by people in charge of such removal. Traffic being what it is in Lagos, what I would have suggested Senator Onyia should put across is that where there is a breakdown caused by any reason beyond the fault of the owner or driver of the vehicle, the question of removal fee or any such thing should be removed.

In Lagos, if there is a breakdown, say, on the Carter Bridge, and the vehicle is allowed to remain there for, say an hour, we all know what this will mean to the traffic situation. Our roads are not wide enough. They are still very narrow and the Carter Bridge is the only bridge that links the Lagos Island with the Mainland, and if we should allow a car to remain on one spot on the Carter Bridge for one hour, we all know what amount of suffering that will cause to people in other vehicles. What I would therefore like to suggest is that, where there is a breakdown which is not due to the fault of the driver or owner of the vehicle, there should be no removal fees charged but the vehicle should necessarily be removed. I wonder if the House would consider that.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I would not mind at all if that is the wish of this House. All we are looking for is to see that a vehicle owner is not unnecessarily penalised for the breakdown of his car on the highway.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** I think the whole thing boils down to this that the suggestion being constantly made by Senators since the morning, namely that this law should be judiciously used by the Police, be taken into careful consideration. Putting any time limit to the provisions of this Bill may or may not be to the convenience of vehicle owners or to the general public as a whole. I do not think that we should specify any time in this particular respect. We should leave the whole thing to the judgment, and reasonable judgment too, of the Police and the car owners. But this much I shall say that the suggestion made by Senators about the judicious use of the law is so very good and so very commendable that I shall make it, and very vigorously too, a point to be given careful consideration by the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

I beg to oppose the Amendment.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** If the Minister is prepared to do what he has told us, provided that he makes it imperative on the Minister of Lagos Affairs, I beg to withdraw.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** I just want to make a short comment on Clause 1 of this Bill. It

[SENATOR OLAMIJULO]  
is just a very small point which I think Senators have not paid attention to Clause 1 subsection (1) reads:

*"Where a motor vehicle is stationary on a highway any police officer of or above the rank of inspector may..."*

According to the section which I have just read, the work of removal is limited to Inspectors and officers above the rank of Inspectors and no other police officer can do this. In my opinion, this is in effect saying that this work is not going to be done at all. How many Inspectors of Police and other officers above that rank have we? Even if we gather all of them together to do this job in Lagos, forgetting that they all still have other jobs to do, it will be impossible to carry the work out successfully.

**Senator Chief Beyioku:** On a point of order, the Lagos City Council has its own detachment of Police attending to this sort of job.

**The President:** This is not a point of order.

**Senator Olamijulo:** The Senator does not have to raise a point of order.

I am here referring to the Nigeria Police. I could not care less whether the Lagos City Council has a detachment of its Police attending to this sort of job or not. What I am saying is that this job should be left to the Police generally, and not confined to the senior section of the Police alone.

I am not certain whether the Senator is aware that already policemen have been working on this; they have been removing the vehicles and their drivers have been arrested. I wonder whether we can allow every policeman to do this job. I think there must be some people to issue instructions—the senior officers—and others to carry out the instructions and these are the junior officers.

*Clause 1—(REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM HIGHWAYS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 2-7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1963-64) (No. 2) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency, the President, to move that a Bill entitled—

An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Six

Hundred Pounds for the purposes of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund for the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act, be read a Second time.

Since the last meeting of Parliament in January, expenditure has been authorised by me from the Contingencies Fund for two urgent and inescapable items, namely reimbursement to universities for carrying on non-University courses taken over by them from the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and repairs to the piers of the Carter Bridge recently damaged by a barge.

It was Government's intention that these non-degree courses should be run by the Regional Universities until all the students already pursuing the courses have completed their training. £215,000 was, therefore, urgently required by the National Universities Commission to reimburse the Regional Universities for the running of the courses.

The other payment of £15,000 out of the Contingencies Fund was in respect of repairs to the main bearing of one of the supports of the spans of the Carter Bridge which was damaged and moved out of position by a barge.

The repairs to the Carter Bridge could, in no way, be postponed especially as the bridge is the only link between the Island of Lagos and the rest of the Federation. There is no doubt that this expenditure was urgent and inescapable, and therefore, could not be postponed.

The Finance (Control and Management) Act requires that I report these releases from the

Contingencies Fund to Parliament and to seek parliamentary approval to reimburse the fund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the bill be now read the Third time.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved : That the Senate do now adjourn.*

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

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA

## NIGERIAN LEGION BILL

*Saturday, 11th April, 1964**The Senate met at 9 a.m.*

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.***The President :** Sitting is suspended for twenty minutes.*Sitting suspended : 9.10 a.m.**Sitting resumed : 9.30 a.m.***The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson) : I beg to—**Senator Chief E. Boyo :** On a point of order, I have not received a copy of the Bill.**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of order, it is irregular for that matter to be raised now that the Bill has been introduced.**The President :** The point of order of Senator Ukattah is accepted.**Chief Johnson :** I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the National Provident Fund Act 1961, be now read a Second time.

I am sure that Senators will agree with me that this is a straightforward Bill. All we are intending to do by this Bill is to make it easy, not only for the investment committees to do their work unhampered, but to enlarge it in such a way that the Regions will be represented in their bid to do all that is necessary under this Bill with the Federal representatives. It has been cleared with the Regions.

I am sure that this Bill will be welcomed by all Senators, and I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.*Question put and agreed to.**Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.**Order for Second Reading read.***The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make fresh provision with respect to the Welfare of Ex-Servicemen ; and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to set up a new Ex-Servicemen's Association in place of the Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association that has been in existence since 1946. The new Association, which will be called "the Nigerian Legion", will have the same general function as its predecessor, that is, promoting the welfare of ex-servicemen and comradeship amongst them.

Senators will wonder why it is necessary to replace N.E.W.A. by a body that has the same aims as N.E.W.A. As my Colleague, the Minister of Internal Affairs, said in the House of Representatives, although N.E.W.A. has done very good work for ex-soldiers, it has somehow not been able to retain the confidence and backing of a large section of ex-servicemen.

One reason for this lack of confidence appears to be the undemocratic Constitution of N.E.W.A. which does not provide for elected Councils. The result is that, side by side with this government body, there have existed a large number of other ex-servicemen's organisations that are opposed not only to N.E.W.A. but some times also to one another.

There has been a very bad split amongst our ex-soldiers, and it is to remove this situation and bring all the ex-servicemen together in a truly national body that this Bill is introduced.

I must hasten to explain that this Bill is not something imposed on the ex-servicemen by the Government. On the contrary, it is the direct result of conferences of all ex-servicemen's unions held in my Colleague's Ministry and it represents ex-servicemen's wishes freely and unanimously expressed. The only thing about which there was no unanimity was the name to be given to the new body. Some ex-servicemen wanted it to be called "The Nigerian Supreme Council of War Veterans" while others, who were in the minority, preferred the name 'Nigerian Legion'. Govern-



ment has accepted the latter name because the former excludes from membership of the Association ex-soldiers without war service.

The Nigerian Legion which this Bill seeks to establish will be founded on a broader basis than N.E.W.A. Its Constitution will also be much more democratic than that of N.E.W.A. While N.E.W.A. has only Regional and Central Councils, none of which includes elected representatives, the Nigerian Legion will be organised on sub-area, area and Regional basis, with a National Council at the top, and most of its Councils will have elected representatives.

The Bill is straightforward, and there are one or two points about it to which I would like to draw the attention of Senators.

It will be observed that the definition of the term 'Ex-Servicemen' includes a reference to the 'Armed Forces of the Crown'. This is necessary because without this reference, persons who served in the United Kingdom Air Force would be excluded from the Legion.

Further, the Bill provides for directions to be given to the Legion and for rules for the management of the Legion's funds to be made by the Ministers of Finance and Internal Affairs jointly.

Senators will agree that steps should be taken to ensure the proper disbursement and accounting of the funds of the newly created body. My Colleague has, since the Bill was passed in the House of Representatives, received many congratulatory messages from Ex-Servicemen all over the Republic welcoming the introduction of this piece of Legislation. For this reason, I am certain that Senators, with their mature thinking, will also give it the same welcome.

I beg to move.

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

**Senator S. Eyitayo**: I rise to support this Bill and I like to congratulate the Government for bringing it at this time. We all remember the war years, 1939-45, when many of our able-bodied men went to war. Some of them were killed in the battle, and out of many of those who returned, some were wounded and incapacitated, with the result that they could not be of use to themselves, much less to their people,

On reading through papers about other civilised countries, we know the position into which this kind of people were put. But in our own country, it seemed that we recognised the value of these people only during the war time but after the war we neglected them; we do not want to do anything for them again. But Government has now taken the right step in deciding to help these people, and I am very glad that Government is so much interested in them that it is willing to provide a sum of money as may be determined fit to give to them.

This Bill is very welcome and anything that we can do to help these ex-soldiers to have better conditions of life in their remaining years of life is a step in the right direction.

However, there is one thing which shocks me in the Bill, and I beg permission of the President to quote. That is with regard to the First Schedule, Clause 5—The national council.

*There shall be established in respect of the Federation a council, to be known as the National Council of the Nigerian Legion, consisting of the following members, that is to say—*

(a) *two ex-servicemen nominated by the Minister;*

(I have no quarrel with that.)

(b) *the chairmen of the regional councils and the Lagos Council;* (I have no quarrel with that too).

(c) *six members of the regional council for Northern Nigeria selected by that council;* (That is alright).

(d) *four members of the regional council for Eastern Nigeria selected by that council;* (That is alright too).

(e) *two members of the regional council for Western Nigeria selected by that council;*

(f) *two members of the regional council for Mid-Western Nigeria selected by that council;* and

(g) *two members of the Lagos council selected by that council.*

It is the composition of the three other component parts that I do not know what is responsible for, and I would like the Minister to explain furthermore why the Mid-Western Region is given two members and Western Region two.

[SENATOR EYITAYO]

When we talk of unity and we say we should not talk in tribal terms, one cannot but say something when one comes to a thing of this nature; when one feels that what is worth doing well has not been done very well. I am yet to understand why the whole of the Western Region should have only two members on the Regional Council and the Mid-Western Region which is just about a quarter of the Western Region, though it is an autonomous Region, should have two.

I hear a Senator ask if I want the Mid-Western Region to be counted out. I do not want it to be counted out. I am asking, through the President, that the Minister should give us the reason why there should be two members for Mid-Western Region, two for Lagos and two for Western Region, and why there should not be four for the Western Region as for the Eastern Region. That is all I wish to know.

I have no quarrel with the Bill which is straight forward and non-controversial, with the exception of the observation I have made.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** If Senator Eytayo wants the explanation, I can give it to him straight away. The membership used to be in the ratio of 6 : 4 : 4—that was before the creation of the Mid-Western Region. When the Mid-Western Region was created, we hastily split the 4 that used to be the membership for the Western Region. We will look into this latter if it is going to be a better way of distributing the order of membership.

**Senator Eytayo :** I am not satisfied with the Minister's explanation. If a new Region is created, that Region should have its full quota. That is what I believe.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** On a point of explanation, the members for the Senate are not divided into two between the Mid-West and the West. The West still has its own 12 members and the new Mid-West has its own 12 members. So, the Minister's explanation cannot be taken on that ground.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** I think I explained that this thing was hastily done. The membership used to be, as I explained earlier, 6 : 4 : 4, and after the creation of the Mid-Western Region we thought the Mid-

West must have representation at the Council and that is why they were given two. I have told the Senate that this thing will be looked into again. Is that not the assurance that the Senators want from the Minister ?

**Senator Eytayo :** I have no quarrel with the Bill for it is a very good one. It is non-contentious, with the exception of the observation I have made. If the Minister is going to act according to what he has told us, I have no quarrel.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** I did not want to speak on this Bill because I thought there was nothing that would evoke any argument. But the point made by the last speaker has actually struck me. That is again talking of sections. I hear some Senators say that that was not what he said and that he was talking of Regions. If that is so, when we come to that, we know exactly what type of people we have in the West. I am saying again that in attacking this point he was not right.

The point I am trying to make is that if he is talking of increasing the number in the West, let him say that. He should not attack the number that has been allotted to any other Region. It must be said, notwithstanding whatever must have prompted this pattern, that before this arrangement was made, consideration must have been given to the contribution made to the army when people were being enlisted. I think that reference made to statistical information on the enlistments during the war will show that the East gave more people than any other section of this country, and that it is justified for four members to represent the East.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan :** I rise to support this Bill. As a daughter of an ex-serviceman, I want Senator Ukattah to know that I know something about ex-servicemen who did so well during the war that their names are even used in despatches. The ex-servicemen in the West contributed as much as ex-servicemen anywhere in Nigeria.

With that remark, I want to congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill at this time.

I would also like to remind the Minister that although women did not go to war, yet they helped greatly in formulating plans for

ex-servicemen. The women who were wives or mothers of ex-servicemen should not be forgotten. At times these women get the tough side of it.

The men are remembered with bonuses and financial rewards being given to them. There are wives who have lost their husbands; there are mothers who have lost their sons; these men could have maintained them in their old age. These women are now suffering on account of their war losses. What provision is made for such women? There are women whose husbands suffered either during the last two world wars or even during the most recent times when contingents were sent to fight abroad. What is the Government doing about such women?

The way ex-servicemen are being cared for is commendable. About two weeks ago, just before I came here for this sitting of the Senate, an ex-serviceman took me to a farm settlement where ex-servicemen are made to do some kind of work. This is a very nice thing indeed. Such practical measures would help the ex-servicemen more than giving them money. By having some kind of job to do, they make good use of their time, and at the same time, they help the country.

I ask why something of similar nature cannot be done for the women as well? These ex-servicewomen are really in need of financial or other kinds of help. They too could have been given a farm where they could do poultry keeping, gardening, or something like that. While we, the women of Nigeria, join to congratulate the Government for the way they are taking care of the ex-servicemen, we sincerely ask Government to do something about the ex-servicewomen as well.

**Chief J. M. Johnson :** While some ex-servicemen are still serviceable up to the moment, they are not ex-servicemen then.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** I would like to explain that point that the Minister has just raised. Not all the ex-servicemen are capable of serving. We also have some women that look serviceable, but who really are not. For this reason, such women should be taken care of by the Government of this country for whom they have also suffered.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** There are few Bills which do not require plenty of discussion and I think this Bill is one of them. I just rise to register my appreciation for a job well done, except to say that where an oversight is noticed and admitted, there should be a categorical promise to remedy it.

A Senator has just made a point in connection with the representations on the Council, and I think it is something from the heart. Being elder statesmen, we should not introduce politics or tribalism while criticising a mistake. There is nothing to do with either politics or tribalism here.

The representation given to the Western Region is unfair, but our imputing tribal motives does not arise here at all. I have a case in point. Recently, the West African Examinations Council held a meeting. Formerly, we used to have from each Region, one Chief Inspector and two Principals and from the Federal territory, the Chief Federal Adviser and two Principals. As a result of the formation of the Mid-West Region, the West African Examinations Council very hastily added three members drawn from the Mid-Western Region, one being the Chief Inspector-to-be, and the other two Principals from the Mid-West. If a Council can do that, I am quite sure that the Council of Ministers could also have done that, no matter how hastily.

I am very glad that the Minister responsible has acknowledged the oversight. We hope he will carry matters to their logical conclusions by remedying this, and so providing adequate representation for the Western Region, and I dare say also for the Mid-Western Region because, in these matters, a region is a region.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** I rise to support this Bill and to congratulate the Minister who has so ably brought it up, although it is a little bit late.

No doubt, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has, from time to time, catered for the interest of ex-servicemen. The consuming point now is where the Government has come in to amalgamate all various associations or groups of ex-servicemen into the Nigerian Legion.

[SENATOR NWOKE]

It is just a pity that qualification for membership is such that one would think that the Legion is a kind of secret society or *Esusu* club, where certain qualifications would have to be prescribed or an application made before somebody becomes a member.

If the President would permit me, I would read Section 3, subsection (1)—

(1) *A person shall be a member of the Legion if—*

(a) *he applies to the Legion in the prescribed manner to be enrolled as such a member : and*

(b) *he satisfies the Legion that he is an ex-serviceman.*

I do not think this is necessary. The Government should have had a comprehensive list of the ex-servicemen—people who have served locally and people who served overseas during the two world wars or during any time under reference. Such people should have, by the nature of such service, qualified for membership of the Legion.

There are thousands of ex-servicemen in the country-side who cannot read or write and whose condition of life is such that they cannot come forward to undergo this prescribed procedure. It means that they will not belong to this Legion, and it also means that Government's benefit will not reach them. In other words, Government's intention has failed. If the ex-servicemen and women in this country are going to qualify for membership of the Legion specifically by application or by other means, it means that the whole purpose will be defeated.

The best procedure will be for the Government to take up the list of such servants from a consolidated list compiled after the war.

It is just a pity that some people did not know that women actually went to war. It was not a question of being housewives only as such. I remember in the local defence forces, some women were recruited to cook for the soldiers. They were not wives, they were young women who were so enlisted. I was myself, at that time, in the volunteer force, and I was able to take interest in seeing that actually the battle was not one-sided, socially speaking.

What I am trying to say is that there should be a commission of enquiry set up at this stage to go round the Federation to enlist all ex-servicemen, if Government has no comprehensive list to depend upon. We must not allow these ex-servicemen, as I said before, to make application for membership of the Legion, as though the Legion were a kind of *Esusu* club.

Such a commission of enquiry would be able to acquaint the Government with the real details of people who are suffering in the hinterland areas. It would also create an opportunity for employing these ex-servicemen in industries scattered about the country. Take for instance, the Independence Brewery Limited which produces the famous Golden Guinea Beer at Umuahia. Such an industry could offer prospects of employment to some ex-servicemen, if Government compiled their list.

If we want these things to be done by application, a lot of difficulties will be put in the way of these ex-servicemen, who are either too sick to move about or have not got any money on them.

Where a man has come out to do good, he should do good to the end. He should not stop half way at all. The Government is building a "half-way" house by putting this membership qualification.

As far as employment is concerned, if we take a look at the case of the ex-servicemen, we will find that their condition is much worse than those of the young school leavers. These ex-servicemen are people who have given their best to their country and are now handicapped. In the event of any difficulties arising, we still have to call upon them, either for their services or for the purpose of acquiring some information from their wealth of knowledge. In that case we cannot just accept these conditions which will not be favourable to these ex-servicemen.

I repeat, if we allow these men to become members by application, things will be made very difficult for them.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye :** I support this Bill, but in supporting it I would like to say very few words in respect of the number of members allocated to Western Nigeria. The

previous speakers have mentioned it but I do not think they have been able to convince the Minister in charge of this Bill.

It is the desire of the people of Western Nigeria to have at least four members. The explanation made by the Minister in respect of the Mid-West does not affect us. We are fighting vigorously for our own portion. Unless the Minister can assure us now that we are entitled to four members, we will continue to press the Minister for this until we succeed. That is the only remark I have to make on this particular Bill.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu** : Before I make my short contribution, may I, with your permission Mr President, make this observation. It is usual in other Houses, and it used to be so when I was in the House of Representatives in 1952, that Bills are made available to Members along with the presentation.

This morning, for instance, we have five Bills on the *Order Paper*, and I am sure most of the Members have not even got copies of any of these Bills. I am really wondering how we can make progress in this way. I think what the Minister should do is to tell us in advance what Bills are coming up. This is being done in other House.

I would like to support the Bill, but I would also like to say a few words in support of what was said by some Members.

First of all I would like to know how this pattern representation was arrived at. Was it based on the population of ex-servicemen in the country for each Region, or on the population of each Region? If this representation is not based on population, I think it is important for the Council of Ministers to correct this deliberate mistake which was made in the colonial days, thereby allowing each Region to be equally represented in this Council.

I do hope that the Minister will not find it difficult to make this correction. There is nothing that will stop him from accepting the views of Members of this House and making the necessary amendments to satisfy Members.

I beg to support.

**Senator T. Olamijulo** : I feel grateful to the Minister for the consideration being given war that we fought.

to our disabled men. But what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. I therefore, think that it is very unfair for him to rise on the Floor of this House to say that the representation, in the case of Western Region was done in haste.

The fact that the Mid-Western Region which is a new Region got its own share, shows that the West is not being treated fairly at all. Why should the Minister or the Council of Ministers do something so hastily? They know they are doing it for the country, and the people they are doing it for are bound to consider whether or not they are given worthy representation. I think it is only right that the mistake be corrected before we pass this Bill, otherwise, we will be sowing the seed of discord and disunity through the Minister's hastiness.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : on a point of information, with the greatest respect to the Senator, by the grace of God, we shall not sow any seed of disunity in this country by this Bill.

**Senator Olamijulo** : I am very glad to hear from the Minister that the correction will be made.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule** : Even if it is not made, this will never lead to disunity.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem** : Some of us who have been Members of ex-servicemen's welfare association will readily admit the limitations of that body. So it is of particular interest and pleasure to me that a new law is now coming to take the place of the old law.

The war gave Nigerians a chance to prove that when given the opportunity, a Nigerian will hold his own, even in the field of battle.

One may, however, ask whose war it was that Nigerians fought. Was it the war for this country? I am of the opinion that Nigerians fought the white man's war, and it would be interesting to know from the Minister what contribution the British people for whom we fought are making to us in maintaining our ex-servicemen.

I would like to know whether they are granting any subvention to all to the maintenance of our ex-servicemen because it was their

[SENATOR NZEREM]

A Senator said that we are already independent. Even if we are independent, what we are legally entitled to must be given to us. I think our Government should press that the British Government should make substantial subvention to the Nigerian Legion. I think we are entitled to that.

I am fully in agreement with the contention of Senator Eytavo that the West ought to have been given equal representation in this Council. If anybody moved an Amendment to that clause, I would second it and, if necessary, press it to a division.

I am sure that those who make selections of this kind would not give us any opportunity to talk about tribalism and sectionalism and things like that. This is a case that ought not to have happened at all. I fully support those who say that the West should be given four representatives on the Council.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule** : On a point of explanation, I may say something about this representation. This particular Bill was drafted before the Mid-West Region was created. When, therefore, the new Region was created, we felt that it should be represented on the Council.

It is true that this distribution may not be equitable. But we have given an undertaking that it will be looked into again. If Senators insist that there must be an Amendment here now, it means that we are going to delay this Bill in which case, the Bill has to go back to the House of Representatives again. But we are giving you the assurance that this mistake will be corrected. There will be no disunity in this country by the Grace of God.

Although this is something which is above tribalism, I do not like to hear this thing. Whatever mistake we make, we are capable of rectifying them.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : Much as this Bill is welcome, as somebody who is a Patron of the disabled ex-servicemen in this country, I have this to say.

The functions of the Legion to me would appear to be restrictive. They do not cover the general ambition of the ex-servicemen in this country. According to the Bill, the Legion could grant aids or financial assistance to

ex-servicemen, as it may consider necessary. In short, that is the implication. But, there is nothing to allow the Legion, to engage in profitable projects so as to make it to be able to maintain its members. It should be provided for in this Bill that the Legion could engage in profitable projects. As the Bill stands now, that point is omitted, and I feel that it is a very big omission.

It is said that Parliament may vote money to aid the Legion. But even then, the main objective seems to be very distant and does not appear to be immediate. That point has to be clarified.

There is one other thing which I would like to know. I do not know to what extent Parliament or Government may aid the Legion. But the undue interference of Ministers in such organisation is uncalled for. I do not think that it is necessary for a Minister to give directive at any time on the function of the Legion.

I do not know what should be responsible for that. I agree that the Council should be responsible to Parliament since the Government will be voting money to maintain it. But we have been having our experience of Ministers having to interfere with the running of corporations.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I would like the Senator to withdraw that statement. What does he mean by interfering? A statutory corporation is the creation of the Federal Government and there is always a Minister in charge, whose responsibility it is to direct the affairs of such corporation. As a matter of fact, the Minister responsible for a statutory corporation is the embodiment of the whole corporation. One cannot interfere with what one is given to keep.

**The President** : I do not think the Minister could carry on with his business without knowing what is going on within his Ministry.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku** : I think if these things would have to be in the hands of Government Departments as we have known them, let them be there. When some of these bodies were set up, indications were given that they would be autonomous, and that they would be run as profitable concerns. But later on, Boards were appointed to take over the

control, and I think that we must have some confidence in these Boards. If there is no confidence in these Boards, it simply means that the Ministers are running the show.

**Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh :** If Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku will yield, I would like to say that he has been a source of trouble in some of the corporations with his trade unions.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I still have to challenge clause 1(5) which says, and with your permission, I beg to quote.

*"The Minister may from time to time give to the Legion directions in writing with respect to the performance of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Legion to comply with the directions."*

Supposing the directions are not, in every respect, compatible with the general interest of the ex-servicemen who have sacrificed their lives to save the country ?

I want to associate myself with those Senators who have made observations that in the set up of the National Council there should be no discrimination. We are carrying this discrimination too far. I do not think that one Region should have six members in the Council, whilst another Region has only four members and another Region has two members.

On the question of the ex-servicemen, does the Minister want to tell us that because there are more ex-servicemen in the North, there should therefore be more ex-servicemen who are of Northern origin. They may not all be living in the North at this particular time. They may be members of the Legion either in the Mid-West or in the West. I think that what we want to safeguard is the general interest of the Legion. So that anybody who has anything to do with that Legion or who is a member of that Legion will be proud of a sense of belonging.

The only way we can develop that sense of belonging is to make the National Council to be representative. I feel that the hon. Minister of Finance will agree with me that this is quite equitable and just.

These are my observations.

**Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu :** As a lieutenant in the army during the second

world war, I think that I am qualified to say a few words on this Bill.

Although I support this Bill but I would say that it has not come early enough. Throughout these years that soldiers, that is the ex-servicemen, have been demobilised, one would have thought that something should have been done much earlier than now to help them. It even appears that ex-servicemen enjoyed more facilities during the colonial days than they do at present. In those days the ex-servicemen were respected and they were given chances of employment.

I think that something should be done to create opportunities whereby the ex-servicemen could train for all sorts of work. Farm settlement could be set up for them. They should also be given financial aid.

If the Federal Government fails to encourage the ex-servicemen, I am sure that if war breaks out between Nigeria and another country, people will feel most reluctant to join the army.

In fact, the ex-servicemen we have to-day may start to discourage those people who may be willing to enlist their names for the service.

Many Senators have spoken strongly about the composition of the National Council of the Legion. The West is, of course, correct in asking for what it considers to be its right. But what of the North ? During the second world war, statistics show that the North had nine-tenths of the number of the whole Nigerians in the army. For instance, in my unit, or even in any other unit, one may find about one thousand soldiers of Northern origin whilst there may be only five Ibos and four Yorubas. I am saying this with authority. I am, however, sorry to have to go to this extent, but I hope that Senators will not accuse me of tribalism.

Personally, I would suggest that the North should have twenty members while the other Regions have two each.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

INSURANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)  
BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the investment in Nigerian Securities by persons carrying on business in the Federation as Insurers of certain assets of the business, to make further provision as respects certain contracts of insurance, and other matters ancillary thereto be now read a Second time.

Senators will recall that two years ago, I gave a formal notice that it was the intention of the Federal Government to seek to provide, that at least, one-half of all moneys available to insurance companies on or after the first day of April, 1962, from all classes of business must be invested in Nigeria.

I emphasised that it would not necessarily be in Government securities but in any other securities in Nigeria. The aim of the Federal Government is not to channel all savings into the public sector for investment.

In pursuance of this, detailed consultations were held with representatives of Nigerian and foreign owned insurance companies and brokers, operating in Nigeria. The discussions have proved useful. I should like to express my personal appreciation of the very useful co-operation which we have received from all the insurance companies.

The Bill before this Senate, gives effect to our intentions. Clause 1 of the Bill provides that except with the approval of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, all policies of insurance or re-insurance made in respect of risks within Nigeria and to which the clause applies, are void unless the policies are effected with insurance companies in Nigeria.

The clause further provides that all companies transacting risk insurance business in Nigeria must invest in Nigerian securities an amount equivalent to, at least 40 per cent of their reserves.

The policy of life insurance is dealt with in Clause 2 of the Bill. It is provided that all new policies of life insurance on Nigerian lives effected in Nigeria must be denominated in

Nigerian currency. All re-insurances of similar policies are caught by this Clause and must also be denominated in Nigerian currency save where the sum assured in respect of one life exceeds £40,000.

Under this clause, all insurance concerns transacting life assurance business in Nigeria must invest in Nigerian securities 100 per cent of their premium income, which of course is attributable to the policies denominated in Nigerian currency.

Finally, it is further provided that as at 31st March the accumulated life funds held by companies transacting life insurance business in Nigeria, must be converted into Nigerian securities on or before 1st April, 1966, in so far as, and to the extent that those funds relate to policies denominated in Nigerian currency.

I cannot over-emphasise the paramount importance of life assurance. Not only does life assurance encourage personal thrift but it reduces the chances of the individual becoming a burden on the state in his or her old age. It also provides savings for development and hives off consumer spending power and so reduces inflationary pressures in the country's economy.

It is needless to say that from the national point of view it is highly desirable to continue the existing tax concession in the form of life assurance relief. But in order to qualify for the full relief, it will be a condition precedent that the proceeds from the premiums be wholly invested in Nigeria.

Sub-clause (4) of Clause 2 of the Bill makes a provision to this effect. Where proceeds of the premiums are invested outside Nigeria, the tax concession in the form of life assurance has now been limited to one-third of the present relief. The fact that the policy holder is an expatriate or a Nigerian is immaterial.

Clause 5 of the Bill deals with the different securities in which insurance concerns may invest. It provides that a minimum investment of twenty-five per cent of all moneys available to insurance companies are invested in Government securities. It is convenient to mention here that this requirement does not work any hardship at all on insurance companies because, by the nature of their business, they do not invest in a highly speculative manner and, in practice, they hold a reasonably high proportion of their assets in Government securities.



Other approved securities include real estate, stocks and shares issued by Nigerian Companies, cash deposits with Nigerian banks, and rights to receive payments by way of premium which have accrued under contract of insurance made in Nigeria. In case of investment in real estate, other than by way of a mortgage interest, not less than one-tenth of the money required must be invested in Nigeria. However, a large measure of latitude has been allowed in prescribing the range of the approved investments. This wide scope is given in order to encourage the insurance companies to make prudent investments in Nigeria.

In consideration of our present plan, section 28 of the Insurance Companies Act, 1961 which provides for insurance companies to invest in Nigeria a minimum percentage of the profits is repealed. Provision to that effect is made under sub-clause (4) of Clause 7 of this Bill.

Mr President, Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill, and I am sure it will be unanimously supported by all. Its prime purpose is to retain within Nigeria the savings channelled through insurance companies. It has nothing to do with the general regulation of Insurance Companies or with safeguarding the interests of individual policy-holders as such. But by specifying the categories of assets in which insurance companies may invest their income, the Bill thus protects the interests of the individual policy-holders as well as ensuring the solvency of those Companies. The ultimate aim of the Bill is, therefore, to encourage the employment of those assets for productive and development purposes in Nigeria. The Bill is not tainted with any onerous or restrictive conditions which would oblige the insurance companies to offer less attractive policies than at present.

I commend the Bill to this honourable House and I have no doubt that all Senators will support it.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. T. Mbu) : I beg to second.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** : The purpose of this Bill is to secure the investment in this country of certain reserves held by Insurance Companies. Unfortunately, investments in insurance business, either by the Nigerian Government or any other Nigerian

companies, profitable as this business is, are very, very negligible. It has already been said that of the 44 Insurance Companies operating in Nigeria, only five are owned by Nigerians. This means that the bulk of profits accruing to these companies go to the home countries of their owners.

I do not advocate nationalising the Insurance Companies, nor do I ignore the immense contribution being made by foreign firms to our economic growth, but I would like our Governments to go into the business of insurance to the extent that we may have say forty *per cent* financial interest in it; the foreign Companies may then have about forty *per cent* while the Nigerian public may be given an opportunity of having the remaining twenty *per cent* interest in the control of the working capital of this business. Thus Nigeria will have sixty *per cent* control of the whole business.

I beg to support.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju** : I rise to associate myself with the views expressed by the last speaker on this Bill, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba. We do realise that we need a lot of money for our Six-Year Development Programme, and we rely on external as well as internal sources for the money required. It is therefore fitting that at this time the Government has brought up this important Bill to make sure that the greater part of the money collected by Insurance Companies in this country is invested in Government securities in this country.

This is really a welcome aspect of the Bill, but, as Senator Garba has said, we do not want some people to fleece us at this particular time when we need all the forces we can marshal to our aid. While we do realise that it is not the policy of the Government to nationalise any of these undertakings, it is necessary for us to go into active participation if actually we have so many of these Insurance Companies, as Senator Garba has mentioned—about forty-four of them—and Nigerians are participating in just about five of them. This is really a sorry picture and it is not out of place for the Federal Government to go into a business like this and then, of course, we shall have a better say in the day-to-day running of these Insurance Companies.

This is really an important Bill, and I sincerely hope that the Minister in charge will look carefully into it and see that we can get

[SENATOR LAGUNJU]

more from these Insurance Companies because, from time to time, their charges are becoming more and more prohibitive. This only goes to show that they are making a lot of profit. They try to argue that there are more risks and accidents in this country than in some other countries of the world. But even people who know America very well, with due respect to the President of the Senate, do say that there where they have broad roads, they have more accidents than in Nigeria. Therefore, that is no excuse whatsoever for the Insurance Companies.

What we have got to do now is to make sure that people do not carry a lot of money away from this country anyhow and make away with it like that. I am not prepared to go into the naming of other countries, some of which are very near us, where it is extremely difficult for people to carry away a lot of money made in the country. In one of these countries people have got to leave a definite percentage of their money as investment in that country's securities, and with all we may have to say about that country it is growing rapidly. If we go too soft in the things we do, we may discover that no benefit is derived from our action. There are times when we have got to put our foot down and say precisely whatever we are after.

I beg to support.

**Senator Mrs B. U. Kerry :** I thank you very much, Mr President, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to this debate. I welcome the Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. It shows the great foresight of the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and the Federal Government. (*Hear, hear*).

Nigeria needs money for her development plans, and this need has made the Minister of Finance to travel abroad to seek foreign aid. It has also made the Government to devise ways and means of encouraging the internal raising of the necessary funds through savings campaigns. This Bill is another stage towards this objective. It will compel insurance companies to invest part of their profits in the country. Previously, they carried all their profits home for the development of their countries. Now, this Bill will compel them to invest their profits in the much needed

development of our country. For this bold step I thank the Federal Government.

We have very many insurance companies in this country. Some of them are very good and others are bad. I mean that some of them are rather unsympathetic to their customers in that after they have collected their money they are no more interested in their customers. In so many cases where vehicles insured get damaged, it is usually with very great difficulty that one gets payment or even attention by these insurance companies.

In the circumstance, therefore, I appeal to the Federal Government to take up the insurance business and to appoint efficient supervisors to look into the activities of certain insurance companies in the country.

Also, a committee should be set up to recommend most suitable regulations on insurance.

Insurance companies must of necessity respond to this urgent call for funds, and I hope they will wholeheartedly support this Bill.

I beg to support. (*Applause*).

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I do not share the view that Government should enter into partnership with these insurance companies. In fact, this insurance business is a game of profit and loss. If one sees the number of accidents on the roads, one can scarcely suggest that the insurance companies are gaining anything at all. It is very, very difficult to assess whether they are gaining or losing, and the only way we could have ascertained was if there was a committee set up by the Federal Government to probe these things.

Some time ago, there was a Commission known as the Obande Commission of Inquiry set up by the Federal Government to probe insurance business in this country, but it is funny to note that the report of that inquiry has never been presented to the House and as such we do not know the findings of the Commission. I think that was the only way by which we could have found out whether insurance is a paying business or not.

In my opinion, insurance is a risky business and I do not support those who say that we should advise Government to enter into a business which is not certain. As I said earlier on, it is a business of profit and loss. What I

would rather suggest is that Government should put a ceiling on the premiums chargeable. There should be a general ceiling, and when that has been done, it should be left to anybody who wants to risk his money to do so.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** This is a welcome Bill. It is my considered opinion that these insurance people are really making plenty of money. At the moment they are making profit from me. (*Laughter*). Why I say this is that I insured some vehicles with them and none of them has had an accident. Yet, they are eating my money. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Finance and the Federal Government should be commended for their foresight and for the efforts they are making to see that the economy of the country is secure.

I support the Bill.

**Senator J. M. Egbuson :** This Bill is non-controversial, but there are two complaints in this country about insurance.

There is a policy known as Act Policy which appears to be as useless as it is worthless. This policy is the cheapest to take out. If one is involved in any accident with another vehicle which has taken out this policy, the insurance company does not do anything to the injured party at all. This Act Policy is even worse than Third Party. I hope that sort of insurance will not be continued in this country.

Another point is that certain insurance companies in this country have formed the habit of not renewing comprehensive insurance policies for certain people when once the first one they have taken out has expired. Only some privileged class of car owners are allowed to renew their comprehensive insurance policies after the first year. If others go to them, they refuse to renew the comprehensive policies again and advise these people to change their policies to Third Party. This anomaly which has existed for some time now should be checked.

I beg to support.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** I want to thank all the Senators for the constructive points which they have made. All I need say is that these points will be taken into serious advisement by my Colleague, the Minister of Com-

merce and Industry who is the Minister responsible for insurance : I am not.

However, my Bill has nothing to do with insurance business generally. It only has something to do with the investment of the proceeds of the insurance business in Nigeria. But I assure Senators that I will pass on the points made to my hon. Friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

But this much I have to say that the Federal Government is not at the present time prepared to go into insurance business. Some Regional Governments have established insurance companies. As my Friend, Senator Abaagu, has said, insurance business—although it may be profitable—is a very specialised undertaking.

One has to do a lot of calculations and sometimes one can be thrown out of business if one is unlucky. On the whole I will, I think, agree with Senators who say that it could be a profitable business. I do not know whether one could stretch it too far to say that the Federal Government should go into it. I am happy that Senators agree that it is a right step in the right direction that whatever these people collect by way of premium, some percentage of it should be deposited in this country and not repatriated.

I cannot agree with Senator Lagunju who cited the incident of a nearby neighbour, that we should put more restriction on repatriation of funds generally. If we should do that, I am sure Senator Lagunju will be the first person to complain. If one wants to travel away from Nigeria and one wants to go with, say, £100, and Minister of Finance says 'No' that one can only take £10, I am sure people will complain. If we put such a restriction on our currency, it is going to be a two-way traffic. It is going to affect everybody.

We in Nigeria have no reason to do so. Any Government that imposes restriction of that kind must be running on a flat tyre economy. Nigeria's currency is convertible anywhere and our reserves are sound. So, we have no reason to impose such restriction on the freedom of movement of money by people who invest their money. This is contrary to the policy of the Government. The Policy of the Government is that whoever invests his money here should be able to take his profits away, subject to one condition only and that is the payment of company taxes. After he

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

has done that, he should be able to take away his profits. The Prime Minister stated this in unmistakable terms in Parliament yesterday. If one wants to close down one's business and take one's money away, the Government should allow one to do so with impunity. Unless we give this confidence to investors, they will not come here to invest because we are the largest country in Africa. I think we must spread out softly in advocating this type of measures because it is a double-edged sword which will do no one any good.

On the point made by Senator Egbuson, my reply to him is that he should consult his lawyers whether that act is within the fundamental right of people in business when they want to insure their lorries. I think they should seek some sort of remedy or try other insurance companies. There are many insurance companies in Nigeria owned by indigenous companies. If you do not receive good treatment from the expatriate firms, you can go to the indigenous firms. I think that is sound logic. It is the duty of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and, as I have said before, I will pass on these complaints to him.

As regards the encomiums showered on me by the lady Senator, Mrs Kerry, I must say that when a lady praises one, one must be very happy.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

That a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to Bills of Exchange and for purposes connected therewith, be now read a Second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to enable bankers to pay or collect cheques and certain other instruments without concerning themselves with endorsements in cases where payment is made to a banker or the proceeds are collected for crediting to the account of the ostensible payee.

As Senators are aware, the use of cheques is growing tremendously in Nigeria. Nearly one million cheques were exchanged in the Lagos Claring House alone during 1963. Transfer of cheques to third parties is not a usual practice in this country, and it has been estimated that over 90 per cent of cheques drawn payable to order, otherwise than for cash, are credited to the accounts of the payees.

The Bills of Exchange Act 1917 (Cap. 21) provides, among other things, that cheques and other Bills of Exchange payable to order shall be endorsed before they are paid. Many cheques are returned unpaid by paying bankers to collecting bankers for one irregularity or the other, but it has been found that not less than 75 per cent of all cheques so returned are returned for lack of, or irregularity in, endorsements which, in our present day commercial usage, are, in most cases, no more than mere but unnecessary and expensive formalities.

The present Bill seeks to do away with this cumbersome practice by providing that endorsements shall not be necessary on cheques and other instruments that are collected for, or credited to, the accounts of the payees. Doing away with the need to endorse cheques, except in the relatively small proportion of cases where negotiations have taken place or where the cheques are presented for cash over the counter, would mean not only a saving of time and labour to the banking business, but also great convenience to the general public who would be relieved of the need to endorse cheques that are to be credited to the accounts of the payees.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. T. Mbu) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : May I crave your indulgence to make an announcement. Members of the Senate who are to serve on the Committee of the National Provident Fund should please come to the House of Representatives as soon as the Senate adjourns.

#### NAVY BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Mr M. T. Mbu) : I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill which is entitled the Navy Bill.

Consequent upon the change in the international status of Nigeria, it has become necessary for this legislation to be introduced. It seeks to give effect to the change in our status and also to incorporate certain Amendments that are necessary thereto.

These Amendments deal with provisions of the Royal Navy Act, 1957, the provisions of the Navy Act, 1960 and the relevant provisions in the Army Act of that year.

There are nine parts in this Bill and although it looks voluminous, there is nothing contentious in it. Part 1 deals with the establishment of the Navy, part two with the establishment of the Board, part three with administration, part four with discipline and control as well as the punishment of Naval Officers, part five with appeals on court martials, part six with pay, forfeitures and deductions as provided in the Bill, and part seven with the general provisions and so on and so forth. There is nothing at all in this Bill other than to incorporate the provisions of these other acts. It has become necessary as a result of our changed status.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem** : There is only one observation I would like to make on the Bill. It appears to me that the Bill is patterned on the British Navy law. The British Navy, I hear, is the best and strongest in the world. I do not know if the Minister in charge of the Navy has gone to places like Japan and other countries that are not very expensive to live in and where the Naval Officers are not treated in the same way as in England.

I think we should begin in a small way and build up from this humble beginning instead of importing into Nigeria conditions which obtain in Britain and the United States.

The Bill itself, has nothing objectionable and I am sure that the Minister responsible for it would study the conditions in places where the cost of living is not as high as in England. That is my contention.

I hope that the Minister will give our Naval Officers and ratings sufficient encouragement to continue to stay in the Navy. Like the armed forces, that is the Army, the people in

the Navy cannot form a trade union. They are more or less deprived of the fundamental human right of collective bargaining. We should make it unnecessary for these men to regret having joined the Navy.

Life on the high seas is not very attractive and so these people, who have to spend the best part of their lives in the ships and on the coasts should be made comfortable; comfortable living accommodations should be provided for them so that their wives and children whom they leave behind when they go on tours may not suffer unduly.

I think the government used a great foresight in bringing this Bill and I should like to congratulate the Minister who is responsible for this.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. Nwoke** : The Navy Bill, as a matter of fact, is not new. It has been brought about by the new status of our developing country, and I welcome it. I congratulate the Minister for the effort made in assembling all the facts presented in the Bill.

There is one note of warning that I have got to sound here, and that is about the recruitment of man-power. Steps should be taken in the recruitment to enable able-bodied Nigerians to serve in the Navy, and sufficient care should be taken of them, because like the soldiers and the police, they are not allowed to strike. Therefore, they should be given no cause to call their colleagues out on strike.

All the materials used in the Navy, the training of Naval force and cadets, and in the exercises on the high seas and in other aspects, should be perfect. It is wrong economy for the nation to embark on any purchase of secondhand vessels either for immediate or future use. Every effort should be made to get in touch with the British manufacturers or world manufacturers of these vessels in order to get first class ones.

With these observations and warning, I support the Bill.

**Mr Mbu** : I am most gratified by the very friendly welcome which the Senate has given to this Bill. If I may, with your permission Sir, I would like to comment on one or two points raised by one or two of the Senators who have spoken on this Bill.

[MR MBU]

I would like to say that the fact that there is no bargaining in the concerted manner as the trade unions do does not in any way deprive members of the Navy from having their rights. A Navy Board has been set up, in fact, to look into and perform these specific duties in order to ensure good service conditions for members of the Navy. So, no one will have his rights denied him if he cares to bring the facts of any incident, or maladministration or injustice, to the notice of the Minister responsible for the Navy.

It is also not true to say that we concentrate on parking our eggs into one basket. We do not go to the United Kingdom alone. In fact, it can be said that of all the Ministers responsible for various duties, I have travelled more than many of my colleagues and have visited many naval institutions in different lands with a view to learning from first experience how their naval institutions are run.

In the same manner, I have made exhaustive inquiries with a view to finding out the best, cheapest and most efficient vessels we can acquire for our Navy. As a result we are training our Naval boys not only in England, but also in Canada, India and in other countries.

In fact, within the next fortnight, I shall be on another official visit to meet some of our boys training in Canada.

We are taking the maximum advantage to go to all lands, and all institutions, and to acquire first-hand, what service conditions obtain in those countries and see how best we can adapt them to our conditions and needs.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

NAVY BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

*Clause 3—(ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVY BOARD)*

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** I consider the provision in section 3 (2) redundant. Here it is said that—

*Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subsection, the board shall have no responsibility for the operational use of the*

*navy and responsibility for any such use shall be vested in the commander subject to the overall directions of the Council of Ministers—*

This is collective responsibility which I agree with. But further on, it says :

*Provided that the Prime Minister may give to the commander such directions with respect to the operational use of the navy in Nigeria for the purpose of maintaining and securing public safety and public order, notwithstanding that the directions of the Council of Ministers have not been obtained, and the commander shall comply with those directions accordingly.*

We should not think about personalities involved in making any law in this country. We must think of the future, think of posterity and of what use a wrong man who finds himself in that post might make of the law.

In the hands of a man like Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa who is God-fearing, I have no cause—and we shall have no cause—to quarrel with this proviso. He may not authorise or ask the commander to make use of the Navy in a wrong way at any time. I am quite confident of that and we all know that.

But the law is there. We are making the law not for the present Prime Minister. We are making it for any Prime Minister who will be in Nigeria. It is possible that tomorrow we may have a wrong man ; a man who might be intoxicated with power. I hear somebody saying that we are not going to have a wrong man.

But I must say that we do not know what will happen tomorrow. By hook or crook a certain political party may get into power and put a wrong man on the seat. We do not know how a wrong political party can come into power, secure the majority in the country and then enthrone somebody as the Prime Minister.

That Prime Minister, with this clause in the law, will be able to wield it to do some damage before we know that a damage has been done. Damage can be done. A wrong Prime Minister might have misused that power before even the Council of Ministers met to condemn his action. That is because the law allowed him to wield that power before he could be corrected. Perhaps this Clause is fashioned after the Westminster pattern.

We should not forget however that the Prime Minister of England, perhaps did not take his Cabinet colleagues into confidence before he authorised the operation in the Suez Canal. But at the end of that operation, what happened? The whole people cried against it. The United Kingdom people protested and demonstrated against the Prime Minister of England and he had to resign. He made a wrong use of the Naval Force in the Suez Canal operation.

If we got a wrong man as Prime Minister he might misuse his power. After the damage has been done, we may vote him out of office. But how are we going to repair the damage done? Prevention, we say, is better than cure.

Our law is preventive. That is why I am moving this Amendment which is to the effect that at Page C.140, delete lines 5 to 10 of section 3 (2) which reads as follows :—

*Provided that the Prime Minister may give to the commander such directions with respect to the operational use of the navy in Nigeria for the purpose of maintaining and securing public safety and public order, notwithstanding that the directions of the Council of Ministers have not been obtained, and the commander shall comply with those directions accordingly.*

**Senator A. Nwoke :** The Senator who has just spoken, has had it all right. All I wish to add is that if it were possible we should delete that portion which says :—

*notwithstanding that the directions of the Council of Ministers have not been obtained—*

It is usual to pretend to be democratic when we are not. It will serve no useful purpose for us to allow such a Prime Minister a free hand. I am thinking in terms of emergency. However serious the position may be, he must have a nucleus of his cabinet to advise him even in the middle of the night to order the Navy about. Otherwise, we can wake up one morning to see ourselves besieged by our own Naval Officers and men.

We know what politicians are capable of doing. Some Prime Ministers can make themselves difficult to co-operate with. We do not know what might happen tomorrow. A serious view should be taken of this proviso to delete completely the whole of that portion which says that the Prime Minister can act notwithstanding the knowledge of the Cabinet. That

is to say that emphasis must be laid on the fact that he must be advised by the Council of Ministers.

I remember that during the last world war, Sir Winston Churchill was the operating officer in the United Kingdom. At one time, we were told, he went into the Cabinet Office, shut himself in and dictated to the nation. He had not the right to do that because it was expensive. May be he did it under the guise that he was still being advised by the Cabinet.

If anybody tells Prime Minister that he can get along without the advice of the Cabinet, he is going to abuse this privilege. Even with the present Prime Minister, we cannot guarantee that an advice from outside cannot influence him. Let us send the Bill back to the Minister so that he can delete this clause.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** There seems to be some sense in the contention of Senator Chief Onyia but I view the provisions of this clause from another angle.

For instance, the responsibility of ordering the operation of the Navy is vested in the Cabinet and when there is an emergency which warrants prompt action which cannot wait for the convening of a meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister can act to save the situation. What can we do to save such a situation.

There are some emergencies which warrant prompt action. If we give such a power to the Council of Ministers and there is no proviso, when a emergency arises it may be very difficult to cope with it.

For instance, if a meeting of the Council of Ministers is called—we do not know what is their quorum—the Ministers present may not form a quorum. It means then that the emergency or the aggression on the nation will go on.

I quite agree that there is sense in the point of Chief Onyia but I seem to agree with the provisions of this clause.

**Senator S. Eytayo :** What I would like to find out is this, I know that Nigeria is not the first nation to own a Navy, there are many other countries in the world with their own Navy. I want to find out from the Minister what is the practice in other countries that have a Navy. Is this provision the same as in the other countries with a Navy? If the

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provision is in line with what obtains in other countries, our country should not be an exception.

**Mr Mbu** : I think it will be right, first of all, to set the minds of Senators at rest. We do not anticipate and we sincerely hope that there shall be no occasion for us to be involved with "gun boat politics" in Nigeria.

The provisions of this clause should be construed quite clearly and dispassionately. Senators will find that what we have here is precisely what obtains in respect of the Army, the Police and the Air Force. The Prime Minister apart from his many other onerous responsibilities is the Minister responsible for the maintenance of public security and public order.

As Senator Abaagu said, there may be occasions when it will not be convenient for the Council of Ministers to meet to advise the Prime Minister before directing, for the interest of public security and maintenance of public order, the operational use of the Navy and all the Forces for that matter.

Let Senators assume a situation where the Ministers of the Federal Government find themselves on rising at dawn arrested or besieged by hostile elements either from within or from without and there is a threat to public security; would Senators sincerely suggest that until those people are rescued from their captors, the Prime Minister should not be in a position to direct the Commodore of the Navy to do all he can to safeguard the interest, lives and properties of the people of Nigeria.

What obtains in Nigeria, obtains anywhere where there is the tradition of having a Navy as a Force. We are not departing from what happens elsewhere and I commend this clause to Senators.

*Clause 3—(ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVY BOARD)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 4-70—ordered to stand part of the Bill.— Clause 71—(FALSE EVIDENCE).*

**Senator J. M. Egbuson** : Clause 71 starts with "Any person". There are quite a number of "any person" in this clause. Does the phrase "Any person" include somebody who is not in the Navy because it sounds a bit ambiguous.

In Clause 71 (1), we have —

*"Any person who, having been duly sworn as a witness or as an interpreter in proceedings before a court martial or before any board or person having power to administer an oath under service law, makes a statement material in those proceedings knowing it to be false or recklessly without belief in its truth shall, on conviction by court martial,—"*

Does "Any person" include a civilian who is not a member of the Navy? I would like to know if a civilian can be subjected to a court martial. If a civilian who is not a member of the Navy is called to give evidence in a court martial and he is charged with perjury is he going to be tried by a court martial or in the civil courts. Can a civilian be punished by a court martial?

**Mr Mbu** : There is no great departure here from what obtains in the civil courts. Once a person has subscribed to the oath to be a truthful witness in a proceedings before a court martial, he is under oath and he remains under oath. And, should he prove to be a perjurer, he should be punished according to the law. The provisions of this clause does not limit the right of that person to appeal to the High Court. If he feels that the punishment is rather too severe, or the grounds are reckless or unjustified, he has every remedy as every citizen has, to go to the High Court on appeal. It could apply to anybody who subscribes to an oath before a court martial.

**The Chairman** : The question is whether a civilian can be court martialled?

**Mr Mbu** : That is exactly what I am saying, Mr Chairman, if he subscribes to the oath before a court martial.

**Senator Egbuson** : I am sorry to be a little bit stubborn on this point. The explanation of the Minister does not satisfy me. In that case, is this civilian allowed representation by counsel before the court martial? Throughout the whole of the Bill, I can see nothing about legal representation.

**Mr Mbu** : The same thing obtains in the courts. There is no provision that anybody who comes before a Magistrate or High Court must be represented by counsel. If he has the means, he can be represented but if he has not got the means he can apply for legal aid; and



if there is no provision for legal aid, he goes there to defend himself. What obtains in the court martial obtains in other courts.

*Clause 71—(FALSE EVIDENCE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 72-216—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*First, Second, Third and Fourth Schedules agreed to.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

**Senator Chief Onyia :** On a point of order, usually we are allowed to make some speeches during the Third Reading of a Bill. That is the practice in all legislature.

**The President :** Speeches can only be made when you catch the eyes of the Chair. At the time the Question was put for the Third Reading, Senator Chief Onyia, did not catch my eye, and it was no fault of mine. Therefore, Senators should make an effort to catch my eye.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** But if the President does not look up, he will see no one.

**The President :** You are quite correct, Senator Chief Onyia ; but maybe you are too small that I cannot see you !

**Senator Egbuson :** The same thing applies to me because I have been on my feet for quite sometime now. If Senator Chief Onyia did not catch your eye, Mr President, then I could have caught your eye.

**The President :** We should leave that matter for the time being.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).*

**The President :** I hear a Senator ask when we are coming back. I think we are adjourning till Monday, the 13th of April.

#### APOLOGY

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** On this Motion for Adjournment I would like to apologise to the Senate for the delay in commencing Government Business this morning and to explain, on behalf of my Friend, the Minister of Labour, that neither he nor his Ministry knew that the

National Provident Fund Bill was going to be on the Order Paper this morning. Senators will probably notice in the *Hansard* that when I was making a Business Statement yesterday I did not include that in the Statement ; but it was an administrative hitch that we have it on the Order Paper of to-day, and the Minister himself did not know about it. That was why he was late in coming to present his Bill.

#### MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The President :** There will be a meeting of the Committee of Selection of the Senate in my office at twelve noon to-day, and I shall be grateful if Senators will be kind enough to remind members to attend.

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** We would like to be told what business will be coming up on Monday.

**The President :** I think it is necessary that Senators should really be furnished with information of Bills coming up beforehand, because this has been the consistent practice in the past.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** We are tired of apologies from the Government. The other time when we were about to adjourn, there were series of Questions on the Order Paper but there were no Ministers to answer them. All we were told then was that the Answers would appear in the *Official Report* of the House.

I think what is responsible for all this is the fact that the two Houses meet at the same time. I am suggesting that we adopt the practice obtaining in the East whereby after the joint meeting of both Houses of the Legislature for the Governor's Address, the House of Chiefs adjourns for the Lower House to complete its business ; and after they have done so, the Upper House re-assembles to conduct its own business. By this practice the Ministers will not have their attention divided. I do not blame any Minister who is absent, if he has to answer questions in the Lower House as well as in the Upper House.

It would be a better arrangement and a wise one too, to have one House sitting at any one particular period, so that all the Ministers would be able to attend, answer questions and present their Bills. We do not like this kind of shabby treatment given to us with apologies

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coming the following day. We are tired of these apologies and we are not prepared to accept them because they do not mean anything to us.

**Senator Olamijulo :** On a point of information, there are two things we ask of the Government, through you, Mr President.

The first is that we would like to know before hand what is going to come up the following day, so that we can get prepared for it. We no longer want this prevalent practice of taking us unawares.

The second point is a question. What are we to do in order to have the Ministers attend to us ?

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** My own case on this issue is that with the way things are done at present we the Senators are put at a disadvantage. I am asking the Government, through our President, that whenever any business is coming before us we should be informed in advance or, alternatively, put the relevant papers into our pigeon-holes each morning.

I make this point because we may be given copies of Bills some days ahead and when a Bill is to be discussed, say, tomorrow, and we have no previous information on it, we are likely to leave the copies of the Bills at home without realising that it is coming up. The result then is that we are found wanting.

For instance, this morning, we have gone through some Bills of which some Senators have not got the relevant copies, although they have them in their flats. Surely, this happened because we had no previous information that they would be coming up to-day. I am humbly suggesting that the Leader of this House should take note of this with all seriousness and ensure that whenever any business is to come before us and on which sufficient notice was not given, copies are put into our pigeon-holes.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I am very grateful for the observations which have been made, particularly to the point made by Senator Ukattah, with regard to the sitting of the Senate. We have, in fact, made every attempt to ensure that the two Houses do not sit simultaneously, and that is why we have

dove-tailed the business programmes of the two Houses during this meeting of Parliament.

Senators will observe that shortly after the Joint Meeting of Parliament the Senate adjourned, and we met again on Friday, which was yesterday. The Lower House has risen this morning, and you will see that we have made every attempt to make sure that Ministers are present to present their Bills.

But what I am trying to explain to Senators is that the National Provident Fund Bill was not due to come up until Monday, according to the programme which I had previously circulated to the members of the Council of Ministers. Unfortunately, it had to be on the Order Paper for this morning because the Navy Bill which we were to take yesterday was not ready in the Lower House. But it is wrong for Senators to say that they had not got notice of it, because we had the Navy Bill on the Order Paper yesterday; and any business left over the previous day is usually taken the following day.

Senators will observe that the two Bills which we left over during the early part of this Session were the very Bills which we dealt with yesterday. So it would have been wrong, too, for Senators to think that we would not have taken the Presidential Proceedings Bill, for instance, because we definitely adjourned debate on that Bill the last time we met. Naturally, we would resume debate on that Bill immediately we re-assembled.

So, for the convenience of Senators perhaps, Mr President, you will allow me to read the programme for the Business of this meeting.

**Several Senators :** No, no !

**The President :** I would rather prefer that what the Minister wants to read now be typed or printed and put in the pigeon-holes of Senators by Monday morning.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** If I read it now, it will appear in the *Hansard* of to-day.

**The President :** In any case proceed.

#### BUSINESS STATEMENT

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** On Monday, the 13th of April, we shall have the Registered Land Bill—Second Reading and

other stages; Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill—Second Reading and other stages; Appropriation (1964-65) Bill—Second Reading.

On Tuesday, the 14th there will be Private Members Motions; Appropriation (1964-65) Bill—Second Reading.

On Wednesday, the 15th, we shall still have the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill—Second Reading, and on Thursday, the 16th, there will be Appropriation (1964-65) Bill—Second Reading, and Adjournment *sine die*.

**Senator Ukattah:** We want to know specifically which Private Members Motions are coming up on Tuesday, because we must prepare for them.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi:** The Motions will appear in the *Order Paper*.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the Senate do now adjourn.

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

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 13th April, 1964

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following old Member—

The Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FINANCE

Onitsha-Asaba Bridge

**O.6. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Finance, if the Onitsha-Asaba Bridge over the River Niger will, when completed, be a toll bridge; and, if so, what measures he intends to take to ensure that the toll collected will be properly accounted for.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Yes, sir. I am confident that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Works and Surveys whose responsibility it is will make adequate arrangements to ensure that the tolls collected are properly accounted for.

The Financial Year

**O.8. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Finance, whether he will recommend to Government the advisability of changing our financial year to coincide with the calendar year; and if he will make a statement.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I do not know of any special significance in the present financial year running from April to March, and I would be willing to consider a change if it were shown that some substantial benefit would be gained therefrom. But at present I am not aware of any great advantage which would result from a change to the calendar year. Close consultation with the Regional Governments would be essential.

EDUCATION

Teachers' Pay : Grant-Aided  
Primary Schools

**O.7. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Education, whether, after consultations with his Regional counterparts, he will recommend to the Federal Government the advisability of taking over the payment of salaries of all teachers employed in primary schools which receive grants-in-aid throughout the Republic.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): No, Sir.

**Senator Nzerem**: Why not, Sir?

JUSTICE

New Lawyers

**O.9. Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, how many Nigerian law students have acquired the necessary qualification for enrolment at the Nigerian Bar from January 1st, 1963 to February 29th, 1964; if he will state the number absorbed into the services of the various Governments, and how many have gone into private practice.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi**: The answer to this question will be published in the *Hansard*.

*The answer is as follows* :—

Two hundred and fifty-seven legal practitioners acquired the necessary qualifications for enrolment, and were indeed enrolled in the Supreme Court between January 1st, 1963 and February, 29th 1964.

It is difficult to know how many of them were absorbed into the services of the various Governments, nor is it possible to know how many have gone into private practice.

COMMUNICATIONS

Afikpo Telephone Needs

**O.10. Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha** asked the Minister of Communications, what is causing the delay in providing a telephone link between Owutu-Nguzu Edda County Council in Afikpo Division, and Ohafia and Abiriba in Bende Division.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** Plans for the provision of telephone service in rural areas under the current development programme have not been finalised. Until service has been provided to Owutu-Nguzu Edda County Council and at Ohafia and Abiriba the possibility of linking them cannot be considered.

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Impersonation of the Police

**O.11. Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha** asked the Prime Minister, what steps he is taking to check impersonation of police officers by people who in one way or another get police uniforms for this purpose.

**Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** It is difficult to prevent any person who wishes to wear a uniform which can be taken to represent that of the police from doing so. No worn out police uniform or equipment is sold to members of the public; it is destroyed. However, it is possible to purchase in the local market caps and other items which can easily be made to represent the police uniform. Every case of impersonation known to the police is investigated and whenever possible the offender is prosecuted.

### TRANSPORT

#### "The Robin"

**O.19. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware of the unseaworthy condition of the Inland Waterway Department's Creekmail-boat, the "Robin", which runs between Lagos and Western Ijaw Division in the Mid-Western Region; and if he will make a statement.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** The answer to this question will be published in the *Hansard*.

#### Lagos-Western Ijaw Boat Service

**O.20. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Transport, if he is aware that the twice monthly boat service between Lagos and Western Ijaw Division does not meet the needs of people of the creek areas; and what he proposes to do to meet the situation.

**Chief Majekodunmi :** The answer to this question will also be published in the *Hansard*.

**O.21. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Transport, if he will cause two seaworthy boats to run between Lagos and Western Ijaw Division and so provide the people of this Division with the opportunity of making four trips between the Division and Lagos every month.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I am sorry, the answer to this question will also be published in the *Hansard*.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** Is the Minister saying that a written answer is the same as an oral answer?

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** Unfortunately, the answer is not here. There is an administrative hitch in the despatch of the answers to these questions from the Ministry concerned. As Senators would observe I have just read out an answer from the Ministry of Communications because the answer to the question is here.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Fires

**O.30. Senator E. I. Onwokae** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many fire accidents had occurred in Lagos as from the 31st March, 1963 to 31st March, 1964 and how many lives and property were lost as a result of these fire accidents, and also the worth of the property lost.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) :** During the year ending 31st March, 1964 the Federal Fire Service attended 262 fires. In addition to these they attended 133 special services, that is emergencies other than fires, and 116 false alarms a total of 511 calls. Three lives were lost in fires and the value of property destroyed was £93,863.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### REGISTERED LAND BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) :** I beg to move—

That an Act to provide for the more effective registration of land and titles and for matters connected therewith be now read a Second time.

[ALHAJI YUSUFF MAITAMA SULE]

Although this Bill appears to be bulky it is non-controversial and quite straightforward. The object of the Bill is to provide stability of title provided owners are in effective control or possession of the land. The Ministry of Lagos Affairs, because of the trouble that has always surrounded the question of land title, set up a committee of experienced people, experienced in land registration—all of them are Nigerians—and these people have looked into every aspect of land registration in Lagos and from their experience and from their knowledge of things that have been going on both in the Ministry and outside it, they have made certain recommendations to the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. This Bill embodies such recommendations and also the existing laws which we think can still be applicable.

So, Senators will find that it is an attempt to put things in order and to make things easy and limit the bad experience or unpleasantness that is experienced by those people over the title of land every now and again in Lagos.

I beg to move.

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

**Senator J. K. Nzerem**: I thank the Minister of Lagos Affairs for bringing this Bill. Those who have land transactions in and around Lagos know to what extent they have been exploited by unscrupulous land owners. The Government coming up with this Bill in order to regulate matters relating to purchase of land, registration of land and other matters connected with land transactions, have to be congratulated by those who deal in land.

I wonder if the Federal Government can also get the West Regional Government to fall into line because quite a number of people who work in Lagos live outside Federal Territory. A few miles away from where we are standing now is the beginning of Western Nigeria and most of those who live on the Mainland do actually reside in the Western Region. They have purchased land there and would therefore like similar conditions to apply to land purchases outside the Federal Territory.

While welcoming this Bill as a piece of progressive legislation, I would like the Federal Government to do something to convince the West Regional Government to come into it so that the law will be comprehensive.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu**: I rise to support this very fine Bill, that was presented to us this morning. As a matter of fact, it has been a matter which has been worrying the minds of some of us who know what the question of land acquisition means in Lagos. I am grateful to our Prime Minister and his able Cabinet for presenting such a Bill at this time.

Years ago, it was the colonial policy for one piece of land to be registered in the names of three or four people to cause confusion and litigation. But to-day we are grateful that our able Prime Minister and able Cabinet have thought it fit to bring this sort of Bill in this wise.

There are many land cases in our courts as a result of land owners selling the same pieces of land to three or four different people and having them registered in the Registry in the names of all those people. The Registry, knowing full well that it is the same land in the same place and with the same dimensions, registers the land in the names of these different persons and later our law courts are full of litigation.

I would now thank Senator Nzerem who has just mentioned that the Western Region should be convinced to take this same line of action. I would also add that not only the Western Region should be convinced but also the other Regions in Nigeria. After all, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Now that this practice is being established in the Federal Territory I would crave the indulgence of the President to ask our able Prime Minister to see that it is established on the Regional level. If the Bill is good for Lagos why can it not be good also for the Western, Northern and Eastern Regions?

We know what land matters are and now once one has one's registration certificate one has it for ever.

Some five months ago when I went to the Lands Department to make enquiry about a piece of land I was told that a portion of my land had been taken over by somebody. I was further told that it was the colonial policy which allowed them to register one land in the names of three or four people. This policy will certainly cause litigation among people who are not normally quarrelling. The officers explained to me that what happened was that Mr

A bought a piece of land, and for years he was unable to build on it. Unknowingly Mr B also paid for this piece of land and erected a building on it. They then stressed the fact that unless we legislators legislate in the Parliament that there must be land certificates issued by the Lands Registry, the situation cannot be corrected. This is why I am very grateful to our able Prime Minister and his Cabinet who have thought it fit to stop this practice of registering two or three people for the same land by introducing this Bill.

The situation now is like a person passing a degree in medicine or law and thereby gaining a certificate. I am grateful to our Cabinet and particularly to our Attorney-General for this Bill because in the colonial days loop-holes were left to cause fighting and misunderstanding among tribes, brethren and sisters. The time has now come for us to strengthen the unity of Nigeria which we are all fighting for. I appeal to Senators that this Bill should be on Federal as well as Regional level.

I support the Bill.

**Senator A. Nwoke** : I am very happy to have this Bill discussed here this morning. Although it is a little bit late as I used to remark, it will go a long way towards settling a great number of disputes over land in the law courts.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs has indicated that at one time he had to set up an expert commission of inquiry to advise him on procedures so as to present this Bill in the way he has done. That was an act in the right direction. But there was a little bit of difficulty created between that time and now and the Minister should have had that report published in the Land Registry so that persons concerned with possession of land would have screened the handouts and started correction in time.

I am definitely sure that as soon as we pass this Bill into law there will be a series of litigation arising from people who go to scrutinise these boundaries and other particulars included in the Bill. That is why I feel that it should have been safer if the report of the committee had been made public earlier on for people to prepare in time and not after the Bill shall have been passed into law.

What other previous speakers have said about the extent of that Bill is quite important.

On my way to Ikeja airport the other day, I was told, when we got to mile six that we were already in Western Nigeria. All the land in that area, I understand, belongs to Western Nigeria and not Lagos. Since very many people who work in Lagos live there, it will be good to ask the Western Nigeria Government to copy this piece of legislation.

Most of the inhabitants of that area are not Westerners, but people who work in Lagos, and because of congestion in Lagos, are forced to find abode there and still consider themselves as inhabitants of Lagos. These inhabitants must be protected by this law, so that when they buy their landed properties, they will not be making a mistake.

I have nothing to quarrel with in this Bill, except to say that the Minister should give publicity to the various marks and boundaries that would definitely cause trouble. If the Minister codifies this sort of thing, I am sure, it will lessen litigation. It will also eliminate confusion and stop those people who would want to make cases where there is none from inciting people to fight against one another.

I support.

**Senator Olamijulo** : I have nothing very important to add to what has been said by other Senators. I only want to make an inquiry through the President. May I know, if the Minister can assure us that efforts will be made to extend this Bill to all the Regions. It is true, I do not know the land system of Northern Nigeria, but I know the system of land in Western, Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria.

There is one other point, I would like to be cleared. For instance, if a family jointly owns a piece of land, the tendency sometimes, is for one side of that family to sell that land and later on, another side of that same family will sell that particular land again. I wonder, what the Minister can do to avoid such things happening again.

I support.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias)** : I do not know whether I should allow the others to speak before coming in, but I think we should get one or two points straight about this Bill.

The first point is that the Working Party that was set up by the Minister of Lagos Affairs at that time to look into the problems of the

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

registration of land in Lagos, which arose out of the findings of Mr S. R. Simson, a land tenure specialist from the Colonial Office, was not quite the way, perhaps, it was understood by one of the speakers. The report of the Working Party was not intended for publication. It was a specialised report more complicated, I think, than the Bill before the Senate. It would have served very little or no useful purpose if an attempt had been made to publish it at any stage.

The Bill before the Senate represents a comprehensive attempt at consolidation of the sort of law that ought to govern the registration of land in Lagos. In 1924, the then Legislative Council passed the Land Registration Act which was not, in fact, registration of titles, but registration of certain types of documents relating to land. In 1935, we had the Registration of Titles Act of that year, which again was a specialised form of registration limited to certain types of titles—subject to all sorts of interests—of family or the individual and other customary rights over land.

The Bill before the Senate is an attempt to amalgamate the two ideas into something which is entirely new. The whole Bill has been based upon what is called the "Torrens System", which has been found very useful in Australia and New Zealand and all over South-East Asia and certain parts of Latin-America where they have this system of joint ownership of land based upon traditional customs.

I hear Senator Chief Onyia saying that I am importing foreign ideas into this country. Chief Onyia will probably know that I have never been an advocate of wholesale importation of foreign ideas, whether of law or of culture into this country. So, when we borrow ideas from other places, we try to adopt as well as adapt those ideas to our own circumstances and when Senators look at the contents of this Bill, they will find very many notable departures from the examples I have quoted. (*Hear, hear*).

This Bill will be applied in a piecemeal fashion. The Minister of Lagos Affairs will declare an area an Adjudication Area—Senators will find all that fully explained in part 1 of this Bill—as a result of the work that would have been done previously by two types of officers in his Ministry, one set known as Adjudication Officers. These officers are res-

ponsible for marking the boundaries of land that are already registered and those that are intended to be registered. Then the Adjudication Officers would present a complete list of all the interests in land within an Adjudication Area. For instance, Lagos may be divided into about twelve or twenty Adjudication Areas and each area will be dealt with thoroughly and comprehensively and completed and then put on the new Register before the next Adjudication area is embarked upon in that way. Through this systematic bringing into the Adjudication Area of areas that are at the moment not included in the area registered under the existing Registration Act, he will be able gradually to cover the whole of Lagos.

Now, several Senators have asked: "Why not apply this to the East and West and the Mid-West?" The simple answer, surely, is that land tenure is a residual subject, which means that it is the responsibility of each Regional Government and each Regional authority alone.

We shall be going beyond our legislative competence to attempt to apply this Bill to any other area of the country; but there is always the possibility that if any Region feels that what we are trying to do here is of value, it is up to that Region to pass a similar law. They need not call it by our own name, they may call it, for example, "the Registered Land Law of Western Nigeria" and enact it.

There will be no harm if the authorities of the Regions decide to do this. But we cannot go beyond our own legislative competence to impose it upon them or even recommend it to them to adopt, apart from their own decision so to do in any given case.

So, this is the problem we have tried to tackle in this Bill. As for getting rid of titles that are already on the Registers, at the moment, we find that the Bill provides that those titles that have been registered under the Registration of Titles Act, will be taken over without any problem and put on the new Register because those have been thoroughly investigated before being put on the existing Register.

But those that come under the Land Registration Act which have not been similarly scrutinised before being put on that Register, will be referred to the adjudication officer to investigate in the manner I have outlined.



All other interests that have doubtful titles will be similarly investigated by these officers and in certain cases the decisions might be left to the Lagos High Court sitting at a Land Claims Court, as we call it, and going into the matter not in a strictly judicial fashion but in a semi-judicial manner with a view to reaching the truth and taking note of all interests involved in any particular land before the final title is put on the new Register.

That is the arrangement we have made and we believe that when this has been carried out in full, the interests of family land will be protected; individuals objecting to certain land being registered will be taken into consideration and there will be less litigation because the whole process is towards simplifying the present system of registered land conveyancing.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

That a Bill for an Act to make other provisions for the control and licensing for Excise purposes of the distillation of spirits be read a Second time.

As Senators are no doubt aware, for some time now, there has been pressure on Government, both on the Floor of this House and outside, to set in motion the necessary machinery which will allow of the local manufacture of potable alcohol such as Whisky and Gin, which has hitherto been imported from overseas.

The problems involved in legislating for such an enterprise have proved to be many, and it has taken a considerable time to find the necessary solutions. In particular, we have had to take great care to ensure that the Bill does not trespass in any way upon Regional legislative authority, whilst at the same time giving the Board of Customs and Excise the powers needed to ensure effective control of the industry for Excise purposes.

The products of distilleries are high duty goods, and the powers vested in the Board of Customs and Excise in this Bill are regarded as the minimum which will enable it to exercise adequate control compatible with a reasonable safeguard of the revenue.

The Bill is very largely concerned with the technical aspects of Excise control of distilleries, and I do not intend to weary the Senate by attempting to explain its intricacies clause by clause. But there are a few provisions to which I do wish to draw Senators' attention. Clause I provides that no person may make or distil spirits without a distiller's licence issued by the Board of Customs and Excise, and that a distiller's licence may be issued, on payment of a fee of one hundred pounds, if the Board is satisfied that the applicant's premises are in such a state that proper excise control can be exercised.

Clause I also makes it clear that the requirement of an excise licence is in addition to any Regional law affecting the manufacture of spirits. This means that if a Regional Government wishes to legislate for the control of the industry, or perhaps to prohibit it altogether, it will be free to do so. In such a case, a distiller would have to comply with the requirements of the Regional law as well as of the Federal law.

Clause 2 of the Bill is of wide application. It provides that anyone who possesses a still must have a licence from the Board of Customs and Excise. This requirement applies to any still, other than one on premises in respect of which a distiller's licence has been issued. The reason for this is that, although many stills are used for purposes other than the manufacture of spirits, by their very nature they could produce spirits, and they are a revenue risk.

The requirement that such stills be licensed will greatly simplify the task of control. This is not intended in any way as a restrictive measure, and still licences will be issued free of charge when the Board is satisfied that the applicant requires a still for a legitimate purpose.

Finally, Sir, I am sure that Senators will expect me to say something about the question of whether the manufacture of local gin—the so-called "illicit gin"—will be legalised. I must say at once that it is certainly not Government's immediate intention to do so. The object of the present Bill is to provide for the

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

excise control of the manufacture of spirits under factory conditions. Whilst it will of course be open to any one to apply for a distiller's licence, it is most unlikely that a producer of illicit gin would be able to satisfy the strict conditions which will be pre-requisite to the issue of a licence.

I hope the explanations I have given sufficiently indicate the objects of this Bill, which I commend to the House.

I beg to move.

**Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi :** I beg to second.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju :** I rise to support this Bill—Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill. It is a welcome piece of legislation. Whatever we can do to make sure that people are paying what they should pay normally, is always welcome to this House. What is more, the conditions set out here, as stated by the Minister are really satisfying, that no distillation will be allowed without licence and that the distiller's licence will cost just about £100.

I do not think a sum of £100 is prohibitive, but the Minister has done something to forestall us. He tried to make us understand that no distiller of the so-called "illicit gin" can afford the factory conditions necessary for distillation. I am sure if these people are really allowed, they can purchase all the equipment necessary and set up adequate satisfactory hygienic conditions required for distillation.

As a matter of fact, the law itself makes room for something like that. Clause 10—Power to prohibit use of certain substances in excisable goods. With the permission of the President I quote :

*If it appears to the satisfaction of the Board that any substance or liquor is used, or is capable of being used, in the manufacture or preparation for sale of any goods chargeable with a duty of excise, and that that substance or liquor is of a noxious or detrimental nature—et cetera.*

In other words, it is within the competence of the Board to make sure that the materials used are in no way obnoxious. Therefore, if the Board is prepared to go all out, they can find out and test all the materials used by the manufacturers of this illicit gin and make sure

that the materials used are the required type of materials, and also make sure that they set up their places in the normal ways or with adequate equipment. This can be done. To my mind the present approach is a negative and not a positive one.

If actually we put this in straight away, then we are already assuming that they can never measure up to the required conditions. I think this is part of our colonial mentality. If expatriate firms can measure up and provide all the adequate materials and equipment, there is no earthly reason why our people cannot do it. If we allow our people too, they can put their heads together and produce it because no matter what we do, they keep on producing it.

Even though we say that we do not want it they still produce it and people still take this thing that is not hygienic. Therefore, why not make provision to make the thing hygienic if actually we are making a positive approach to this problem.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan :** Mr President, I would not have spoken at all on this Bill because distillation is not a woman's subject. The reason why I am standing is to thank the Minister for bringing this Bill.

I think that making things difficult for our people to distil illicit gin is one of the things that will help Nigeria. Already, there are too many kinds of drinks in Nigeria and if the Government can find a way of controlling their distillation in a very hard way, too many people will not indulge in distilling gin and this will be better for us.

I know, as Senator Lagunju has said, that these people will go on distilling, but while they are doing it illegally, there is still the fear of being caught. When things are made very easy for them to distil, then we will have many distillers here and they would not keep to the mark.

They can sign any form and pay the money and promise to do it in the most hygienic way, but we can be sure that there will be something missing on the long run. These distillers will give us the bad stuff they have been giving us before, if not worse, and they will be protected by the law.

For these reasons, I do not agree that this form of obtaining permission or licence to

distil is too hard. Even if there are big distillers here, something should be done to control the quantity to be distilled every year.

Now, we find men going about without food if they can get two bottles of beer a day while their wives and children are suffering.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** A Senator wants to know which is cheaper. Of course, I think it is cheaper for men to go about with bottles but what about the families of such men? I am very, very grateful to the Minister of Finance and this is the first time I am grateful to him.

**Several Senators :** No.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** I said "very, very," because he has put up this Bill and has put in a condition that will not allow several people to go on distilling and making innocent wives and children miserable because the men want to enjoy themselves.

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** I think that women nowadays drink more than men; particularly *Guinness Stout*.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** Who buy them the drinks? You men are the people buying drinks for them and you induce them to go about with you to have merry times as you call it, and yet, you would not like your children, particularly the girls, after being sent to England and after being given good training, to follow suit, but still you corrupt other people's children!

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I must object to the Senator's statement. I have never in my life corrupt anybody's children. In fact, I have done everything I can to uplift women in this country.

**The President :** I am sure Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan never said you did. Senator Ogundipe.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** I have not finished yet Mr President.

**The President :** Is the Senator still on her legs?

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** Yes. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** Thank you, Mr President for doing justice. This Bill for

the control of distillation is a very welcome and progressive one. It is welcome and progressive in that in this country we know several people are without employment. The cry of unemployment is rising and anything that the Government can do to decrease unemployment and give more work to people is in the right line.

It is just possible, if these distillation industries were set up, however prohibitive the licence might be, that hundreds of thousands of our men would be employed, and I do not think it is only the white men who will set up these industries. I think Africans who are businesslike and who have the money can set up such industries.

The advantage that will accrue from it is that the competition which the locally produced gin or whisky will bring would probably be to lower the prices of the imported one. We all know that the protection given to the locally brewed *Star Lager beer* is tending to drive out other types of beer which are imported like *Becks*, *Heineken's* and so on from the market. Our own locally produced beer is now becoming the favourite of our people, particularly our girls. I think the women Senators do not go to pub-houses occasionally to see dances. If they do, they should know how the girls enjoy the drinking of alcohol.

Distillation should be encouraged as a means of developing industries locally. But much as this Bill is welcome, I do not know why the Minister of Finance would be afraid of our people developing what we call our own "local" or "illicit" gin. In fact, it is something, I think, which ought to be greatly encouraged. It is commendable that Africans or Nigerians, with their own mentality, try to produce say, gun-powder, guns or try to produce a kind of gin which we call illicit simply because it is not imported. It is not something to be discouraged; it is rather something to be encouraged. I would even suggest that people who distil the gin should have lower licence rate, probably grade 'B' or grade 'C' licence, in order to protect the locally made gin and at the same time, get the distillers under proper control rather than discourage them.

The drinking of locally produced gin which we call by different names in different places—some people call it *ogogoro* and the like—is

[SENATOR OGUNDIPE]

gaining ground very rapidly. Even with all the vigilance of the police, I learnt just yesterday that it is now being imported in a novel way into this island. The importers would bring it to the middle of the Lagoon and people would go there with kerosine tins or bottles; meet the importers at the lagoon and buy it and carry it back. Even if the Police got to know about it, before they could get there, the canoe would have departed.

I hear the Minister of Finance say that I seem to know much about it; I think that it is our duty to tell the Government what we hear. So, I think the Minister of Finance will commend me for coming to inform him.

Who can say that the Police in some cases are not protecting the people they are expected to arrest. I do not blame them or anybody who drinks illicit gin. I personally do not drink it; I take a little of beer, so little that taking hot drink will not appeal to me. On second thought, we may not blame them very much because they could buy for three or four shillings a bottle what, after a little refining or the like would be bought for two guineas or two pounds and ten shillings. It is temptation; they are tempted to buy it.

If we could encourage the distillation, that might probably reduce the prices of liquor, and thereby raise revenue because those who could afford to buy it would be inclined to drink more of it. That can raise the revenue. We shall be doing a great service to our people, to those whom we give more work to do and to those whom we give something that they can afford to buy and drink.

At this point, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Finance the importance of seeing to it that the brewing of this illicit wine is widespread. Originally, the brewing was done only in a certain part of the country by a certain tribe—of course, we never like to mention tribes nowadays—in order to facilitate their industry which we do not want to recognise.

These same people go to other regions and brew it there and make it cheaper. Therefore, the drinking of the so-called illicit gin is spreading like wild fire and it will continue to spread. It is therefore not only legislation to prevent people from brewing it that will help but everything should be done to encourage it as an industry.

That is the part of the Bill which the Minister of Finance has, of course, consciously omitted. In fact, he has given a reason, which does not seem to satisfy this Senate so much, for not encouraging it. So, we still appeal to the Government to see to the encouragement of the locally produced gin by not making the licence for it as prohibitive as in the case of other drinks. In any case, the possibility of this local industry being encouraged should not be ruled out.

This is my simple contribution to this Debate.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** My attitude towards this Bill is more or less that of indifference. I say so because it would appear that our philosophy is that of going from the abstract to the concrete; from the unknown to the known.

Perhaps, what pushes us to this extent is the tendency to raise revenue. We place more premium on revenue than on the projection of indigenous culture or morality. There may be no objection to raising revenue by trying to produce or use chemicals coming from abroad to manufacture something to be consumed by our own children. Whether or not those chemicals have been tested sufficiently to suit our own health—our African health, tropical health—is the question. We are now to import foreign spirits and chemicals to produce the drink that we are going to consume in this country.

We have advocated, time without number, in this Senate for the legalisation and control of the manufacture of our own indigenous drinks. We spoke here in this Senate about the preservation of our palm wine, which is a very rich stuff for our consumption. Palm wine is healthier than beer or any other foreign drink, if we can only take care of its production. Whisky was the 'golden water' of the late A. C. Nwapa.

We have left undone what we should have done, that is, to begin by preserving our own drink—the drink that gives us vitality, the drink that contains vitamins—and consume foreign drinks, which, at best, only sap the spirit and life of man. We now place a premium on producing such foreign drinks simply because we want to raise revenue. Are we not, in effect, encouraging our people to deteriorate? Are we not encouraging moral lapses in our generation?

In spite of our pleadings in this Senate to begin by legalising our so-called 'illicit' gin and our locally produced drinks and encouraging production just in the same way as we are encouraging foreign production in this country we are just going back to begin with the foreign way of manufacturing and distilling gin and whisky at the expense of our own production.

I would have welcomed this Bill if we had started off with the same legislation to protect our own indigenous drinks. I hear the Minister of Finance asking me to name some of our indigenous drinks. They are many. We have *burukutu*, we have *tombo* wine, we have *okpokiri* and upwine; palm wine and *pito* are also here.

Why should we allow these drinks to perish, when we can control them and legalise their manufacture? Because of the presence of too many foreign drinks, we allow the inhabitants of this country to neglect their own home-made drinks. A drink like *Johnny Walker*, usually advertised with the words, "born 1820, still going strong", is being preferred to our native drink such as palm wine.

If we can control the production of palm wine, we shall be able to stop the people that are polluting this drink, even if a bottle of palm wine is going to cost us as much as a bottle of beer. This will encourage the producers not to dilute this wine, which we can patronise at even the bar.

The Minister of Health may tell me that they have tested some of the chemicals that are going to be used for making foreign drinks for us, and that they know that these chemicals are harmless. But how do we really know that those chemicals may not be harmful to us in the long run. We actually do know that palm wine and other indigenous drinks are good for the body, but we neglect their production.

If the Minister of Finance will give us the assurance that something will be done, and soon too, to encourage and control the manufacture of our own indigenous drinks, I will gladly participate in the debate in connection with this Bill. I hear some Senators say that I am already participating in the debate by making all these comments. As I said earlier, my attitude to the Bill is more or less that of indifference. I know I am debating on the

issue, but I have not come to consider the Bill clause by clause, or to register my support for or opposition to the clauses. My attitude is that of indifference.

If the Minister can give us that assurance, then I can have the nerve to contribute my own quota in supporting this Bill. However, I can only make one remark about this Bill for the meantime. I found in the Bill something about how the premises in which these foreign drinks are going to be manufactured will be controlled. But nothing is said about the control of the sale and buying of the drinks. Premium is only placed on the control of the premises. I wonder whether somebody will come from outside of the premises to buy, and if that happens, what will happen to such a person, since the premises are under control? Nothing has been said about this in the Bill.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I rise to inform my Friend, Senator Chief Onyia, that this Bill has nothing to do whatsoever with the sale of the drinks. In all finished products where we collect excise duties, we are not concerned with sale. We are concerned with the production, and whatever an industry produces, we collect Government revenue on it. Whether the industry is going to sell its products to the man in the moon is none of our concern. We do not regulate sales.

**Senator Chief Onyia** : When we come to the Committee Stage, where we shall have to consider the Bill clause by clause, I shall raise a question in connection with clause 16. Until we come to that stage, I shall stop so far.

**Senator E. I. Onewokae** : Mr President, Sir, This is not a controversial Bill. When the order for its Second Reading was being read by the Clerk of the Parliaments, I thought that Senators would approve it with ovation, because it does not preclude indigenous companies from taking part in this business. I think what Senators are understanding now is that perhaps indigenous manufacturers would not be able to meet the conditions under which licence could be granted. All I have to say is that the Government should give financial support to them if they qualify for such support.

It is only the Minister of Health (*Senator Chief Majekodunmi*) who can say authoritatively that illicit gin is harmful to human beings. The gin can be refined if the people who deal

[SENATOR ONEWOKAE]

in it can get the proper premises and machines and distil under the approved conditions required by this Bill.

Some Members have spoken a few minutes ago about encouraging drinking by way of, perhaps, allowing our people to brew drinks, thereby reducing the price. But all I can say is that I will be the last person to support drinking, because many crimes are committed by drunkards. When people become drunk they commit nuisance and do all sorts of nonsensical things in the streets, and they do not even care for their wives and children in the house. I will be the last man to support drinking, not because I am a total abstainer, but because I only feel that the best thing should be done.

I am grateful to the Federal Government for introducing this Bill to tighten up the distillation of strong drinks. As I have already pointed out, in order that indigenous distillers may be able to compete successfully with expatriate firms in this business, our Government should support them financially.

I beg to support.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I have only a very short contribution to make to the debate on this Bill. I will start with illicit gin. I do not take illicit gin myself because I am convinced that there must be some sort of harmful elements in it. On the other hand, I have not come across an incident where a doctor has returned a verdict of death caused by drinking illicit gin. In fact if there is any such case it can only be one out of every hundred. For that reason, since illicit gin does not appear very harmful, as we expect it to be, I would suggest that it should be legalised. After all, the word 'illicit' means unlawful, and it no longer holds water. Illicit gin is drunk here in Lagos in public. Law officers see that and condone it. It is only in the provinces that the question of tightening this law is carried out. Here in Lagos it is overlooked.

I want to mention something which is not in the Bill, that is the other products manufactured locally. I do not know whether it is because the Government is collecting very high percentage of excise duty on these locally manufactured articles that they are very costly in the local markets. For example, what economic

justification have the people producing cement at Nkalagu to charge as high as 12s-6d for a bag while the imported cement costs less? What economic justification have the people manufacturing tyres such as, Dunlop or Michelin, to charge as high as £10 or £9 for a tyre when an imported one costs about £8? What economic justification have the people distilling stout beer to charge as much as 3s-9d or 4s a bottle in some cases—in some cases the prices range from 4s to 4s-6d? We expect the manufacturers to sell them at least at 3s per bottle. If manufacturers sell at 3s, we may get them at about 3s-6d. For this reason, I think the Government should reduce the excise duty being collected on these locally manufactured articles. I therefore appeal to the Government to look into this matter.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** It may be that if I give one information to Senators they might speak less on this matter. I want to inform the House that a firm, by the name of Duncan, Gilbey and Mechieison, a British firm, that has been distilling spirits in Ghana, has made application to the Government with a view to purchasing illicit gin produced by sundry people and distilling it so that it can be good for human consumption. The application is being examined and, if it is feasible, it may be possible that illegality in the locally produced gin will be removed to enable it become a sort of cottage industry so that those producing it could sell to this company. But my Bill has nothing to do with that.

I want to say that Government is not blind to the points that have been made for a long time now about the illicit gin. But we cannot put it on the market as such. I am only saying that there is an application towards this, but it must be properly examined. That is why I mentioned it briefly in my original speech that it is being looked into. With this explanation, I think Senators will not waste time speaking on this question of illicit gin.

**Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye :** We wanted to contribute a lot on this Bill. In Okitipupa, many people have been convicted because of illicit gin. It will not be good if I sit down here without contributing anything while this matter is being debated. The word 'illicit' means unlawful. It should be called licit so that people will not be annoyed when the name

is called. When we say 'licit' we mean legal, and when we say 'illicit' we mean illegal. I think the word 'illicit' should be removed and substituted with a label showing that it is our own make. That should be a better form. It will be a very good idea if the Government will send experts to advise the people who make these things on the modern ways, so that they can in turn help in reducing the rate of unemployment. It is no use banning the manufacture of these things since our people have not got the money to purchase the imported ones. I think the Government should consider these poor people in this country and do something to legalise the manufacture of gin.

Although the Minister of Finance has informed us about a firm from Ghana, I do not know how long this negotiation will take to materialise. It will be recalled that since 1958 we have been discussing this question of illicit gin and the Government has always promised to take steps to legalise it, but up till now it would appear that nothing has really been done.

Everyday we hear people say there is poison in this gin or in that gin made here, but we do not hear of any doctor pointing out any particular poison. We have our local drinks like palm wine, *burukutu*, *et cetera*, and nobody has raised any point against any of them. I think the Government should find ways and means of improving our gin and remove that name 'illicit' which has only so far serve to convict very many Igerians. If we should examine this gin side by side with the imported ones, as a matter of fact they taste alike.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** On a point of order, the Senator has just said they taste alike. I wonder how he came to know that.

**Senator Chief Olayeye :** I do not want to waste the time of the Senate because the Minister of Finance has explained some points on it. However, I do hope that very soon our people will be permitted to distil this gin, and thus remove the name 'illicit' and call it legal gin. That, surely, is going to bring a lot of money to the Government.

I therefore appeal to the Government to see to it that the time will not be long when our people will be allowed to make this gin without hindrance and the Government will

send experts to our villages to teach the people how to improve it.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Excise (Control of Distillation) Bill. In doing so, I have to thank the Minister very much indeed for having brought this Bill at this time. It shows his vigilance and foresight. We all know the effect of alcohol. To leave the production of this gin uncontrolled will do a lot of harm.

This is a very progressive piece of legislation and it is very constructive. Previously there was a lot of trouble in this House about contraband goods *et cetera*. I feel that we should not seek to be destructive, but constructive at all times. If we create a means whereby the people who indulge in the production of gin get together and are shown some more scientific methods, I think they will improve their production.

Individual production actually does more harm than good. Nevertheless, there is great demand for this gin all over the country, and I am not in agreement with the proposal to send our products to somewhere else for distillation. If we allow that to happen, people will buy them for about two shillings a bottle, take them away for a few weeks for what they may call modification, only to come back and sell them to us at over two pounds a bottle. This is quite different from asking the U.A.C. to buy our palm kernel and send them overseas for the manufacture of pomade and the different by-products of palm kernel, and then come back to sell them at any price. This is just a question of buying what the people have manufactured at a very low price and coming back to sell the same thing at exorbitant prices.

Instead of sending our products to Ghana, why not establish the factory here?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of information, I said that the firm will build the distilling factory here, and not that they will carry the gin over to Ghana.

**Senator Chief Umoh :** I now understand. If that factory is built here we shall have a lot of money from it. I have my reasons for saying this. I come from an area where there are abundant raw materials. The wealth that we

[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

have at Aba, Umuahia, and all these areas around is from my area. So when we want to consider a site for a project, we must bear in mind that there are some areas where there are lots of raw materials. If this is established in my area, it will be of immense profit to us.

I am glad the Government does not mean to encourage the drinking of alcohol in this country, and no doubt we can establish markets elsewhere.

After all, people send alcoholic drinks to our country. We can also send our own to other places and establish markets there. Those who come here to establish their own markets know that people of other places need their product. They come here to establish because we need their products.

I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator Chief E. E. Boyo** : I rise to say that this legislation is welcome because our home-produced alcohol, which has for so long been illegally produced under the popular name of "O.H.M.S.," is at long last to be legalised. In view of the fact that duty on imported spirits is high, Government should make sure that the excise duty on spirits to be made in Nigeria will not be very high so that we can buy them cheaply.

I understand that locally manufactured gin in Ghana is cheaper than the imported one. I therefore support the heavy penalties contained in some sections of the Bill.

One point, however, to which I would like to refer is this. Much of the illicit spirits now being distilled in Nigeria is produced in the River areas of Eastern Region, and in the Western and Mid-Western Regions. It will be advantageous to site a few distilleries in these areas where experience in distillation has already been gained.

If distillery licence is still maintained at £100, what step will the Government take to stop illicit distilleries particularly in the rural areas. This is because both men and women distill spirit now in rural areas.

Clause 14—Page C.222—of this Bill reads as follows :—

*If any officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that distillation contrary to the provisions of this Act is being carried out on any*

*land or premises, he may enter thereon, if need be by force, and dismantle or seize the still or other apparatus used in conjunction therewith.*

This alone cannot solve the problem. If the Minister of Finance could find any other way to stop this entirely it would be quite appreciated. Otherwise, it will continue.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu** : While supporting this Bill, I have only one observation to bring to the attention of the Minister of Finance. Considering the circumstances surrounding the local dealers in "illicit gin", as we call it, nobody in this House will fail to support this simple legislation.

I welcome the legislation myself. But we are very much concerned over the question of illicit gin. If the Minister will give us the assurance that Government will arrange to help the distillers of our locally made gin, either by grouping them together or giving them individual help by providing both the financial as well as the material needs for distillation we shall be satisfied. This is because we shall have two benefits from this arrangement.

The first is that the excise duty on this distillation will swell the finances of the Government and the second advantage is that it will help to absorb some unemployed youths in the Federation. The brewers of illicit gin also will make a living out of it if they are allowed to carry on with the business as usual.

As the Minister has said, £100 will be the fee for obtaining a licence from the licensing authorities. Let this amount, if possible be one-third of the total amount payable on licence for locally manufactured spirits. If the Minister can give us an assurance and tell us how he will work to help the local people in manufacturing their own illicit gin, I do not think that we shall have anything at all to quarrel with in this Bill.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I would like to draw the attention of Senators to the purpose of this Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the control, for excise purposes only ; it has nothing to do with any other aspect of distilleries. As Senators are aware, the Regional Governments have a lot to do, by our Constitution, on the



question of setting up of distilleries. That was why I mentioned it earlier on that the Regional Governments could also make laws for the setting up of distilleries. But the collection of excise duty is the exclusive preserve of the Federal Government. No Regional Government can levy any excise duty nor collect same.

Our purpose is, therefore, to enact this Bill so that the Board of Customs and Excise can levy excise duty on spirits distilled in Nigeria. This is being done because steps are far ahead for the production of spirits in Nigeria.

I think that before the end of this month we shall have a distillery in Nigeria and it is the duty of Government to safeguard the revenue as we know that spirits, that is drinkables like whisky and gin, are high-duty goods and Government cannot close its eyes to the distillation of spirits in Nigeria as we will lose a lot of revenue by it.

Having made this point clear, I would like to explain why we have tried to control the distillation of spirits in the way we have provided for it in the Bill. As Senators know, unless the premises for the distillation of beer, whisky or gin is properly fenced in and all measures taken for the Customs to be able to control the distribution of it, then it will be possible for anybody to enter the premises and take away bottles of whisky or gin without paying duty.

It is, therefore, essential that we must license the premises and must also see to it that these premises are properly fenced in, and that even the room where the finished product is kept is controlled by the Customs.

Unless this is done, Senators will agree, that it will be an open door business. This cannot be the case for dutiable goods. Therefore, the provision in the Bill, especially that referred to by Senator Chief Onyia, that is clause 16 of the Bill, is very necessary.

Supposing Senator Chief Onyia opens a distillery at Asaba and we want to collect Excise Duty from him and he is unable to pay and yet he is selling his product, we have to seal his factory first of all to stop him from producing or from distilling any more. We must also seize that which he has in stock and sell it

in the open market so that Government can collect its revenue. This is the purpose of that clause.

The clause quoted by Senator Chief Boyo is that in regard to power to enter premises. The Customs Authorities have a licence of a kind to enter into any premises. If they suspect that there are contraband goods in the Senator's house, they are bound to enter into his premises without search warrant and search his house and collect them. This is done all over the world. There is no escape because the collection of revenue for high duty goods, or for any good for that matter, must be done with the highest sense of precision.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** And with a high sense of duty too.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I said that clause 16 deals with forfeiture and condemnation of spirits seized.

Many people have advocated that when we seize contraband goods we must sell them. Well, that will encourage the importation of contrabands because those who import them will go and buy them again perhaps at a cheaper rate. So, we will not allow that to be done. If we seize such goods, we will condemn them and destroy them instead of letting them into the hands of the same people who have brought them by devious means. That is the purpose,

I think that covers the generality of the points made by Senators, excepting one, that is the argument between Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan and my Colleague and Friend, I do not want to take part in that exchange, to apportion blame between men and women as to who is responsible for the demoralisation and as to whether the women or the men are the guilty ones. That is not my duty.

But it is essential to say this, that even in the Bible it is said in the *Ecclesiastics* that a wise son is an honour to the father but a foolish child is a shame unto the mother. Why the writer said so, I cannot say. When the child is good he is an honour to the father but if the child is spoilt he is a shame to the mother. That shows, in my opinion, that the responsibility for the moral code of a child is more on the woman than on the man. (Laughter). Senators cannot disagree with the Bible.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

I think that I have shown that the Government is alert on the question of illicit gin. There is no use for any Government to be hypocritical of realities. We all know that illicit gin is being distilled everywhere in the country, not only in Okitipupa or in the Rivers area.

A Senator has just mentioned Warri. My answer to him is that I do not know about Warri. I know that this thing is done everywhere in Nigeria. So, we must face the realities of it.

Senators will agree that the standard of our distilled gin is very poor and low and not good for human consumption. As a matter of fact, alcohol in its entirety is not good for the human system. One does not need to be a qualified Doctor to know that. If a man gets out of his mind after taking any amount of gin, whether licit or illicit, obviously the continuation of it will have a lot to do with his mental capabilities. So, no one will encourage it.

But, again, the Government must be realistic. Whether we like cigarettes or not, people are smoking. Whether we like alcohol or not, people are drinking it. Whether we like illicit gin or not people are drinking it. It is no use Government sitting aside and waiting for one or two isolated persons to be prosecuted by the police under the law. That is why we are examining it.

Another thing is this. Senators should realise that we have not enough Customs Officers to be posted to every home. We cannot licence every home in the Rivers, Warri, Sapele, Asaba, and everywhere. I suppose that millions of people have small portable distilleries in their homes. If we are going to license all of them then we shall collect nothing.

It is, therefore, essential to see that distilleries are not dotted everywhere. They are special types of industry which must be carefully considered because of the high duty nature of the spirit.

That being the case, what the Government is considering now is to examine what I told Senators that a particular company in a neighbouring country has made a success of. We, therefore, want to examine it.

But we can assist our people to make some money by distilling in the first instance.

This company will then buy it from them and put a finishing touch to it and produce the real whisky or gin out of it.

I think that Government should be commended for this consideration, and we hope that it will come through. That is something that we are looking into and it is my greatest desire that it should come through as quickly as possible.

With these remarks, I 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 read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION) BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(DISTILLER'S LICENCE).

Senator T. Olamijulo : I have something against a section of this Clause. Clause 1 section 5 (b) reads—

*"On conviction on indictment to a fine of an unlimited amount"* and so on.

Why should the fine be "unlimited" when the term of imprisonment is stated?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Because spirit itself is unlimited. (Laughter). The Judge has his discretion. If they get the Senator with a bottle of gin obviously the Judge will know how much to fine him.

But if somebody, after knowing that there is such a law, were to establish a distillery of a gigantic nature somewhere without obtaining the necessary licence, does the Senator not agree that the Judge should be given a discretion to fine him, or fine the company if it is a company, any amount of money according to the magnitude of the industry illicitly set up? I do not see anything wrong there.

Senator Olamijulo : About a thousand pounds?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not know.

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

*Clauses 2-28—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedules 1-3, agreed to.*

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

## APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

11.50 a.m.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr President, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency, the President, to move that a Bill entitled—

“A BILL for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Sixty-Two Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the service of the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five; and to appropriate the amount for the purposes specified in this Act”

be now read a Second time.

Between my first Budget Speech of 1958 which I captioned the “People’s Budget” at a time when we were all united in the common desire for Independence, and the last one which I called the “Modernisation Budget”, our great country has emerged from the trying circumstances of colonial status to the dignifying atmosphere of Independence.

Self-rule has brought in its train the herculean task of National Reconstruction which has necessitated the mobilisation of all our resources of land, labour and capital. This has been so because society far from being static is dynamic. Gone are the classical days of *laissez-faire* economics when State intervention in the economic life of a community was frowned upon. We are in an age of mixed economics in which politics and economics are interdependent.

The three classical factors of production have become so dove-tailed in the intangible factor of nationalism that the one can scarcely be said to do without the other in this second half of the twentieth century.

Since the glorious days of Independence, Nigeria has seen the dawn of a Republican era which has put a finishing touch to her struggle for nationhood, and confirmed Nigeria as a full-fledged Nation in Africa and the world at large. Because of this achievement, I have named this Budget the “National Budget”, and it is designed to make an aerial survey of our economic achievements and aspirations.

It goes without saying that political independence, far from being an end in itself, is merely a means to an end. Economic independence is the next end for which all of us, both Government and people alike, must strive if we are to usher in public and private affluence. The first pre-requisite of this manifestation is economic patriotism which, in a phrase, means taking pride in things Nigerian.

An illustrious son of Nigeria once summed up this concept in the words “Boycott the Boycottables” which, when translated to the needs of this day and age, means boycotting imported goods in preference to locally manufactured ones. This is not born out of selfish motive or xenophobia but out of the desire to make this nation economically great by improving the standard of living of our people.

If we are to accelerate the pace of industrialisation, we must all join hands in providing a market for our locally manufactured goods. What more fitting tribute can we pay to-day to the memory of Mazi Mbonu Ojike than to pick up this gauntlet from where he left it.

It is reassuring to note however that there are already, welcome signs of this realisation, especially in the market for textile goods, tyres, cement and other building materials, *et cetera*, where people now pride themselves in demanding Nigerian made materials in preference to imported equivalents. To enable this trend to gather momentum, our manufactured goods must however rank in quality and appeal with their imported rivals.

And now for an up-to-date review of the financial indications of the Development Plan. It might delight Senators to know that the prospects for external finance are brighter now than they were at the time I presented my last Budget Speech.

In the first year of the Plan, we had an assurance of external finance to the tune of £172 million; there is a likelihood of additional external finance of £24 million or more, thus reducing the gap of external finance required for the Plan to £105 million.

Partly because of a large spill-over of projects from the last economic programme and partly as a result of indecision on the part of prospective lenders, the flow of foreign aid finance has not been as torrential as originally anticipated.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

This means that we may have to rely for some time on our domestic resources for certain expenditure which cannot be postponed or delayed.

In this regard it is reassuring to note that we have continued to bear the greater part of our development burden. Nevertheless, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has for instance, contributed enormously to our Development Plan since its inception. Recently, they have agreed to loan the sum of £10.7 million towards Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's Six-Year Expansion Programme. This brings to a total of £15.5 million the amount of loan which they have given to us since the Development Plan was mooted.

The Bank has also promised to provide a total of £5.3 million for three road projects in the Northern Region. While still on the generosity of the World Bank, I am delighted to report that as a further expression of confidence in us, Mr John Garba of Nigeria was recently elected an Executive Director of the World Bank.

The Niger Dam Project will undoubtedly become the hub-house of our present stage of industrialisation in view of the immense possibilities it holds for several aspects of the economy. The first stage of this project is estimated to cost £72 million out of which the Federal Government is expected to bear a total cost of £28 million to cover local costs and the cost of servicing the loan during the period of construction.

The balance of £44 million is expected to come from external sources and I am happy to announce that firm promises have been received for long-term loans from the World Bank and some friendly countries in the following order :—

	£
World Bank .. .. .	28,000,000
Italian Government .. .. .	9,000,000
U.S.A. .. .. .	5,000,000
U.K. .. .. .	3,000,000
Netherlands .. .. .	2,000,000

As a medium for providing the private sector of the economy with long and medium term finance, the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank was established on the 22nd day of January, 1964 with an authorised capital of £5 million of which £2.25 million was initially

subscribed. It is dignifying to note that the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank, has interest in this new Bank.

Among the offers of assistance so far received from foreign governments are a total of £17 million by the United Kingdom and £80 million by the United States with a firm promise of more. This is in addition to two major loans which we have been able to negotiate under the U.S.A.I.D. Assistance Programme at unusually moderate terms.

I must pause at this point and ask Senators to join me in paying a glowing tribute to the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy, for the philanthropic contributions he made to the economic progress of this country in particular and to the under-developed areas of the world in general. He will continue to be remembered as the champion and the benefactor of the under-privileged. The West German Government has also promised to us a loan of £8.5 million in addition to a further offer from the German Reconstruction Loan Corporation of £2.3 million towards the establishment of a Nigerian Paper Mill. Other offers of financial assistance include £9 million from the Italian Government and £2 million from the Netherlands both in respect of the Niger Dam Project. The Netherland Government has also agreed to guarantee suppliers' credit to the tune of £2 million for financing agreed projects within the Plan. There have also been offers of assistance from the United Nations Special Fund and the Israeli, Swiss, Canadian and Swedish Governments. I am sure that Senator will join me in extending our warmest appreciation of the assistance rendered to us by these countries.

Now, Sir, turning to the domestic front, the Central Bank is already making its mark as the mainstay of the Nigerian Money Market. It has squarely equated itself with the task of providing finance to meet the short-term needs of both the private and public sectors of the economy in the form of rediscount bills or refinance facilities for commercial bills. Treasury Bills outstanding now total £30 million out of which £8 million has been on-lent to the Regional Governments. In January this year, the Bank floated the fifth Nigerian Development loan of £20 million. This floatation has been called the Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan for obvious reasons. This

brought the total loan locally raised since 1959 to £54.35 million. In addition to these and many other ways in which the Central Bank has helped in the growth of the money market, it has also made remarkable contributions towards the financing of the Six-Year Development Programme. Out of the £40 million which the Bank agreed to contribute towards the latter years of the Plan, it became necessary to call for £20 million out of it because of the delay in the flow of anticipated foreign aid. The flow of the Central Bank money has, however, to be watched with care if we are to avoid inflation and maintain the strength of the Nigerian pound.

To make a success of the Development Plan, we must endeavour to cultivate the saving habit. The investments which are going to be carried out under the Plan will generate a tremendous amount of purchasing power in the economy, and the consequent increase in effective demand is bound to end up in an inflationary spiral unless a significant proportion of the additional income is saved for net, new and additional investments. It is not enough to say that one's earning is too small to allow for saving towards the proverbial rainy day. The important thing is to begin somewhere and one's reserves will soon begin to assume massive proportions.

To this end, we have since December 1962, launched the National Savings Campaign, both as a means of popularising all forms of savings and with a view to promoting the National Savings Certificate and Premium Bonds which have been made available to the public for purchase at Post Offices and Commercial Banks throughout the country.

We have introduced a monthly pay-roll deduction Scheme in Federal Ministries/Departments in the Lagos area, and efforts are being made to extend it to the Regions and local authorities. Among other forms of savings media so far introduced are the Premium Bond prize draws and the National Provident Fund. The result of efforts in these directions has been encouraging. I have no doubt that Senators will leave this House determined to drive home to their constituencies the virtues of saving.

I hear one Senator say that Senators have no constituencies, but I think Senators come from somewhere and they have people to whom they are responsible.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan :**  
Where is the money ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** She does not look like someone who has no money to save. She dresses so beautifully that I think she will have more money to save if she wears less of *Aso Ebi*.

In the course of my last Budget Speech, I did mention that the Federal Government had set up an official Committee to examine the implications of introducing a decimal currency system. (*Hear, hear*). This Committee is still examining the issues involved and as soon as they complete their investigations, I will be in a position to make a positive statement on the subject.

The amount of currency in circulation was £91.7 million at the end of December 1963, as against £87.4 million at the end of 1962. This is another indication of increased activity in the agricultural, industrial and commercial fields. Deposits held in the Commercial Banks at the end of 1963 totalled £96 million, a rise of £9 million over the previous year. On the other hand, the total loans and advances extended by the Commercial Banks to the public and private sectors stood at £100.5 million. This means that the rise in deposits has been smaller than the increase in loans with a consequent fall in the banks' liquidity position. Since the passing of the Banking Act of 1962, certain loopholes have been spotlighted and I intend to introduce a Bill before Parliament within a year or so to plug them.

I have stressed in my previous Budget Speeches the need to repatriate all funds and assets held by Government, Public Corporations and individuals abroad. I am delighted to report that this operation is now almost complete. What remains now is the task of encouraging bankers to extend banking facilities to the outlying districts of this country. This is a challenge which our indigenous banks have got to accept in order to streamline the huge sums of money at present hoarded outside the banking system into the main stream of finance.

Turning to the balance of payments position, it is disturbing to note that the value of our imports has continued to exceed the value of our exports. The value of our exports at the

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end of 1963 amounted to £181 million whilst our imports increased to £206 million; which in effect means a trade deficit of £26 million. This is however an improvement on the comparative figure for last year which was £36 million. In consequence, our external reserves fell by £30 million in 1963 to £94 million. Alarming as this fall may seem, it nevertheless represents the value of five-and-a-half months imports at current levels and is still more than the minimum level of the equivalent of four months imports laid down by Government. My concern is on the rate at which the reserve is depleting. One can never over-emphasise the importance of maintaining a handsome level of external reserve, but suffice it to say that it is one of the outward manifestations of a healthy economy. I will continue to stress the need to maintain a level of external reserve sufficient to inspire confidence both at home and abroad.

Senators are no doubt aware that His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria laid the foundation stone of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company on the 4th of April, 1964. (Cheers). It was indeed an epoch-making ceremony because it is the first of its kind in Africa and it is designed to make us self-sufficient in the production of our bank notes, coins, postal orders, stamps and other security documents.

It is distressing to note that in spite of a redoubling of efforts on the part of officials of the Board of Customs and Excise, following the tariff changes announced in 1962, widespread evasion from import duties have continued to bedevil the revenue of this country. The Board and the Department are, however, leaving no stone unturned in equating themselves with the tasks involved.

I am happy to report that in August last year, Nigeria became the first African member of the Customs Co-operation Council, which has its Headquarters in Brussels. With the assistance of this Council and the United Kingdom Government, our tariff has now been reclassified and brought within the international plane. The new tariff was launched experimentally on the 1st of March, 1964, and is expected to receive legal sanction with effect from the 1st of July, 1964.

Before I leave the question of the Customs, let me alert Senators to two Bills dealing with the control of licensing for excise purposes of the distillation of spirits (which has just been passed) and the control of the activities of the refinery due to go into production soon. These Bills came up for debate during the current Session.

The Federal Board of Inland Revenue is another important arm of my Ministry, but whose activities have been limited by the scarcity of qualified men.

The Treasury Division has also experienced some difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified Accountants but that has not in any way hindered its efficiency.

In the spirit of the Prime Minister's statement of September 1962, in which he rejected association with the European Economic Community and in accordance with the indications I gave a year ago of our intention to appoint an Ambassador to the Community, Government accordingly appointed Dr P. N. C. Okigbe to that post. He began preliminary negotiations with members of the European Economic Community in September last year. There are already indications that the negotiations are going to be a long drawn-out and protracted affair, but we are confident that something concrete will emerge within a year or so.

By far the greatest threat to our economic well-being is the continued decline in the price of our cash crops which has been brought about mainly by improvements in synthetics. These are artificial raw materials against which our natural raw materials are ill-equipped to compete. Coupled with the challenge posed by automation in the industrialised countries, I am afraid that the gap between the haves and the have-nots will continue to widen.

As regards the Budget itself, some tariff changes were announced on the 9th of March to make up for the incentives and concessions being enjoyed by our local industries. The granting of these concessions means in effect that government is losing the revenue that should have accrued to it by way of import duty. Is it too much to ask these industries to replenish the vacuum so left in our national purse by paying something in the form of excise duty? After all, as we continue to

industrialise, we must have to depend more and more on the revenue we can derive from locally manufactured goods.

The Estimates have been prepared to allow only for such changes and increases which are related to the Development Plan and only minimum increases that will enable us to maintain the present level of services without reducing efficiency have been allowed. Amongst the economy measures designed to reduce Government expenditure are the introduction of tourist air travel, the decentralisation of internal postal, telegraph and telephone services, and the centralisation of official Ministerial Tours within Nigeria under the control of the Prime Minister.

And now for a brief look at the Capital Estimates. Depending on the availability of the necessary resources, it is proposed to spend a total of £62.9 million in respect of Capital Expenditure in 1964-65. This figure is however exclusive of a further £17 million which will have to be revoted as a result of the substantial underspending during the 1963-64 financial year. I am therefore presenting a Capital Estimate of £79.9 million.

On the resources side, we expect to start the year with a Development Fund Balance of just under £400,000 as against a balance of £14 million for the same period last year. This difference stems from the fact that the substantial balance which we had at the commencement of the Development Plan has now been drawn down. It means then that in future, expenditure will have to depend on our efforts and the continued generosity of foreign countries.

I cannot conclude my Speech without a brief reference to the Morgan Wages Review Commission which is due to submit its report any time from now. Without any prejudice to the findings of the Commission, I consider it my bounden duty not only to draw attention to the implications of an excessive wage increase but also to say that the success of the Development Plan demands the co-operation of the working class, and I hope they are all awake to their civic responsibilities.

In conclusion, let me remind Senators that our ability to attract foreign investors into this country depends on the degree of confidence inspired by political stability at home. Let us not aggravate the issues that divide us. We

cannot afford to pay leap service to the unity of this country; we must all begin by burying our hatchets as a demonstration of our desire to make Nigeria great. Only by so doing can we expect to achieve the unity of purpose necessary for building one nation.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Prime Minister :** I beg to second.

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** It is with the greatest deep sense of responsibility that I rise to support and contribute to the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

Many Members in the Lower House have showered their praises on the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, for his wonderful ability in budgeting for the nation. I have been privileged to listen to his Budget Speeches for five years consecutively. In each year, he has proved himself worthy of the high trust reposed in him. I must say that the nation would realise the value of this saviour, just like Jehovah, when he retires from politics. Chief Okotie-Eboh's devotion to duty, sincerity of purpose, honest and impartial dealings, and commanding personality are commendable. He has a wonderful way of planning and a good way of approach. Senators would agree with me that if not for Chief Okotie-Eboh and a few other leaders, this Federation would have broken into pieces a long time ago.

While I praise the Minister, I have very few observations to make. I would like to say something regarding the high duty on our local products. I am happy that one Senator has just mentioned this. I personally feel that meantime our local products should be, if not duty-free, taxed very low so that those goods could be sold cheaply, thus encouraging patronage. I wonder why a bottle of small Guinness Stout brewed at Ikeja could not be sold at 1s-6d a bottle. Similarly, I do not know the reason why a bottle of Star Beer brewed all over the country could not be sold at 2s-3d a bottle. Believe me, if these local products are sold cheaply, the question of begging people to patronise 'made in Nigeria' goods will die a natural death. I would like the Minister to take note of this.

I praise the Minister for the increase on imported goods in this country. I would not suggest that we should copy everything from

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the other governments of Africa or the governments of the world. But, I would say that we would not hesitate to emulate what we believe will enhance the economy of this country. I must say that we preach economy but we practice extravagancy.

I wonder whether we have good reason to continue to pay over £3,000 for one long American car. Besides, the consumption of this car is less than ten miles *per* gallon; its licences and insurance are very high. I am suggesting to the Government to legislate against the purchase of any car costing more than £1,000 on the road. It is wonderful and unbelievable.

Next on my list is education. May I congratulate the Minister of Education on his timely move in reducing the fabulous sums being paid to Government scholars. This will not only help to curtail the unnecessary luxuries that the students indulge in, but will also help other students to get Government awards. By this, the Minister has solved one burning issue. But he still has one more to solve.

Members of the Lower House and Senators have been asking the Minister to consider the possibility of awarding scholarships on provincial basis. I am suggesting that about eighty *per cent* of our Federal Government scholarships should be awarded on provincial basis while the remaining twenty *per cent* should be on merit.

I have very little to say on Police. It will not be out of place if we continue to praise the efforts of our Police in maintaining peace and order throughout the country. I would like the Government to request them to do more.

We shall praise our policemen when they deserve it and criticise them when they go wrong. I hope that with the proposed expansion in the Police Force many more areas will be benefited by the services of these peace-makers. I am in support of the suggestion that the lives of our policemen should be insured when they are performing some delicate duties such as the investigation of murder cases and burglary.

Senators living in the rural areas would notice that police stations in the rural areas are not provided with motor vehicles. In my own

area no motor vehicle is provided for the efficient performance of police duties in that area. It will be very good if the Federal Government can provide at least two vans for every police station in the rural areas.

May I also bring to the notice of the Federal Government the display of power on our roads by police drivers. It is beyond expectation that policemen should be so bossy on the road. As all Senators are road users, I am sure Senators will agree that what I am saying is correct. Police drivers feel that once they are on the road, as far as traffic regulations are concerned, they are above the law. They even go to the extent of calling themselves the "king" of the road. They seem to have the feeling that as long as they are policemen and they drive police vans, the whole of the tarred road is for their use alone. Even at night they refuse to dim their headlights. Senators will be surprised to hear that they do not believe that anybody has the right to overtake them on the road and they park their cars, lorries and land-rovers anyhow and anywhere on the road. They even commit traffic offences with impunity and nobody dare challenge them.

May I appeal to the Minister of State for Police Affairs to tell the Inspector-General of Police to warn all police drivers to observe traffic rules. They are the people who should show good examples to the public.

I have a few points to make on the Ministry of Health. I thank God that the Minister of Health is the Leader of the Senate and I know he is somebody who enjoys good health always. I am sure, as somebody who enjoys good health always and who is not selfish, he will like every other Nigerian to enjoy good health.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Health on his appointment to a high post in the World Health Organisation. I believe it is because of his wonderful contributions in world assemblies that he has been given this high post. (*Hear, hear*). We all know the ability and pushfulness of the Minister of Health. I am appealing to him to help us with the health of our people.

The point I want to make is that almost all the Government Hospitals outside Lagos do not give satisfactory service. I have not been to a Government hospital in Lagos, but I understand they give better service than those in the Regions.



I hear a Senator say that this is a Regional matter. He should let me make my points before he comments on them. Most of the doctors and nurses in the hospitals outside Lagos are unkind, careless and dishonest. Many patients lose their lives because of undue delay and the carelessness of these doctors and nurses. Some of them have little or no time to find out what is really wrong with the patients. Before a patient finishes telling a doctor what is wrong with him he has already finished writing his prescription and thrown the card at the patient. Some doctors even prescribe aspirin for rheumatic pain. The worst of it all is that three-quarters of the drugs prescribed by the doctors for the patients are stolen by the nurses. Senators can see that some of these nurses are not only rogues but murderers.

May I appeal to the Minister of Health to bring these anomalies to the notice of his Regional counterparts and advise them to emulate the good work of Missionary doctors and nurses. The doctors and nurses in Mission hospitals have all the good qualities that their professions demand.

I have just a few remarks to make on our culture. I must say that we have lost many of our beautiful cultures in this country to the Western world. I hope Senators will agree with me that this is due to our sheepish imitation of foreign culture. Why should this country lose its identity?

I hear some Senators say that if I want to promote Nigerian culture I should not be in suit. Senators will notice that since this Meeting of the Senate started, I have been coming to the Senate in Nigerian dress and I have only decided to look smarter this morning. What I am saying is that the generation yet unborn will condemn us if we allow our culture to die.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** On a point of order, the Senator speaking is not speaking on the finance and economy of the Federal Government. This is not the debate on the President's Address.

**The President :** What the Senator is saying is relevant.

**Senator Chukwubike :** Some Nigerians do not even like to be called by their Nigerian names. Most of us do not like our native

dances, and worse still Senators would have observed that some Nigerians cannot speak in the vernacular without adding one or two English words. We should develop our languages and our dances. All Senators enjoy the *Atilogu* dance from Udi Division. The *Atilogu* dance has not lost its identity because the people take pride in it. I am appealing to the Government to encourage the development of those of our customs and cultures that are good.

On the Airways, I am happy to note that Nigeria can now boast of having Nigerian pilots. This is a timely move and praiseworthy. I understand it costs up to £4,000 to £6,000 to train a pilot. I hope that the people we have trained so far will give us their best service. We already have enough reckless drivers on our roads and road accidents are increasing every year. What I want to say is that we should not Nigerianise our Airways at all costs. Our pilots should not only be fully qualified, they should also be sober. We all know that air accidents spell doom to a nation, and only the best should be good enough for Nigeria.

I will not be fair to my conscience if I fail to say something about the present state of affairs in this country. We have many projects at hand and if we want the outside world to help us, we should do something about the present situation in our country. From all indications we are now telling them that we are not united, that we are tribalistic and are not matured to govern ourselves. Apart from the many projects we have in hand, Nigeria is also looked upon by other countries of the world to lead Africa.

As fathers and mothers of the nation, I am appealing to all Senators to call our young politicians to order. May I also appeal to our God-fearing Prime Minister to convene without further delay a meeting of eminent and elderly men of wisdom in this country to deliberate and save this country from the danger ahead. It gives me great pleasure to observe that as I am making this appeal our respected Prime Minister is in the Chamber. (*Hear, hear*). I am saying that the looming danger is an ill wind. We should not wait till we get to that stage of the Congo before something is done. The misunderstanding

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is that of the flesh and not one of the bone. With wise and immediate intervention the matter will be resolved.

The Prime Minister cannot wait or allow this Federation to break on his head. History will condemn all of us if the unity for which our heroes fought gets out of hand during our own time. I am happy that the Prime Minister indicated his willingness to see that the matter is resolved when he made an appeal on the Floor of the House of Representatives on the 10th of April, 1964. This appears in the *Hansard* at column 2216, which, with the permission of the President, I shall quote :

*I must say that it is very difficult for any one of us to say how and when it will end. However, I have no doubt that there are people in this country who are mature enough, who are sensible enough to see the danger ahead, and I hope that they will do every thing in their power to see that this inter-tribal war comes to a stop.*

There is a very welcome statement which has received a world-wide applause. I am appealing to the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic to convene a meeting without further delay.

Without taking more time of the Senate, I support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi :** I rise to speak in support of the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill and, in doing so, I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate our indefatigable Minister of Finance (*Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh*) on his yet another masterpiece of a Budget Speech. I would also like to take the same opportunity to express my loyal and profound appreciation for the touching appeal of the Prime Minister, the immortal Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, to the Members of the House of Representatives on Friday the 10th of April on the all important subject of the preservation of Nigerian unity and I wish to assure him that this appeal will not fall on deaf ears. (*Applause*).

It is noteworthy that for the current year, the governments of the Federation of Nigeria will appropriate no less than a total of £164 million in a round figure for the services of the

people of this Federation. The break up of this enormous sum of money is as follows :

	£
The Federal Government	62 million
The Northern Region	29 million
The Eastern Region	36 million
The Western Region	28 million
The Mid-Western Region	9 million

This should be a very good augury for the continued future happiness and economic progress of this great country, and it reflects a great credit on all concerned if only those of us who represent the people in the different legislatures of this land, would now, and for all times, desist from selfish politics and political intrigues, and make genuine efforts to restore the confidence of the people we represent in the unity and oneness of the people of Nigeria.

What is the good of the economic progress or material prosperity of any country without the peace and tranquillity of mind of its populace ?

I agree entirely with our Prime Minister when he said in the course of his appeal to the Members of the House of Representatives that the practice of tribal animosity is confined only to those of us who have the privilege and opportunity of serving the best interests of the country, but unfortunately, because we are too selfish, we want to remain where we are always ; and that is why we try to flare up inter-tribal misunderstanding.

I would like to go further and add that it may be the pleasure of our Prime Minister to assure himself that the cause of the present situation was not traceable to or precipitated by some of his Cabinet Ministers some of whom do not scruple in making unbridled use of government facilities provided for their Ministries, and who, consciously or unconsciously, sabotage his efforts to rule this country in unity. Indeed, I agree that the issue of tribal prejudice is of the making of unscrupulous, selfish and over ambitious politicians and its seething embers are always to be found in the Federal capital of Nigeria.

Even though I am now well over sixty, I grew up to begin to see members of other ethnic origins in Iboland. There are the Hausas, the Fulanis, the Nupes, the Yorubas, the Ijaws, the Efiks, the Itshekiris and the Ibibios, and they lived like brothers and sisters.

Some of them even intermarried and they pursue the business of their choice, without discrimination or molestation. The same is true to-day throughout the length and breadth of Eastern Nigeria. I am perfectly certain that the ordinary village or town dweller in Yorubaland or in the Northern Region does not understand what is meant by discrimination or tribalism against fellow Nigerians until we who are supposed to be educated begin to practise it. The same thing is true of our Obas, Obis and Emirs.

I would like to state at this stage that, following the Prime Minister's appeal, immediate steps have been taken to ensure that no further statements are issued by the Ibo State Union in an attempt to present its side of any allegation to the Nigerian public, be the attack against the Ibo or their union, and however unprovoked or unrealistic such an attack may be and irrespective of the quarter the attack may emanate from. This has been done in the hope that the leaders of other groups will follow suit.

However, as the leader of the Ibo State Union which has of recent been so ungratefully and undeservedly maligned, calumnised and so innocently buffeted, it is my responsibility to use this opportunity to remove any bugbear that may be bothering the minds of any one about the functions of the Union, both in the past and in the present time.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** On a point of order, although by the very nice things he has said on tribalism Senator Chief Obi has created a very good impression, I think any further exposition of the activities of the Ibo State Union will be irrelevant.

**The President :** I do hope Senator Chief Obi has said all that he wants to say on this question of unity ; therefore I would like him to go straight to the relevant subject-matter—the Appropriation Bill.

**Senator Chief Obi :** As a matter of fact, what I want to add next will help to enlighten Senators on the preparedness of the—

**The President :** I shall allow you to deviate from the topic we have if you mean you want to elucidate further on unity.

**Senator Chief Obi :** What is now known as the Ibo State Union came into being twelve years before the advent of Nigerian nationalism. During the first nationalist country-wide tour of 1946, led in the first instance by our revered late Herbert Macaulay and later by Dr Azikiwe, to raise funds to fight against what was then known as the "four obnoxious bills" the Ibo State Union was in the vanguard and gave the needed succour to the touring nationalists.

At that time we had no other political party anywhere in the country, with the possible exception of the Lagos Island. After the visit of the nationalists to the United Kingdom in 1947, we continued to give them financial support ; and when the colonial government at the time discovered that the nationalists derived their large following and support from the Ibo State Union they introduced a subtle propaganda against the Ibos in an attempt to halt the spread of nationalism. This resulted in a sporadic attack on the Ibos between the years 1947 and 1949 in many parts of the country by the communities with whom they had, until that time, lived in peace and harmony. This propaganda however failed, and the imperialists quietly left us without letting those communities know the reason why they had urged that the Ibos be driven away.

**Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu :** On a point of order, we are dealing with the Appropriation Bill, and not the history of the Ibo State Union. If Senator Chief Obi insists on that line of argument, we shall have no recourse but to discuss the history of our cultural unions too.

**The President :** Will Senator Chief Obi please stop the discussion on the history of the Ibo State Union, and go straight to the debate on Appropriation Bill ?

**Senator Chief Obi :** Although the imperialists' propaganda against the Ibos continued, the Ibo State Union had no regrets, then and has none now, for engaging in the good fight which had enabled the nationalists to win independence on a platter of gold.

Let me assert that it is a misconception to think that the functions of all cultural organisations are synonymous with tribalism, at least this is not the case with the Ibo State Union.

The Ibo State Union is not a cult—

**The President :** Sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi :** I feel that I should now wind up, and in doing so I pray that God will grant us the knowledge to love one another and to realise that we cannot do one without the other in this country. May He also grant that the unity which He has given to this country may abide with us.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. *Omimi, Sarkin Kudi* has this year earned for himself the enviable commendation from no other person than our President—the Great Zik—for establishing the credit-worthiness of this country for nearly a decade and also for his rare ability to attract loans for us.

Now, coming back to the Budget Speech, the Minister said that without assured external finance, we could not start many of our projects. We are very grateful to all the countries which have contributed financially and technically and are still contributing towards our Six-Year Development Plan. I am afraid to say, however, that at present our approach to seek external aid is rather one-sided. There are many rich countries which are too willing to help us provided our projects are properly and adequately appraised for their scrutiny.

It is a pity that while we Nigerians lack funds to carry out our very ambitious economic projects, both America and Russia are trying to conquer the space. They are continuing with their plans to attempt a manned expedition to the moon within the next few years—a very expensive project and a dangerous one too. So, I see no reason why we should only keep to the left and limit ourselves to a one-way traffic business. In keeping with our Government's non-aligned policy—which is an excellent policy—we ought to seek external aid anywhere in the world provided that there are no strings attached to it.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** If the string is not too long, it will not matter.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** I quite agree. It is said that a nation is comparable to a tree. The leaves are her service industries, the stem her commerce and industries and the root is her agriculture. So, we see that the root is the most important and vulnerable part of a tree.

The Minister of Economic Development himself said that because of the important role the Government attaches to the development of agriculture, an Agriculture and Natural Resources Division has now been established in his Ministry to co-ordinate the agricultural activities of the Regional Governments and promote a national agricultural policy. This is a very welcome gesture, but the Federal Government should go further and make agriculture the corner-stone of its Six-Year Development Plan.

The proposed Federal Agricultural Credit Bank should be one of the many schemes to be adopted by the Government to finance agricultural development throughout the Republic. It should be established now, now! The Federal Government should not confine itself to research as research work does not produce immediate and useful results to the teeming millions of farmers in the rural areas.

Agriculture accounts for about sixty per cent of the active population of Nigeria and this percentage is virtually responsible for the production of all the foods consumed in the country. Nigeria's economic development and the improvement of its living standards thus depend largely upon the growth and progress of the agricultural sector of the economy.

A large percentage of the exports of Nigeria is also accounted for by the farmers. In fact, the contribution made by farmers to Nigeria's economy is enormous. But, unfortunately, the overseas buyers of Nigerian products dictate how much they would pay for our products and how much they would sell the processed goods to us. Consequently, the prices of our cash crops like cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil and palm kernels, cotton, *et cetera*, have been dropping steadily.

The Government's excuse is that fluctuations in the prices of these products are due to competition with other countries of the world so that in most cases, supply exceeds the

demand. To improve the situation, I have the following simple straightforward suggestions to make to the Government.

Firstly, the Government should subsidise farmers when the prices of their products are low.

Secondly, the Government should increase the duty payable on imported commodities in order to strengthen the keenness of local manufacturers thereby giving incentive to local industry which will automatically raise the prices of domestic commodities, and this would induce farmers to establish farms even in remote areas and compel people to go back to the land.

Thirdly, the Government should relieve duty on the imported materials used by the local industries so that they could import as much as could be made use of to cover local market. Then it is up to us Nigerians to patronise the home-made goods.

Fourthly, the Governments should introduce simple modern methods of farming in such a way that an end would be put to shifting cultivation and an average farmer would not only produce more, but would increase his income substantially.

Fifthly, co-operative societies should be strongly encouraged. If co-operative societies are given the right incentive there is every likelihood that as more educated Nigerians go back to the land, partnerships and co-operatives would supersede private individual efforts. Once this goal is reached, then and only then would mechanised farming be practised on a more extensive scale, and farmers who at present are among the poorest in the country would emerge the most prosperous.

Sixthly, I am in complete agreement with my friend Senator Umoh that through credit facilities from the various Governments small farmers can expect to have capital to improve their farms and be able to repay such loans gradually from their gross profits.

Lastly, the Governments should make strenuous efforts to assist and train our businessmen to undertake viable commercial and industrial projects.

I would now like to touch the question of acting appointments in the Federation. The unnecessary delay in appointing suitable, able

and efficient civil servants to their appropriate posts merely for the sake of copying the outdated colonial policy of making a person mark time indefinitely, is detrimental to our progress socially and economically. This system, Sir, is one of the legacies of colonialism which we consciously or unconsciously have inherited from the colonial masters. This is not saving us any money, but costs the nation thousands of pounds.

Let me cite an example, with one Ministry, and that is the Ministry of Justice. According to its 1962-63 Annual Report, I beg to quote the following.

1. Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary—Acting.
2. Deputy Solicitor-General—Acting.
3. Senior Assistant Parliamentary Counsel—Acting.
4. Principal Crown Counsel—Acting.
5. Senior Crown Counsel—Acting.
6. Crown Counsel, Grade I—Acting.

A Senator has just called this Ministry an Acting Ministry, and I entirely agree with him. Senators will now bear me out that Acting Appointments dominate this Ministry. I do not mean to embarrass the Clerk of this Parliament, but even the Clerk of the Parliaments—the highest legislature in the country—is on acting appointment. This is very unfair.

I do not know whether the Federal Public Service Commission is contemplating recruiting a more efficient man from Russia or Japan to head our Parliament.

Somebody has just said we will resist this and that we will hang that man in this House, and I think he is right too. I am therefore asking the Federal Public Service Commission to take a very positive step in this respect and promote the eligible officers to their appropriate grades.

It is now my intention to turn to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. It is very unfair to the whole Federation to Nigerianise all the top executive posts of the N.B.C. while the N.B.C. does not Nigerianise their news bulletin. We do like to listen to foreign news, but not at the expense of the local news. The N.B.C. should know that news which, in their opinion is not of importance, might be of

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBARKAR GARBA] the great interest to thousands of listeners especially to those in the rural areas. The N.B.C. should be reminded also that the people in the rural areas are more interested in listening to local news.

Another point I wish to make is that I implore the press as well as the N.B.C. in the name of the peace and unity of the Federation, not to be hoodwinked or misguided by some power drunk politicians to depart from performing their duties of informing, educating and entertaining the general public. They should desist from repeating provocative releases. They have been overdoing this in recent times, and that must stop at once.

It is an acknowledged fact that the past glory of nation, big or small is based on its antiquities and national archives. It is apparently due to the Antiquities Department that the artistic heritage of this great country and the relics of our ancient culture have been allowed to survive. It is interesting to discover that it is in Nigeria alone that the current of artistic developments within the past two thousand years, can be discerned.

Nigeria's vast and astonishing treasure has not been exhausted, because more Nigerian antiquities come to light and they add to the lustre which African art has acquired in the eyes of the civilised world to-day. So, I am appealing to the Governments of the whole Federation to make available sufficient sums of money with a view to immortalising the relics of our ancient culture. Furthermore, this important Department should be placed under one and the same Ministry throughout the Federation. This would very much help the Department to co-ordinate their efforts.

I cannot conclude my speech without touching that very important issue of elections. Later this year fresh elections will be held into the Federal House of Representatives. Nigeria is potentially a very great nation. Our reputation will depend largely upon our ability to harness all our resources for the progress of the inhabitants within the framework of political stability.

We all know that a country ridden by unstable politicians cannot secure political stability at all. So, a great country such as Nigeria cannot

afford to nourish national parasites at the expense of the standard of living of the ordinary people.

We ought to know that a foreign investor wants to make profit, but he also wants to be absolutely sure that his investment is safe and secure. If we follow carefully the trend of events happening in this country from 1962 up to the present time we shall find that there are one thousand and one political lessons for us to learn.

We ought to make our politicians of to-day take a course in these political lessons and make them pass an examination with credit before we allow them to think about ruling us.

I beg to support.

**Senator E. A. Lagunju :** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance. As a matter of fact the Minister of Finance should be congratulated for his ready and fitting titles. When he started some years ago he started with the People's Budget, and from there to the Stability Budget, Sovereignty Budget, Mobilisation Budget, and last year it was the Modernisation Budget. This year it is now the National Budget. We all realise that this is really a very fitting title.

Those who have spoken before me have spoken at length on this question of national problems, and I do not want to dwell on that again. One thing is certain. United we stand, divided we fall. As the last speaker has said, the President of this great Republic has given Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh a name. He is now regarded as the repository of all economic and financial terms. He has them at his fingertips, and he can produce the terms at any time.

We all realise that according to the Budget Speech the Minister of Finance mentioned what we have been able to borrow externally, for example from the World Bank, from the Italian Government, from U.S.A., from the United Kingdom, and from the Netherlands. As a matter of principle, there is nothing fundamentally wrong with external borrowing. There is nothing bad about it. The ability to borrow externally itself is a sure sign of some measure of political stability. The fact that we go out to borrow should not scare any of us since we embark upon what we regard as infra-structure or some form of fundamenal

development. For instance, the damming of the Niger would cost millions of pounds, and the second bridge for Lagos would also cost a fortune. These are all developments in the country.

It is true that in our lifetime we may not be able to pay a greater part of the debt. National debt is not peculiar to this country. Other countries of the world including Great Britain have their national debts to pay. There are only few exceptions who have no national debt to pay, and possibly these may be the United States and Western Germany. Most of the other countries of the world have a huge load of external debt on their backs.

If we develop, if we build hospitals, roads and bridges, all those things will eventually be passed on to posterity to use. And if posterity is coming to enjoy all those things, then, of course, they should be prepared to bear part of the financial burden.

Personally, I am sure, Senators would realise the need for external borrowing to make way for social amenities when it is seen in the Estimates that our Surplus is not very large and is somewhat marginal. There should be nothing to scare us about that. As I have said, we need a lot of money, and there is no point in laying aside large sums of money when actually our needs are there.

One cannot have £5 on hand and think of keeping the whole £5 when one actually has to spend £4-10s. One cannot go out to borrow the £4-10s. One has to spend £4-10s out of the £5 and keep a small surplus.

One thing which could have scared me was the losses mentioned in the Audit Report. But the Minister of Finance has spoken in the Lower House about that. The Minister of Finance mentioned that the whole matter would be properly looked into. It may be that this is the mistake of the Auditor or somebody else, but I am sure our able Minister of Finance would see to it that cars or property sold are paid for. The Minister should see that there is nothing missing this way or that way because we need all the forces that we can marshal for our aid particularly at this initial stage of our development.

As regards mining, it is really deplorable that coal which is the premier mining industry of this country is now in a very difficult position.

I sincerely hope that our Government will do all in its power to get an alternative market for coal. If coal is no longer used as fuel for our trains because of dieselisation, then we must think of an alternative use otherwise most of the workers in this particular industry would be thrown out of employment. This will add to our headache over the problem of unemployment.

I now come to the Ministry of Communications. A lot has been said these days about automatic telephone exchange. But to all intents and purposes, how often is it easy for one to get a telephone call through? I am sure if you ask many Senators, Mr President, they will be able to tell you a lot about this. Time without number, we have mentioned the activities of operators in this Senate. I do not want to speak about this set of people here.

While it is true that we want automatic telephone exchanges, what have we done to improve our postal facilities. For instance in many villages we have postal agencies doing efficient work and if we had raised the status of most of these agencies to that of sub-post offices, we could have been able to get more money by way of savings. As long as these agencies remain what they were, they cannot embark upon savings business and these postal agencies transact a lot of business.

I do not know the system we use because instead of developing these postal agencies by converting them to sub-post offices, we embark upon the gigantic problem of automatic telephone exchanges. How many of these telephone exchanges we have set up, is another matter?

I come to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry now. I congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima for his notable stand at Geneva. We all remember very well the six points he raised over there. His activities are indeed praiseworthy but he should do more to encourage and promote home production.

The Minister of Finance mentioned among other things the increase in import duties. Personally, I have no quarrel with increase in import duties. I am even of the opinion that along that line, we have not even gone far enough. If there are articles for which we have partial substitutes, at home, we should

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stop the importation of these articles completely. That is the only way we can provide jobs for our teeming millions.

I remember one Senator mentioned the question of beer in the morning. We produce *Star Lager Beer* and we produce other brands of beer but if we can produce more of these things, the earlier we stop the importation of beer, the better. It is a well known fact that in some countries the importation of many of these articles has been stopped in order to encourage home production. When one cannot get something and one can get a partial substitute, then, of course, one will have to make use of the partial substitute one has got.

I am of the opinion that the excise duty of fifteen shillings per ton on cement is somewhat exorbitant. We know that instead of imposing duties on some nascent industries, if we have the means, the best thing for us to do is even to subsidise them. At present we cannot subsidise, but we have increased the duty on cement to fifteen shillings per ton.

If one goes to Nkalagu, Ewekoro or anywhere, one will see that the prices of this commodity have gone up because the duty has been raised. The prices will continue to be like that; the whole thing has a cumulative effect—the manufacturer will put his own, the wholesales will put his own, the middleman will put his own and it goes on like that.

We have got to ask ourselves: "Who, in the final analysis, pays a particular tax?" It is the incidence of taxation that matters. We all pay income tax. If I am taxed so much, I have got to pay that out of what I earn yearly. When we impose a duty which is an indirect tax, then we should ask the question: Who in the final analysis pays this tax? Is it the owner of the factory or the purchaser? In any case, it is the consumer.

We say we want to encourage the building of houses—low-cost houses for our workers. In other words, we cannot stabilise rents when the prices of commodities or materials required for housing have gone up. The owner of the house will say, "Look, I have spent so much on the purchase of building materials and the house has cost me so much; consequently I am going to charge you per room so and so." He will base his own argument on that.

It is true that we have set up the Morgan Commission and that workers may get something out of it. The whole thing is a vicious circle because when a worker gets something, it is not going to be a private affair. It is going to be published in all the newspapers and everybody will know about it. If you increase duties now on almost every commodity, the sellers will say—"Look here, they have increased duties, you are the people making the law, that is what you have done and therefore prices of everything must go up."

Consequently a worker does not get more value for his money and what matters to a worker is not his nominal income. If for instance, last year I got, say, five hundred pounds per annum and at that time I was able to buy at least a Volkswagen car for about three hundred pounds, it is all right, but if this year you say you raise my salary to six hundred pounds per annum and I cannot get a Volkswagen Car for five hundred pounds, then my real income has gone down even though you have increased my nominal income.

My purchasing power is reduced and therefore, the whole thing is a vicious circle. I sincerely hope that we will do all we can to go slowly about some of these things. If actually we want workers to get value for their money and also we want to build low-cost houses for them, then, of course, we must not impose duties on any of these things.

I do realise that the Minister of Finance has a lot of headache as regards the collection of revenue. That is true, but there are other ways.

If Government imposes duty on schnapps and whisky by one hundred per cent, those who can afford them will buy them. I regard those things as luxuries but I regard cement as a necessity of paramount importance.

I now come to Education. Formerly, we used to get stationery for educational purposes duty free. The Minister of Finance said that when it was duty free, the articles were sold to school children at very high or prohibitive prices—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of information, Mr President, would you kindly ask Senator Lagunju to declare his interest in this particular matter?



**The President :** I do not think he should declare his interest. Senator Olagunju, please proceed.

**Senator Lagunju :** Thank you for your protection Mr President. I am not a proprietor. The Minister of Finance himself is a proprietor of several schools.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** He is the Principal of a College. Proprietors do not sell books but Principals do. That is why I asked the Senator to declare his interest.

**Senator Lagunju :** It may be true that some proprietors go all out to make some money out of sale of books. Some Principals may do it but I am not one of them. The Minister of Finance could come to my school if he wished, and see what I do there. I get 10 per cent commission on books received from the C.M.S. Authorities but the money is passed to the school account. The 10 per cent is written in black and white and anybody can come there and see it.

I am not arguing that there are no proprietors who may indulge in fleecing school children in order to collect some money from them either for their own private purposes or possibly for some philanthropic purpose—but the purpose here is to help parents and I am of the opinion that the imposition of duty is really a negative approach to the problem. Why not make sure that these books or stationery or whatever there are, are sold at reasonable prices? It will be quite easy to check this. We can get people to go round and check.

What guarantee have we that these people will not continue to sell books at high prices to school children since these duties have been imposed? If there is no guarantee, in other words, we are not helping parents. This then is another tax for the raising of revenue and not for helping parents. If it is to help parents, all we have to do is to send circulars to Educational Authorities in the Regions, discuss these points with them and they can take it up more effectively and make sure that stationery or books or whatever there are, are sold at reasonably low price to children.

Now that we have imposed duties on books, Senators will be surprised to see that books that used to cost five shillings before, may now that we have imposed this duty, be costing

six shillings or even seven shillings and six pence. This is not unlikely and parents in their bid for education will be bound to buy these books.

While I am still speaking on education, I think it is high time that the Federal Government did something about the much-talked about inter-regional colleges. I do think that something like this will help us more in achieving unity. When these inter-regional colleges are set up, there will be greater mingling of people from the different Regions and we will understand one another better and of course, that will enhance our national prestige. It is not my intention to talk on most of the other Ministries as there are many Senators who would like to speak.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** I rise to contribute to the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. I wish to begin by congratulating the Federal Government in general and the Minister of Finance in particular. I would like specially to congratulate Chief Okotie-Eboh for the able way in which he has handled the finance of this country. I must say that the Federal Government has been blessed in that it has got some of our best men in the Cabinet.

There is the President of the Republic, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe who is the anchor of the solidarity of this country. I wish to say that his activities cannot be over emphasised.

Coming to the Prime Minister, I wish to say that he is a God-fearing leader and his activities on behalf of this country abroad, is very encouraging. It suffices to say that when a God-fearing man is at the head of an affair, such an affair must be of a blessed one. For these reasons, I think that Nigeria has got the best people she could possibly have the Cabinet.

May I be allowed to say a word or two on the affairs of the Police. The work of the police in this country is very commendable. Despite the very vigilant and gallant way in which the policemen discharge their duties in this country, they continue to be criticised by the public. One section of the Police Force that deserves criticisms is the Traffic Division.

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I can hear somebody asking me if they are not my friends. The traffic policemen are never friendly with vehicle owners. Instead of traffic policemen facing their actual work, they continue to collect money from people and of course, this money is never given to them by hand. They have a way of getting money from people.

When a traffic policeman stops a driver, he will say, "Oh yes. How are you? Are you all right?" The driver, of course, understands what he means. If the driver is all right, he passes something by an artifice to the policeman and the policeman grabs it, and allows the driver to go. But when somebody else comes along and says that there is absolutely no trouble with his vehicle, the policeman will start looking for some faults. He will say, "What about this tyre, is it not getting weak? Look at this. You said that your car was in perfect condition, but this is not painted?" Look, your wheel will go off very shortly." After all these questions, he will then take the driver to the Corporal and the Corporal will then inquire for the particulars. This process wastes a lot of time and in an effort not to go through this nasty business, one has to encourage corruption which of course must be wiped out of this country.

I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government to advise the traffic policemen to do their actual work instead of grabbing money from people by foul means.

I am happy however, that the Federal Government is contemplating increasing the pay-packet of policemen and when this is done, any traffic policeman who indulges in this bad conduct should be dealt with by the law.

When talking about the Police Force, there is always one section of the Force that is normally forgotten and that is the Warders.

If the Police are vigilant over their work, the Warders are also doing the same because if the Warders were not, the law could not be well established or well executed. If the Police get somebody and put such a person behind the bar and the officer-in-charge allows him to go, the man becomes a culprit once again. Since he is at large, he is likely to commit another offence. So, when we consider the Police we must not forget the Warders.

I would like to say a word or two on the Railway Corporation. The Railway Corporation deserves some praise for the £60 million revenue made during this financial year. But then I also appeal through the Federal Government to the Railway Corporation to look into the working of the passenger trains running from Jos to Port Harcourt. For instance, a passenger buys his first-class ticket and when he gets into the coach he will be there, perhaps, without light and without any security facilities.

I know very many passengers who have lost their belongings because, when they get inside these coaches and thinking that they are secured, they sleep off at night. A train takes about twenty-four hours from Jos to Port Harcourt when the occupant is asleep, any person might open the doors, remove the things he wants and go away. I hope that the Railway Corporation should be prepared to pay for the losses if they are taken to court.

It is very annoying for a first-class passenger to leave his compartment in search of water and to find none. He has to go to the staff coach to beg for water to wash his hand or to drink. It is very bad and very annoying. So, if they are tired of running the railway services, let them return the Railways to the Government.

I would like to say something about peace in this country. The inhabitants of this country must be prepared to harken to the golden advices of both the President and the Prime Minister about peace of this country. Of course, I have been advocating on the Floor of this Senate that one of the ways by which we can secure peace terms is for parents to allow their daughters to marry men from other Regions; in other words, there should be inter-regional marriages in order to promote unity in this country.

I would like to see an Easterner marry a Northerner and a Northerner marry a Westerner and so on. I can hear a Senator asking if I have a daughter of marriageable age. I would like to say that if I do not have, somebody else has.

I believe that if one has got a daughter and she is given out in marriage to a man from another Region, if there is trouble in such a Region, the man will say: "Oh, my daughter

is there" and he will surely not join the trouble makers. Rather, he would like the matter to be settled quietly. It is because we are very selfish that we do not want our daughters to go to the other Regions to marry. If we allowed inter-regional and inter-tribal marriages, our troubles would surely be less.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator M. A. Greene :** I rise to support the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance. In doing so, I wish to make the following observations.

First of all, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of this Republic, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa for his great work of nation building and I do pray that God will spare his life to continue this great duty he is now doing so creditably in the interest of all the people of this country.

I wish further to express my gratitude for the way and manner this country has passed through previous Budgets which have been presented to this Senate by the Minister of Finance and the progress we have made so far both in the political and economic fields. This period can be regarded as the greatest in the history of our development.

So far, we have been fortunate to have both political and economic stability in this country. Therefore, this country owes this hon. Gentleman, the Minister of Finance, a debt of gratitude for the role he has played in the progress of this great nation.

I am very happy to note that the Minister of Finance has made it possible for this country to establish a Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and a Nigerian Security Printing Company. I do hope that efforts will be made to see that Nigeria gains fully from them. It is also noted that several savings schemes are being introduced into this country by the Federal Government, and I should be very pleased if these campaigns could be carried to the rural areas in order to help the people there to understand fully the usefulness of these schemes.

I appeal to the Federal Government to consider, as early as possible the establishment and development of local trade in the rural

areas of this country. In this respect, I wish to emphasise that greater efforts should be made also to encourage farming in order that our people might be more usefully employed in the future than they are at present.

I thank the President for conducting the proceedings of this Senate with the same spirit which his predecessor adopted, I also ask all Senators in this House to join me in expressing our gratitude to the leader of this House, Senator Chief Majekodunmi. He has seen to it that all our expressions on the Floor of this Senate are seen to by the Government.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** I rise to support the Second Reading of this Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, and in doing so I have to associate myself with what other Senators have said, in thanking the Minister of Finance for the able way he has been handling the finances of this country.

Before I go on with the different items in the Appropriation Bill, I have some observations to make about the trend of events now going on in Nigeria. My congratulations go to the Prime Minister, that ruler of noble character. The Prime Minister is an honest and God-fearing man and the way he has been handling the delicate issue of tribalism is splendid. My congratulations also go to that fearless, honest and foresighted gentleman in the person of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe. I appreciate the way both statesmen have been sounding notes of warning to the people of Nigeria to desist from making any utterances or provocative statements that are likely to disturb the unity of Nigeria.

I call on the other regional Premiers to take the same step and to know that the whole of the country is now on their shoulders. The Captain is responsible for the lives of the people in his ship. Our leaders do not know that they are answerable for any trouble that comes to this country now. In the Bible, Pilate did not condemn Jesus Christ. He did not find him guilty but washed his hands after judgment to declare his innocence, but it is usually said that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate. This is what every man in a high position should know. Anybody who is put at the head of affairs

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should not allow that trust reposed on him by his people to be misused. He must try to see that the affairs do not break-down through him.

When we shower praises on the Minister of Finance, it is not done because of any favouritism. We praise him because of his vigilance and carefulness in handling the affairs of this country. We cannot compare him with the people who do not mind the millions under them and still they make provocative statements. These leaders should unite for the interest of the country as a whole. They should take example from the Prime Minister and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I feel sure that if all the leaders of this country come together and work as a team the unity of Nigeria will come back to what it was before the census issue began. There are people who are making the national issues their own personal matters. These people are trying to make their voices heard far and wide and I call these people confusionists. It used to be said that when a dog bites a man it is no news, but if a man bites a dog that makes news. But now in Nigeria the contrary is the case. When a man bites a dog it does not make any news, even if the man bites the flesh of the dog to pieces, but if a dog bites a man, which is very common, it makes wonderful news. It becomes headline news and highly exaggerated in order that trouble may come.

So unless people stop making points out of unimportant things, the peace which everybody is talking about will not come. It is the prayer of all peace loving Nigerians that the oneness and friendship of this country should be restored. That is all I have to say on the question of unity.

I now come to the question of education. Education is one of the principal things that will bring Nigeria together. Sometime ago the establishment of inter-regional secondary schools was proposed, seconded and passed in this House. But what has happened to that scheme? It is only the Minister of Education who can say how far that matter has gone. I am saying that it is high time the Federal Government should take over all or some of the regional secondary schools. If this is done the regional Government may then be able to take over the entire primary schools. Education of

children is very important especially in the rural areas where schools are inadequate for the children.

If inter-regional secondary schools are built boys from the Eastern Region, will go to the Northern Region to attend School and thereby understand the Hausa Language. The boys from the Northern, Western Region and Mid-Western Region will exchange schools and understand each other the more. There was a time when our people were attending school in the Cameroons, Bonny and many other places. These Government Schools as they were called, were built by the Government of those days. This kind of school will help to strengthen the unity of this country. The Ibo boy will become friends with the Hausa boy and the Yoruba boy will make friends with the Ibo boy. They can then work together and understand each other through exchange of visits during holidays.

Some boys will go to Kano from the Eastern Region to see a class mate and some will go to Warri from Akure to see a friend. This is the way to promote unity amongst our children. I can recall during holidays my children's friends come to spend holidays with them and my children do always go to spend their holidays with them. Recently a Benin boy returned from the United Kingdom and came all the way to Eastern Region to see me because he was a class mate of my son.

Now, I would like to talk about the Nigerian Police Force. I know that the question of Police Force always takes a lot of the time of this Senate.

Senators will agree with me that nobody's blackboard is very clean behind him. If there is any department to be praised, I think it is the Police that should be praised, especially the Police men and women working in Lagos. The role of the Lagos police in maintaining law and order should be commended.

We all know that the security of this country is in the hands of the Police, and I am sure, they are doing their best. If all the policemen and women in the Regions will work like those in Lagos, things will be very good indeed.

It is true that traffic policemen and women take bribes—from two shillings to five shillings or even above that on the roads. The fault, actually is not on the policemen and women

but on our big transport owners. Some of these transport owners who are in the habit of overloading their lorries, force some of our policemen and women to take bribes. When our traffic policemen stop their lorries on the road for checking, these big lorry owners will come down to tell them that their mothers are not well and that they are in a hurry. The next thing these big lorry owners would do is to give money to our traffic policemen. When some of these policemen refuse such monies, they are often threatened with sending them out of their jobs. And, certainly, some of these big lorry owners carry out their threats.

The policemen and women are like very beautiful ladies who when they are going to their mother's houses, people will begin to chase them, and when they leave their mother's houses for their sister's houses, people will continue to chase them. They have no place to rest.

Now that the man in the street has known that our policemen and women take bribes on the road, the best thing to do will be for the Minister in charge of the Police to warn them that their tricks have been uncovered. Everybody has known their tricks and in their own interest, they should stop receiving bribes, otherwise they will receive money from disguised Policemen like themselves.

In this connection, I will urge the Federal Government to encourage the Police Force. It is very essential that they should be encouraged, if we want to resist temptations of this nature.

The next point I would like to talk about, is the question of Medical Services. The Medical institution, like any other institution in this country should be taken over by the Federal Government. I am, therefore, asking the Federal Government, as the father of all the Regions, to take over medical services throughout the Republic. Medical Services should be made a Federal subject, because the Federal Government has got the money. The budget of the Federal Government is larger than that of any other Region in this country. The Federal Government has got the most influential leaders and the most top ranking law makers of this country and should therefore lessen the load being carried by Regional Governments.

I would also like to mention that the people in rural areas are being neglected in the distribution of amenities. When we talk of the Six-Year Development Plan, I know we have in mind towns like Port Harcourt, Enugu, Zaria, Kaduna, Benin, Ibadan, *et cetera*. We think only in terms of big towns. We do not think of rural areas like Orlu, Oron, *et cetera*. Nobody knows of rural places. But if the Federal Government could take over certain projects from the Regional Governments, the Regional Governments would in turn, take over certain projects from Local Authorities.

For instance, if the Federal Government, takes over Trunk 'B' Roads from the Regional Governments, the Regional Governments will also take over some of the Local Councils' roads. The Federal Government is not doing anything for the people in rural areas. The greatest thing the Federal Government could do for people in rural areas is to give them good roads. Many people in rural areas have got bicycles, but they have no roads on which to ride them. They only have bush tracks. It is only those areas that practise community development that have fairly good roads constructed by themselves. But where there is nothing like community development, the roads there are bush tracks. Such people look on the Federal Government to come to their aid.

Therefore, if the Federal Government takes over certain projects from the Regional Governments, the Regional Governments would in turn, take over certain projects from Local Councils, so that the people in the rural areas, will, one way or the other benefit.

The people in rural areas are not happy about the way they are being treated. Most of them would like to see our Ministers. They would like to see Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh in Orlu, but because there are no good roads, our Ministers could not travel to rural areas to see the people they are ruling.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** But I went to Orlu recently.

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** The Minister of Finance visited those people living alongside the tarred road, but those along the untarred roads were not seen.

[SENATOR CHIEF ACHOLONU]

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Senate—Senator Chief Majekodunmi for projecting both himself and the people of this country abroad. I also congratulate him for the able way he has handled the affairs of this country as regards health services.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Finance once more for the good services he is rendering to this country.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** Speaking on this Motion, may I say that no greater tribute can be paid to the hon. Minister of Finance (*Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh*) and, in fact, to the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance, than the esteemed congratulatory message telegraphed to the Chief by the President of the Republic immediately after delivering the Budget Speech in the Lower House.

In 1958, when the Minister was posted to the Ministry of Finance, even the greatest optimist had no faith in the ability of the Nigerian Minister. We all can see now that the Minister has made a success of a Ministry which appears to be the most difficult of all the Ministries. May I say that whatever may be his shortcomings in other directions, the Minister has actually succeeded in his work. He has, by the great efforts he has made, carved out a niche for himself in the history of our economic development.

I dare say that the bound volumes of his six earlier Budget Speeches can occupy a very prominent place in our National Archives and remain there to be a lasting testimony to the ability and efficiency of a Chief who has, by dint of hard work, made himself our financial expert and consultant.

I go further to say that it is high time now that the Federal Minister of Finance was known officially as the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This name should now, from this day, apply to him so that he will be distinguished from his Regional counterparts.

What I also noted that is very significant is the fact that every section of the Ministry of Finance is now headed by a Nigerian. It is very gratifying to note that there has been no

lowering of the standard of efficiency. For this I am very happy and my congratulations go to these Nigerian heads and to the Minister himself.

Turning to the Budget itself, the most significant point I noted was that although the total estimated revenue for the present financial year shows an increase of £10 million pounds over that of last year, yet the excess of the total estimated revenue over the total estimated expenditure is only about £1.4 million pounds. This margin is indeed narrow although there may be no cause for any alarm now. But if the current expenditure continues to rise so steeply, and is not matched by a corresponding rapid rise in the revenue, a dangerous situation may soon arise. I do not pray for this because, if this happens, it will be well nigh impossible for us to make any contribution to our development fund. The saving grace will lie, according to the Minister—and I agree with him—in the exercise of the strictest economy over our expenditure and the development of those avenues now existing from which we derive our revenue.

Now, the exercise of the strictest economy on our expenditure is not only for the Government. I think it is also for everyone of us and my prayer is that we should heed this appeal. Why should we exercise the strictest economy on our expenditure? It is because it is a plausible habit to acquire. It is one of the surest ways whereby we can avert the imminent danger of our expenditure outstripping our revenue. In effect, the Minister's appeal may be summarised as follows: Waste not, want not.

In saying that, the Minister emphasised one point among others. That is, that we should patronise things made in Nigeria. I cannot agree more with the Minister. But as he himself has pointed out, if we are to patronise the made-in-Nigeria manufactures, the qualities of those manufactures must not be inferior to the qualities of those they are to displace. If otherwise, the appeal cannot impress anybody.

I give as an example some of the singlets manufactured in Nigeria. These do not measure up at all and there is no arrangement as to sizes, and the stitches are very poor. After washing the singlet for the first time, the body shrinks up to the neck and each of the

sleeves becomes wider and longer than the main body. So that the body disappears and then one will have the sleeves all dangling like the pendulum of the Big Ben. That is not the kind of thing we should be asked to patronise. I insist on the quality being maintained. If that is not so, and if the Minister cannot relay this to the people manufacturing these things and to everyone of us, I shall be the last man to buy imported goods.

I remember during the last Christmas I bought greeting cards made in Nigeria. I was very proud to send them overseas. This was because they were good. If they were not up to standard I should have been ashamed to send them out to anybody.

I also have my own advice to the Government. If we are appealing to the citizens to patronise things made in Nigeria, the Government must also insist on patronising things made in Nigeria. I do not think they hold this point before them. If they do so, I do not see the reason why the Governments of the Federation, the Native Authorities and the Local Councils should spend thousands of pounds importing drugs and medicines into the country while we have pharmacists who can get on with pharmaceutical industries.

For instance, we have here at Yaba, a very small Government laboratory with only three pharmacists.

The Minister of Finance has just reminded me that the Minister of Health is here. I can as well ask him to listen to what I have to say about this laboratory and carry away with him the advice I will give. From the information at my disposal, between January and March 1963, the Federal Government saved £300,000 from what was produced and sold in this small laboratory at Yaba, manned by only three pharmacists.

Now, one could imagine the amount of money in millions of pounds that might be saved if that little laboratory had been a little bigger, or if we had had more than one of them.

I am saying that if individuals are to be asked to patronise things made in Nigeria, there is no reason why our own Government should not patronise the drugs and medicines made in Nigeria. There is no reason why the Government should not make full use of our

pharmacists here. But, of course, unless they tell me that the skill and quality of our pharmacists do not compare favourably with those of pharmacists in any other part of the world, I would ask Government to make use of the pharmacists we have in our laboratories by establishing pharmaceutical industries, where drugs and medicines cheap enough for our people can be produced.

If this is not done, I would be inclined to think that the Government is like a sign-board which one sees by the roadside pointing an arrow to a destination but which never goes there itself.

On the question of developing our existing sources of revenue, I have to congratulate the Federal Minister of Finance again. Here in particular, the department of Customs and Excise is the mainstay of the revenue of the Federal Government. Over 70 per cent of the revenue comes from this branch of the Government. It appears to me, however, that in one respect this Department has failed. It has failed on the question of detecting people smuggling Indian hemp to England. Everyday one hears of a Nigerian, so and so by name, arrested in England for being in possession of Indian hemp.

Why is it that such people are not detected here in Nigeria? There may be two possible reasons. Either our own customs officials here are not vigilant enough or that they deliberately co-operate with these smugglers. Neither of these reasons can do them any good.

Hon. Senators might think that I am against Indian hemp. I have to say that I do not know what it is at all. I have never seen it before. However, I think the time has come actually when this Indian hemp should be regarded as a potential cash crop, and should be cultivated in this country.

The Minister of Finance is asking whether I want Nigerians to smoke, what he calls, *wee-wee*? I also heard him saying that it is a very dangerous tobacco leaf. I have to say that Indian hemp is not more dangerous than rum or opium or even gin or whisky. I cannot agree with the Minister of Finance that it is dangerous. I would like to rely on the opinion of our scientists.

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

I am saying that Indian hemp is a potential source of revenue. It is a cash crop that could be cultivated here provided those who cultivate it are given licences. I can hear several Senators shouting down my point. If Senators say no, then there is just one thing that this Government has to do: it has to build more prisons, throw the gates wide open in order to increase the prisoners who may be caught for trafficking in Indian hemp, and spend more money on their maintenance.

Now on the question of external trade, it is very gratifying to note here again a very significant change. The external trade deficit came down by about £10,000,000 last year, in spite of the fact that agricultural products fetched lower prices. You can imagine what would have happened if we had got higher prices on agricultural products. It would have been very phenomenal. Agricultural prices were low and yet we had £10,000,000 deficit. This is something to think about.

The reasons for the lower prices of agricultural products were, according to the Minister of Finance, two-fold. The first was the rapid development and improvement of synthetics, or rather, artificial raw materials; the second was automaton. We are told that these were responsible, but going through the Budget Speech, I do not see any solution suggested by the Government.

Here again, I think, there is an omission. I do not think that we can solve a problem by avoiding it. I cannot see what suggestion has been made by the Government for solving this problem.

I am saying here that agriculture has not been giving due consideration. I have said this before, and I am repeating it again. Even in the Six-Year Development Programme, agriculture has not been judiciously or properly handled. Agriculture is one of those things, on which all the Governments of the Federation would have to come together, just as is the case with education.

We have some of our farm settlements established in the Regions costing over £2,000,000. What then can the poor peasants do to organise agriculture in their regions? Where will they find the money? How can the

poor peasants improve agriculture to such a degree as to make any impression on the world market.

I am saying that all the Governments of the Federation must think seriously about this question of agriculture and get it well organised.

The plan for agriculture as contained in our Constitution is that the Federal Government has to see about research, while the Regional Governments actually carry out the whole process of agriculture. I am not interested in the unimpressive and slow process of research. In any case, if the research is carried out, and the results of the research are not projected to the people, research then becomes a waste of time and money.

I am of the opinion that agriculture should be taken up as a national concern, and that all the Governments of the Federation should come together to co-ordinate and harmonise their efforts.

Throughout the country, agriculture suffers a great deal. There is no careful planning and distribution of even the little that we produce. In a particular district, oranges may be produced in abundance to such an extent that the people in that district do not require all the oranges. What happens is that some of these oranges will fall and rot away, while there are other districts where oranges are greatly needed. That is due to faulty planning and unsuitable distribution.

Why cannot anybody in any part of the country enjoy the products that come from another part of that country? I can hear the Minister of Finance saying that this is due to the present system of regionalisation. I would say it is not due to regionalisation. Regionalisation is based on our Constitution—a Constitution which was made for man. Man after all is not made for the Constitution!

If the Minister of Finance can talk of synthetics and automaton being responsible for the lowering of our export commodities, what are our plans to combat these difficulties?

Another source of revenue would be the finding of new markets. When we talk of new markets or world markets, I do not think we should continue to tie ourselves to European countries alone.



Other parts of the world should be explored for trade possibilities. It must be borne in mind that such exploration is not necessarily carried out by arranging economic tours alone but it could also be carried out through our various embassies in the various parts of the world and by these embassies getting suitable publications like the Nigerian Trade Journal and other publications from the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce. It is not only by going round the world that we can explore trade possibilities, we can also do this through our different embassies. And this brings us to the question of establishing more of these embassies in other countries throughout the world.

I know that the cost of setting up and maintaining embassies is very high but I can give an example of what I am asking for. Some-time last year when I was down in the States, I noticed that throughout all the Latin American countries Nigeria has no embassy, not a single embassy, and it was a sad thing to hear that in Mexico, for instance, the only Nigerian known to them, was Rafiu King, the boxer, and this too was because he has used that place as his base. There was not even a single publication about Nigeria in Mexico and but for the fact that some of their Parliamentarians who were passing through Nigeria occasionally popped in to see us, it was likely that nothing could have been known about us. Throughout all the Latin American countries Nigeria has not a single embassy. What do we expect the man in Washington to do ?

If we have some of these publications we could give them out to publicise this country as indeed it should. But unfortunately, during the time I was speaking of, we had none. When we got to New York we wanted some of these publications, for example, *The Nigerian Trade Journal* and such other Government publications, but we just had none. This, to me, was a very big handicap.

Our embassies throughout the world should try to help us and give publicity to the country by giving our Government publications to the people in the countries in which they are situated.

I can hear a Senator asking where the Minister of Information is who is the man to hear these things that I am saying. I might

as well ask the same question. However, he is Minister of misinformation now.

I am saying that it is not only by organising economic tours that we can find new markets, this can also be done by giving information to those parts of the world that, for the time being, know nothing about Nigeria at all.

Another avenue by which we can successfully find new markets is by taking part in trade fairs organised in some other parts of the world. We had our own trade fair here in 1962 and it was a very big success. I know that the organisation of trade fairs is such an expensive venture that I would not ask Nigeria to organise a trade fair yearly, but I would say that wherever trade fairs are held in other parts of the world Nigeria should try to attend and should try to present our own Made-in-Nigeria commodities. This is the way by which we can advertise what we are able to produce, whether agricultural or industrial products. This is also how to find new markets because new markets arise where you have a country producing certain things that your own country wants but cannot or does not produce in sufficient quantities, and then you have other countries requiring things you produce. It is when that kind of exchange develops that new markets come to be. Countries producing identical products cannot easily have markets growing between them.

I am therefore making this as a very strong point that the Nigerian Government should think very seriously of establishing more embassies and especially among the Latin American countries out of which I specifically recommend Mexico because the government of that country is the most stable of all the governments of that area.

In fact the President of the Mexican Republic made it clear that we should bear as a special message to the Government of Nigeria the fact that his Government wanted a Nigerian embassy established in Mexico. The President further told us that he was going to present to his Parliament in its next session a proposal to establish a Mexican embassy in Nigeria and that he would like us to reciprocate. I know that the Minister of External Affairs is not here now, but I am sure that the Minister of Health will take that message to the Minister of External Affairs. The Minister himself came in here in a big jumper but has now gone away.

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

Another interesting point in the Budget Speech was that which dealt with the distillation of gin. This point had already been handled in the morning and I therefore would not have to go back to it, but I must say that I am happy that at last the Government has decided to establish such an industry because for a long time now people have been agitating for this and the fact that, belated as it is, a Bill for this came up this morning is a vindication of the agitation that has, for a long time, been going on.

Another point is the establishment of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Industry. This has also been discussed earlier and I would not like to dwell any more on it. The only point I would like to add is that since the Government has in mind the introduction of a decimal system in Nigeria I think it would have been a wiser thing to wait for the introduction of the decimal system to precede the setting up of this Security Printing and Minting Industry so that we would not have to face the trouble of changing machines. I know that when the decimal system is introduced perhaps the machines in the Printing and Minting Industry will be affected. This is the only comment I have to make on this industry, otherwise I welcome the idea of setting up the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Industry.

I would like to say a word on the United Nations. I was privileged to watch the General Assembly of the United Nations and the various committees of that Organisation sometime last year in New York. I was very happy to hear from most of the members from other parts of the world say that Nigeria is a great country. They have a very high opinion of Nigeria. In fact Nigeria was described as the most dynamic of all African countries and this good opinion that these people held arose from the impression made by our Prime Minister when he attended the meeting of the General Assembly and also the contributions made by our own representatives—the Minister of External Affairs and our Permanent Representative to the United Nations resident in New York.

I also observed that during the breaks between their meetings one could see people from the various parts of the world forming groups and discussing different matters. It was

apparent that the United Nations was used as an international platform for campaigns in which different people discuss issues affecting their different countries. This makes it very desirable that Nigeria, and indeed all African countries that are members of the United Nations, should think seriously of their having representation in the various organs, particularly the principal ones, of the United Nations Organisation. These different organs were the channels through which most of the campaigns of the different countries were carried out.

When I talk of the principal organs I have in mind the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and of course the U.N.E.S.C.O. There is no doubt that the United Nations has some other specialised agencies too, but those mentioned are the principal ones and every effort should be made for African countries to get into these agencies. These efforts should be made not necessarily individually because it is a very difficult thing for one to fight and get one's own representative into any of these, but we must do that in collaboration with other African nations.

This action is very necessary because whatever views a country may have on any matter such views cannot be put through in the United Nations without the co-operation of all other countries of the world and these specialised organs of the Organisation are the platforms for campaigns. Indeed the importance of having representation on these organs manifests itself by the fact that whatever may be the benefits to be derived from membership of the United Nations Organisation, every member state gets such benefits in proportion to the degree of pressure exerted on the Organisation through these specialised and principal organs. That is why it is necessary for us to try and get ourselves fairly represented on as many as possible of these principal organs.

I said earlier on that members of the United Nations have a very high opinion of Nigeria. My only appeal, therefore, is that our representatives at the United Nations should not do anything that will destroy, either by injudicious actions or by tactless and provocative utterances, the abundance of goodwill and respect which Nigeria has earned.

I can see that some Senators are itching to speak. I will, therefore, wind up my speech. In doing so, may I once more say how appreciative I am of the great effort that is being made by the Federal Government to raise the revenue of this country and thus ensure our economic freedom. I think that all Senators pray that the Government should continue with its efforts in this regard. It is only when the whole country is placed in an economically sound position, backed by flourishing industries and fruitful agricultural activities, that the present unpleasant situation of unemployment will be overcome. It must be said, without any reservation, that the country has many acres of virgin land yet to plough in an endeavour to make herself self-sufficient.

I beg to support.

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** I have to thank the President for giving me an opportunity to speak this afternoon. I was not lucky enough to catch his eyes in the morning.

I will, first of all, speak on agriculture because in the part of the country where I come from, the people are mostly agriculturists.

I know that the Minister will say that agriculture is the responsibility of the Regions. I will, however, tell him that there are problems which one refers to one's parents for solution, no matter how old one may be. In this context, parents that have many children will have many problems brought to them by their children for solution.

A lot is being done by the Regional Governments. But they need the backing of the Federal Government on important matters like agricultural development.

A Senator who spoke earlier has said that 60 per cent of the population of Nigeria are farmers. I would say that they are more than that; they are about 80 per cent. Therefore, I feel that a lot should be done by the Federal Government to help the Regional Governments.

We have a lot of children boys and girls, coming out of school and many of them have nothing to do. The fathers of these school leavers are mostly farmers. But most of these

children have been brought up, away from their parents and have never been to a farm since they were born. Some of them leave school at the age of twenty or more years. Can we ask such children, including girls, to go to the farm and stagger with the implements which their great grandfathers used? This is the sort of thing that the Federal Government should look into.

What we want is a mechanised system of farming. The Regional Governments cannot finance this all on their own. In mechanised farming, teachers, instruments, mechanics and a lot of money will be needed. Can all these be provided by the Regional Governments alone?

As some Senators have earlier said, it is no use concentrating on providing farmers with fertilizers and insecticides. They need agricultural machines more than anything else. As I have said, the Federal Government should help the Regional Governments in buying instruments and in training teachers and mechanics. These teachers can go to study in a place like America that started from a humble beginning just as Nigeria is doing now. The teachers will learn from the Americans. After all, example is better than precepts. If we follow precepts and forget to follow examples we shall not do much.

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

That the debate be now adjourned and resumed tomorrow. Tomorrow is the Private Members' day. The Leader of the Senate shall move a Motion in the morning to suspend Standing Orders so that after Private Member's Motions, Government Business will follow and this debate will be resumed. We hope to adjourn *sine die* tomorrow if it is the wish of Senators.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the debate be now adjourned and resumed tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at five o'clock.

When we want a mechanical system of learning... The Regional Government cannot finance this all on their own. In mechanical learning, teachers, instruments, machines and a lot of money will be needed. Can all these be provided by the Regional Government alone?

As some Senators have earlier said, it is no use concentrating on providing farmers with fertilizers and insecticides. They need educational machines more than anything else. As I have said, the Federal Government should help the Regional Government in buying instruments and in training teachers and mechanics. These teachers can go to study in a place like America that started from a humble beginning but as Nigeria is doing now, the teachers will learn from the Americans. After all, America is better than Europe. If we follow Europe and forget to follow science we shall not do much.

The Minister of Finance (Chief N. S. Okeke-Rhoads): I beg to move—

That the debate be now adjourned and resumed tomorrow. Tomorrow is the 14th and Members' day. The Leader of the Senate shall move a Motion to the morning to suspend Senator Okeke so that after Prime Minister's Motion, Government Business will follow and this debate will be resumed. We hope to adjourn this tomorrow. It is the wish of Senator.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Gbedemre): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the debate be now adjourned and resumed tomorrow.

and better agricultural activities that the person equipment maintenance of management will be necessary. It must be said, without any reservation, that the country has many areas of which land not to be used in an order to make better use of it.

I beg to support.

Senator T. Okunribido: I have to thank the President for giving me an opportunity to speak this afternoon. I was not lucky enough to catch his eyes in the morning.

I will finish all years on agriculture because in the part of the country where I was born, the people are mostly agriculturists.

I know that the Minister will say that agriculture is the responsibility of the Regions. I will, however, tell him that there are problems which are related to one's parents for education. No matter how old one may be, in this country, parents and many children will have many problems brought to them by their children for education.

A lot is being done by the Regional Government. But they need the backing of the Federal Government on important matters like agricultural development.

A Senator who spoke earlier has said that 60 per cent of the population of Nigeria are farmers. I would say that they are more than that; they are about 80 per cent. Therefore, I feel that a lot should be done by the Federal Government to help the Regional Government.

We have a lot of children boys and girls coming out of school and many of them have nothing to do. The fathers of these school boys are mostly farmers. But most of these

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 14th April, 1964

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF  
SELECTION

**The President :** I have to lay on the Table of the Senate a report from the Committee of Selection. This will appear in the *Minutes and Proceedings* of to-day's sitting.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AVIATION

Proposed Owerri Aerodrome

**O.12. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, when work is to commence on the proposed aerodrome for Owerri, for which a site has already been selected.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : No provision exists in the present Economic Development Programme and market research does not indicate any immediate need. However, a survey will be carried out as soon as possible.

**Senator Nzerem :** How soon possible will that be ?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** My hon. Friend the Minister of Transport and myself are consulting very closely and we shall expedite matters as soon as it is practicable.

East-West Railway

**O.13. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Transport what plans he has to start work on the proposed Railway line to link Western Nigeria, Mid-Western Nigeria across the Niger with Onitsha, Owerri and Old Calabar Province.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : In accordance with a Motion passed by the House of Representatives, I have instructed the Nigerian Railway Corporation to conduct a feasibility and traffic survey of the projected rail line to connect Western Nigeria with Mid-Western and Eastern Nigeria. The survey which commenced on 26th January,

1964 will determine the amount and areas of traffic potential. A decision on the execution of the project and the exact route will depend to a large extent on the results of the survey.

INFORMATION

Broadcasting Stations for Abakaliki and Ogoja

**O.14. Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha** asked the Minister of Information, if he will consider the desirability of providing a broadcasting station for Abakaliki and Ogoja provinces in order to help in educating the people and in developing their culture.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I am sorry, the answer to this question will appear in the *Hansard*.

COMMUNICATIONS

Bomadi and Patani VHF Stations

**O.22. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that the VHF stations at Bomadi and Patani in Western Ijaw in the Mid-West do not function continuously without frequent breakdown.

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile) : The battery-operated radio equipment at Bomadi and Patani have been replaced by mains-operated sets which will make for greater reliability. Hitherto lack of river transport had made it difficult for these two stations to be maintained regularly. A launch has now been acquired and based at Warri so that maintenance service on these two stations is expected to improve.

**Senator Egbuson :** May I know when these equipments were changed, because they are still breaking down? Also the launch provided for the technicians is leaking and cannot be on the water. Most times the crew find it difficult to go on this launch to Patani.

**Chief Akinfosile :** I must express surprise. This launch has been provided in the last four months at a cost of some £6,000 from our boatyard in Epe. I would like to investigate the situation and find out the cause of the damage and we probably will be able to ask them to make the necessary refunds to us for this defect. I think that as to time, I will have to have notice. I cannot here say exactly when the changes took place.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** I want to know from the Minister whether it was a second-hand vessel or a new one.

**Chief Akinfosile :** I am sure it is a new one and I shall find out why it has gone bad so quickly.

#### Postal Facilities in Western Ijaw

**O.23. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Communications if he will consider opening full fledged Post Offices in Western Ijaw Division.

**Chief Akinfosile :** The following are the Postal Agencies in Western Ijaw Division and their units of work :

	1961	1962	1963
Patani ..	6,146	8,838	6,219
Bomadi ..	24,581	25,096	25,824
Agbere ..	3,699	3,958	4,058
Ojobo ..	5,731	5,693	6,534
Akugbere ..	5,657	5,222	4,881

Only Bomadi is qualified for conversion to a Sub Post Office and an approval was given for its upgrading in 1962. The agreement forms sent to the Western Ijaw District Council for completion have not up till now been returned. A reminder has already been sent.

None of the agencies in the Division has qualified for upgrading to a full Departmental Post Office.

**Senator Egbuson :** Is the Minister aware that these other postal agencies have not been functioning well hence the volume of work has not increased? The reason is that it is very difficult for anyone to cash postal orders or money orders in these postal agencies. The postal agents are constantly in the habit of telling their customers 'I have no cash'. In other words, one can only buy postal orders there.

**Senator Nzerem :** On a point of order, the Senator is making a speech.

**The President :** The Senator should please proceed with his speech.

**Senator Egbuson :** In other words, it is difficult to cash postal orders sent from outside the Division to any of these postal agencies because the postal agents always say that there is no cash. Of course, as may be expected, it is

not possible for poor people at home to go to the post offices to buy money or postal orders. Even to-day, in my own home if I want to post a letter I send it all the way to Onitsha or to Warri if I find somebody going there. As a result, I do not use the postal agency.

**Chief Akinfosile :** I am very well aware of the deficiencies of the postal agencies and am particularly aware that there is not sufficient security for cash in these buildings. That is the responsibility of the local authority in each area. As soon as they can provide sufficient security for public funds which we place in the hands of the postal agents, we will be able to meet these needs. At the moment, a good deal of work and study is going on on how we can help the various postal agencies to give full service.

#### Forcados Post Office

**O.24. Senator J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Communications if he is aware that the volume of business transacted at Forcados Post Office has greatly dwindled since the Marine Department packed out of the town; and if he will consider removing the Post Office to another place in the Division.

**Chief Akinfosile :** Although the Inland Waterways have removed from Forcados, the Police, the Hospital and the Ministry of Works are still at Forcados. The counter unit figures have again been steadily rising as follows :—

1961	1962	1963
31.5	65.2	59.8

In the circumstances the question of the removal of the Post Office to another place in the Division cannot be considered at present.

#### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### Fire Services Nigerianisation

**O.31. Senator E. I. Onewokae** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what step he is taking to Nigerianise all Senior posts in the Fire Service Division of his Ministry.

**Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** A cadet scheme similar to that in the Police and Armed Forces has been started whereby young men of high educational standard and technical aptitude receive two or three years specialist training as officers, mostly overseas.

The first cadet was appointed about two years ago but was found to be unsuitable.

Applications for a further set of cadets have been received and appointments will be made very shortly. It is hoped by this means to find suitable candidates for all senior posts in the future.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I beg to move—

That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

I beg to move.

**Chief Akinfosile :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Senate at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

#### ARMED ROBBERY

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I beg to move—

That this House deplores the very high incidence of armed robbery in various parts of the Republic and calls on the Government to take immediate steps to set up, at strategic points throughout the Republic, mobile Police units adequately equipped and specifically charged with the responsibility of tracking down robbers.

I am not unmindful of what the Federal Government has done and continues to do to give us police protection, but all Senators will agree that much more ought to be done to render life and property secure on our highways. From all parts of the Federal Republic we continue to get reports of people being robbed at gun point. Even this morning there are two reports of armed robbery within a stone's throw from the Federal territory. I have also collected a number of newspaper cuttings showing frequent attacks of armed robbers on our highways.

I will not bore this House with reading some of these but I will only, with your permission, Mr President, refer to what is in the Paper this morning.

*Policemen Fired at.—Patrolling policemen were over the week-end at Bariga Village, Shomolu, Lagos fired at by a gang of armed burglars, it was reported.*

*The policemen were said to have been on normal patrol duty when they encountered the burglars.*

*The clash was said to have started when some of the burglars made a desperate effort to carry away the policemen's bicycles.*

*None of the policemen was injured."*

The other report reads as follows :—

*Burglars shot my husband.—A 40-year-old woman, Elizabeth Ademola, has told the Akure Assizes that armed burglars fired two shots at her husband and servant, while they were sleeping in their farm hut at Ahmati Camp, near Akure, on February 21, last year.*

I can continue *ad infinitum* giving Senators reports of armed robbery in various parts of this country. I think the time has come when Government should do something specific to stop this practice. It is not the intention of my Motion that Government should keep police patrol in all our roads in the Federal Republic at once but if they make a beginning somewhere and these thieves get to know that they cannot attack people on the highway and get away with it, then they will think twice.

The lives of our policemen ought to be safeguarded. How can the policemen be asked to go and patrol a place where these armed robbers are at work without any equipment? They do not carry any gun and have no vehicle while these robbers are well armed and go in vehicles.

So, it is time that our Government should do something in order to counteract the effect of these anti-social people. I am quite confident that all sides of this Senate, including the Government Bench, will support me because my Motion is one that is meant to do great service to the people of this country.

I beg to move.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** I rise to second this Motion, and I am doing so as somebody who has been very near the scenes of such happenings in recent times.

The Government might have been doing a lot to put an end to burglary and all sorts of robbery, but from the events of the present time it is very important that the Government should strengthen its scope and increase its activities. This is a very important Motion.

[SENATOR OGUNDIPE]

It is one which deals not only with the protection of properties but with the protection of precious lives.

It is very disheartening also to note that this armed burglary is not usually organised by poor people like labourers or by those who are called the 'ordinary men in the street' who have not got any means of livelihood; in many cases it is organised by rich people, because no very poor man can afford to take out in the night two lorries, a car and a land-rover with double barrelled guns and revolvers and other expensive weapons. The worst of it all is that these robbers not only rob honest people, who have been trading all their lives and saving their money, of their properties, but they tend to deprive them of their lives too.

I have heard of such cases which happened between Akure-Ondo and Ilesha-Benin roads very recently and of five similar cases happening in this country between January and February, and the worst thing is that even women are also robbed. We all know that our women, with due deference to our women Senators, are most helpless in such a circumstance. These women are maltreated in such a way that is not my place here to explain in details, in order to make them surrender their properties.

We all know that a lot of trade is going on between Lagos-Ibadan, Ilesha-Akure and Ondo Benin roads—and there is a lot of trade too to and from the East.

I have heard somebody asking, 'What about Okitipupa?' I do not want to be particularly sectional. If my hon. Friend who has just spoken knows the geography of Nigeria very well, he will know that when I speak of Ondo Province, Okitipupa is included.

I therefore feel that in the interest of the people whom we govern or, rightly, whom the Government governs and in the interest of their trades, this Motion should be passed without any Amendment from the Government Bench. This is a straightforward Motion and it is only a betrayal of the serious dangers that face us in this country. I would therefore like to urge the Government to take the suggestion of the Mover very seriously, that it is not necessary to have Mobile Police Units in all our highways to start with. We know the Trunk 'A' roads that are most dangerous. The Ikorodu road

is one of the notorious roads for this robbery, although Ikorodu has produced one of our most respected Ministers.

I do not mean that it is the people from Ikorodu who practise robbery, but we all know of Ikorodu road and Lagos-Ibadan-Benin road being extremely dangerous, especially for people to travel in the nights and, drivers, especially the commercial vehicle drivers who must travel in the nights. It is at the tragic corners where drivers are likely to stop and have some rest and the passengers dose away for some minutes, that these robbers jump on them.

So, this is a welcome Motion and we hope that the Government will give it their blessing.

I beg to second.

**Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :**  
I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, as follows :—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end and add—"this House deplores the very high incidence of armed robbery in various parts of the Republic but notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of cases of this offence."

It is sad that the incidence of armed robbery is on the increase, although the proportionate increase in this offence is comparatively small compared with other offences against property such as burglary. This is one of the evil effects of indiscriminate copying of what happens in some advanced countries, and of what people see in films.

As Senators are already aware, Police Mobile Squadrons have already been established at strategic points in the Northern Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria and in Lagos. The first squadron was established in Northern Nigeria in 1962, and in Eastern Nigeria and Lagos in 1963. By the middle of this year, Lagos and each of the Regions of the Republic, excluding the newly created Mid-Western Region, will each have a Police Mobile Force. Each Mobile Force, as its name suggests, is highly mobile, and it is able to send units anywhere they are required with a minimum of delay.

But the primary duty of the Mobile Force is to deal with internal security. Mobile Force are meant to deal quickly and effectively with civil disturbances whenever and wherever they



occur. Nevertheless, when there is no emergency, Mobile Units are used in the type of role envisaged in the Motion.

As soon as funds are available, a squadron will be set up in the Mid-Western Region and as more funds become available, more Units will be added to the existing squadrons.

In addition to the measures stated above, it may not be very long when the service operation of Nigeria Police dogs will be extended to all Regions to track down completely the waves of armed robbery.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** It is not my intention to oppose the Amendment. I simply want to express some disgust at the way Government handles Private Members' Motions. There is scarcely any Private Members Motion that is accepted by Government without one form of Amendment or the other. The original text of the Motion is appealing more to us or to the public at large than the amended version. I anticipate Governments' fear which is brought about by the words

*"to set up, at strategic points throughout the Republic, mobile Police units adequately equipped and specifically charged with the responsibility of tracking down robbers."*

Why should Government be afraid of those words? The Mover of the Motion had not enumerated the number of points where he wants Government to station these units. At most it may be at two or three points, but definitely not one thousand or one million points. The Mover cannot expect Government to do all these things at a time. That is why he has employed the phrase "adequately equipped." He does not expect Government to go about buying special weapons for these people. Already they are armed. They have their rifles. So, I do not see the reason why Government should be afraid of these words.

If one looks at the number of havocs these robbers are doing in the country to-day one will no doubt come to the conclusion that they are dragging the name of our young Republic in the mud. We should cast our minds back to what happened between Benin and Sapele last year, about £60,000 was taken away at gunpoint and up till now not one half of the money has been recovered.

Also at Kano sometime ago, a bank was robbed, the robbers took away money at gunpoint and even injured some of the employees of the bank. The same thing happened last year at Offa. Robbers came into a bank, held the cashier at gunpoint and took away some money. A similar thing happened in Lagos recently when a pay clerk went and withdrew money with which to pay his staff. As he was coming out of bank, he was attacked and the money was stolen away, leaving the members of staff to starve.

Robbers at Abanidiego and Amaoke who are operating in the East are—

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of information, the activities of these armed robbers are more in the East but they come from Tiv Division.

**Senator Abaagu :** These Abanidiego people operate mainly in the North, and—

**The Minister of Labour (Chief J. M. Johnson) :** On a point of information. I am sure the Tivs are showing their disgust for uneven distribution of money. (Laughter).

**Senator Abaagu :** I now come to armed robbery in Tiv Division. It is true that of recent there have been cases of armed robbery there, but I wish to say that members of a certain political party transformed themselves into a killing squad and armed robbers. They threatened innocent people, beat them up; raped their wives, looted their property and killed even members of the Nigeria Police Force. This is what is happening in Nigeria.

The simple prayer of the Mover of the Motion is that Government should take stringent measures to see that this evil is reduced to the barest minimum. The Minister responsible for Police Affairs has just told us that Government is doing something about it.

We know that sometimes these robbers are arrested, taken to court and jailed. But if these robbers engage some clever lawyers they are set free. This is not enough. I am suggesting that armed robbers should be killed; they should be sentenced to death.

As I said earlier on, I do not want to oppose the Amendment, but I am only expressing disgust at the way Government has been handling Private Members' Motions.

[SENATOR ABAAGU]

The Mobile Unit of the Nigeria Police Force is specially fitted for this type of job. In fact, I admire the way and manner they handle the recent disturbances in Tiv Division and I appreciate their zeal and efficiency.

I would suggest that if it is possible, all members of the Nigeria Police Force should be trained in the way the Mobile Units are trained.

As I said earlier on, I do not actually support the Amendment but I do not oppose it.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** I rise to support the original Motion. In supporting it, I do not know whether to reject what is called the Amendment here. By trying to twist it this way, the Motion would be highly deficient.

**The President :** You know that the Senate will adjourn *sine die* to-day and many Senators would like to speak on the Appropriation Bill. It is necessary to cut down whatever you want to say so that other Senators will be able to speak.

**Senator Chief Umoh :** I feel that the Amendment is highly deficient and it has lost its original meaning in a way. The original Motion is very expressive and it is straight to the point.

The Motion calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to set up, at strategic points throughout the Republic, mobile Police units adequately equipped and specifically charged with the responsibility of tracking down robbers. What is the need of noting with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of cases of this offence?

If satisfactory steps have been taken, why must the incidence of armed robbery multiply everyday? I disagree with what is given here as the Amendment. I wish the original Motion should be adopted *in toto*.

I beg to support.

**Senator J. M. Egbuson :** A few days ago, we were called upon to pass a Bill on distillation of spiritis in this country. When people started to distil spirits in this country, the Police took half and half measure with the result that the whole situation became uncontrollable. The Government has been called upon now to legalise it because the Police are

unable to stop it. I hope that this armed robbery will not one day be legalised in this country!

From the explanation given by the hon. Minister, we are told that the mobile Police Force is maintained as a striking force to be used in cases of disturbances in the country. One is based in Lagos and another one is based in the North. They are not evenly distributed yet. Their primary duty is to quell disturbances and it is only when they are not engaged in quelling disturbances that they are available to patrol the highways.

**Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** On a point of information, the Government is taking full measure to track down armed robbers, and not half and half measure as is being suggested by the Senator.

**Senator Egbuson :** I quote exactly what the Minister read when he was making his statement on the issue. I think he has got his notes with him now. If I did not hear him rightly, that is a different matter. The Minister did say—

*“That this mobile force is maintained for quelling disturbances and when there are no disturbances they are available to go on patrol”.*

That is what I called half and half measure.

**Mr Olarewaju :** On a point of information, apart from maintaining law and order, and tracking down these armed robbers, police mobile force is a new establishment. It is established to give a helping hand to the existing police force in tracking down all these evil doers.

**Senator Egbuson :** It is my view that the matter is being handled half and half, I repeat. As a matter of fact, there are burglars in this country and in all parts of the world. Burglars go speedily to remove our properties nowadays. If they tried to break through a man's house, or through a man's window and the inmates of the house happened to wake up, the inmates would run away because the robbers are always fully armed.

In this way these armed robbers steal with impunity. It happens in many towns particularly in Warri where I know very well. If a man blows his whistle at night, that man will not find one policeman to come out to help

him. When the policemen know that burglars are around, they always run away. Burglars have actually chased policemen around.

**Mr Olarewaju :** The Senator is trying to mislead the Senate. It is not true that police run away when there are armed robbers.

**Senator Egbuson :** I do not want to make a long speech on this because I think the Senate is unanimous that the Amendment is deplorable. The original Motion is quite all right. The steps being taken at present is not sufficient.

Much as I would like to defend the police in this particular matter, they are taking half and half measure which will not help us. We hate robbery, we hate burglary. It was not part of us in this country years ago. Now, life is not safe in this country. Travelling on the Ikorodu-Ibadan Road is sometimes dangerous.

When I wanted to come to Lagos from Ibadan, I was advised not to travel by the Ikorodu Road on certain nights because there might be armed robbers on that road. At times, I had to load a double barrel gun behind my seat. I know it is a dangerous thing because it can explode and I can wound myself. But that was the step I took on several occasions. I think something should be done now to discourage armed robbery in this country.

Senator Chief Umoh said something about penalty for highway robbery. Well, I agree that the punishment provided at present is not enough. But the law cannot be changed now on account of robbery. However, I regard a highway robber as somebody who is attempting to commit a murder, and such a person should really be sentenced to life imprisonment.

I would like to say that when it comes to robbery, there is no disunity among the tribes. In an armed robbery gang, there are Easterners, Westerners, Northerners and Mid-Westerners. It is not a blame that we can shift to one particular Region.

Almost every Nigerian tribe is in these gangs. This is not a tribal thing at all. I am surprised that when we talk of good things like promotions and appointments in our Public Service we talk of tribalism and disunity but when it comes to things evil, we seem to be united. When it comes to strikes, we seem to be united.

I support the Motion.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I know that my hon. Friend and Colleague is quite capable of looking after armed robbery and I do not wish to say anything about it. I just wish to correct a wrong impression created by my Friend, Senator Abaagu.

As Leader of this House, I think it is my duty to point out that the Senate has not very often debated Private Members Motions and, I think it is misleading to say that Government has never accepted any Motion brought by Senators.

To support this, I would like to draw Senators attention to the Motions which were accepted by the Federal Government in the Lower House during this Sitting of Parliament.

On the 17th of March, there was a Motion dealing with Housing Scheme for lower Income workers. This Motion was accepted by the Government without Amendment.

Again, there was another Motion dealing with Nigeria's Bridges and Floods. This Motion was also accepted by Government without Amendment.

On the 31st of March, 1964, there was a Motion dealing with improvement in the Conditions of Service of Police Officers. This Motion was also accepted without Amendment. Also on the same day a Motion was passed without Amendment on the Widening of Federal Roads.

On the 7th of April, there was a Motion on the African Common Market which was accepted by Government without Amendment.

Senators will see that it is grossly misleading to say that Government has never accepted Motions moved by Members without Amendment.

**Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye :** I support the original Motion and oppose the Amendment. Burglary and robbery are rampant in this country. It may surprise Senators to hear that a person cannot travel from Okitipupa to Lagos in his car without holding a double barrel gun and cartridges.

Last year, some traders from Okitipupa who were coming to Lagos to buy the goods they were going to sell were attacked by armed robbers on the road. The lorry in which these

[SENATOR CHIEF OLAYEYE]

traders were travelling was held at gun point and all their money and goods stolen away. The traders that refused to surrender their money and goods were beaten up. These traders had to return home empty handed and Senators can imagine the sorrow in which these people were put.

Some sixty highway robbers were arrested last year and charged to court, up till now they are still awaiting trial.

When the Mover of this Motion said that the Federal Government should take immediate steps to set up at strategic points throughout the Republic, mobile Police units adequately equipped and specifically charged with the responsibility of tracking down robbers, he was speaking for all the people of this country.

This is a very important matter and the Federal Government should not treat this matter lightly. I am maintaining that the Government has not done enough to satisfy the people of this country. That is why Senator Nzerem has brought this Motion and we all support the Motion.

I quite appreciate that the Government has been doing a lot for the safety of the people of this Republic but the public still want the Federal Government to do more to stop armed robbery in this country. The question of deploring and reducing drastically the number of cases of this offence will not help us, we want a complete stop to this evil practice.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that immediate steps are taken otherwise the lives and properties of the people of this Republic are not safe.

Everytime I come to Lagos some goats must get missing from my compound in Okitipupa. There was a time I had seventeen goats in my compound. These goats were all in my compound before I left Okitipupa for Lagos but by the time I returned, they had all been stolen away.

Sometime ago, thieves entered my house through a window and removed my belongings. The thieves even removed the photograph of my mother which I was proposing to enlarge and print in colour. The people of this country should be protected,

I am appealing to the Federal Government to accept the original Motion and take immediate steps to end armed robbery in this country.

I support the original Motion.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I simply want to appeal to Senators to bear with Government on the question of the Amendment to the original Motion. It will be an unfair Government if Senators pass a Motion that Government must do something immediately and Government gives a sort of lip promise that it will be done immediately when the funds are not available.

It is easy for Senators to ask Government to find money for a project but, I am sure, Senators will be the first people to oppose any attempt now to raise income tax by say at least 10 *per cent*. We realise that it is very necessary to have mobile units on all the roads in Nigeria. Even our police force to be able to serve the needs of fifty-five million people of this country should be increased by 100 *per cent*. We cannot afford to have more policemen than we have now.

If Senators are thinking of what happens in England where they have a policeman to a few number of people then we must look into our finances. Again, the Government must think of producing a rabbit from its hat in order to get money to post a mobile police unit on every road in Nigeria.

We all realise as Senators do that we have got our own share of highway robbery and I think that, judging from what obtains in other parts of the world, we can even congratulate ourselves. I wonder if Senators remember that not long ago there was an armed train robbery in England and up till to-day not up to 1 *per cent* of the money stolen has been recovered. Even the prosecution that is going on is for only two or three people. Even in America it is the same thing.

It is true that we do not want armed robbery but I am trying to bring it to Senators notice that America and Britain have more policemen per head of their population and still ugly things rear their head. Now that Nigeria has only one policeman to thousands of people, it is impossible to put policemen on all the streets of Nigeria and if we glibly tell Senators that we are going to do it in the near future we are not being honest to Senators. We all know this.

That is why we say what we have done now is adequate within the means available for us and we shall continue to do more. But, it will be a bad thing if Senators goad us into accepting Motions only to please them, knowing very well that we have no money to carry out the terms of these Motions.

Senators should please bear with the Government and let the Amendment to the Motion stand.

**Mr Olarewaju :** All the points made by Senators have been carefully noted down and I am sure that if Senators had listened to my first statement and followed me closely they would have heard when I said that by the middle of this year, Lagos and each of the Regions of the Republic excluding the newly created Mid-West Region will each have a Police Mobile Force. The Mobile Force as the name suggests is highly mobile and it is able to send units anywhere they are required with minimum delay.

I say this in order to explain to Senators that Government is not unaware of the activities of these armed robbers. What Government intends to do is to force them to surrender. Therefore, I am appealing very strongly to Senators to wait and see what Government will do after this Motion, and to please accept the Amendment.

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

*Question, That the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

**Resolved :** That this House deplores the very high incidence of armed robbery in various parts of the Republic but notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of cases of this offence.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** I rise to move—

That, in view of the constant defeat of our national football team at international matches and the consequent loss of national prestige involved, this House prays the Federal Government to show greater interest in soccer and overhaul without delay the method of selection and training given to our national football players.

Before I go into this Motion, I wish to refresh the memory of Senators on the known facts. We all know that Nigeria is a very big country with a very large population. The Leaders are very, very pushful. We have many doctors and the greatest number of lawyers in the whole of Africa. We have many well-read men and women; we have good and successful businessmen, and we have great boxers like Dick Tiger and Hogan Bassey who were world champions. We also have great and invincible cricketers. But where are we in the field of soccer? Where are our *Enyimba* boys from Aba? Where are our chaps from Plateau, and where are those good chaps from Lagos and Western Nigeria? Why should we have all these wonderful boys and still suffer all the defeats in the hands of small countries like Dahomey and Ghana? Why should Ghana beat our players like women?

**The President :** We have women Senators here you know.

**Senator Chukwubike :** I am saying that it is a heart-breaking shame and that is why I have filed this Motion. I pray this House to speak in condemnation of these annual defeats and to suggest means of saving the ugly situation. I guess, and sincerely believe, that the Members of this House will not like this to continue. We cannot afford to continue lagging behind in this field while we shine marvellously well in all other fields of life. I must remark here that our *Green Eagles* have belittled us and have done us the worst shame in the eyes of the world.

It will be a reflection of sorrows if I recapitulate all the defeats this country suffered in the hands of other countries of Africa in this field. But whatever happens, you cannot but agree with me that whenever our team crosses the borders for international matches, all reasonable men and women in this country tune their radio sets with a big fear that the announcement would be :

Dahomey	7	Nigeria	1
Ghana	11	Nigeria	0
Togo	9	Nigeria	0
Morocco	8	Nigeria	2

What a shame! What a shame! If our men do not mean to play, now I suggest we try our women (*Hear, hear*). My belief is that if our players are given thorough and adequate training and if a fair selection is conducted, we shall have an invincible team.

[SENATOR CHUKWUBIKE]

I have no cause to blame only the players but I must point out that they should know that in a football match, progress depends more on collective rather than individual efforts. Even in elementary schools, our games-masters rightly taught us that much dribbling weakens even the strongest team. A good footballer does not monopolise the ball but controls and passes it immediately to his waiting partners. The aim of any football team is to win and nobody bothers very much who scores all the goals or who dribbles the best.

It is rightly said that mistakes are raw materials for progress and that the most important thing is to profit by our mistakes. You cannot but agree with me that such is not the case here. We know why Ghana boys outshine our boys, yet, we do not want to correct it. This repeated defeat is a big challenge that should be received with deserving seriousness.

There is a wide rumour that nepotism and favouritism are a common practice in the selection of our First XI. If the allegation is founded, it will amount to a betrayal of trust.

I have to offer a few suggestions. I have about two or three suggestions to make but the first one will be most effective, and and that is, to save the ugly situation soccer should be made a profession. Football fans who want to make football a career should apply and, if tested and selected, should be employed by the Sports Council. The Sports Council should give them such minor work that will not interfere with their day-to-day practices. The condition of their service should be attractive, and they should enjoy promotion, gratuity and pension. Twenty-two best players should be selected in Lagos and this should enable them to practise together confidently and regularly. The Government and the firms can help by absorbing the players. The more they practise together, the more they master one another's arts of passing the ball. Practising together at this stage is inevitable.

I note that Government has, of late, decided to give about £10,000 yearly for a period of five years, in order to meet the cost of employing soccer coaches for Nigerian footballers. This is very encouraging, even though it has come rather very late,

Under this arrangement, I am suggesting the employment of permanent coaches instead of spending huge sums of money in flying temporary coaches in and out at certain times. This is very extravagant. I also suggest that the coaching should begin from our schools and colleges and our national team should be selected from such trainees.

At this stage, I must commend the efforts of young Nzerem who volunteered to train as a coach. Perhaps the fellow comes from the family of the Senator here. Government should take more interest in training our own men as coaches. Senators will all agree with me that Nigerians shine marvellously well in all fields of learning, and I wonder why this should not be so in the field of soccer.

In this regard, I have something to quote here. It is a bit lengthy, but it will help us. This is from the American coach, Mr David Young-Blade. With your permission, Sir, I quote :

*The American athletic coach, David Young-Blade, has said that the performances of the athletes at last Saturday's Lagos junior athletic championships contest were poor and below expectation. He said Nigeria had completely refused to make full use of the rare and excellent opportunity which his country, the United States had offered to her by providing her with qualified coaches to develop the athletic potentialities of the country.*

*Even Nigerian sports administrators had equally failed to make use of the opportunities at their disposal. The coach's useful recommendations designed to engage the athletes on active sporting assignments throughout the season were rejected.*

*He said the existing system which had always made it impossible for school athletes to take part in not more than two athletic meetings was not only unacceptable but useless and unprogressive. He pointed out that under such a confused state of affair, a person with natural talent for athletics could easily become static.*

*To achieve maximum progress in the field of athletics for which his country was very desirous to help Nigeria, the present system of athletic activities must be revised so that Nigeria could afford to keep her athletes on active assignments almost throughout the year.*

*He attributed the cause of the poor standards of performance at the LAÁA junior championships to the fact that the athletes practised for a few weeks and under such circumstances, should not be expected to do well.*

*He said hard work was required to attain the height of greatness in sports as in other fields of life.*

*The American coach recognised Nigeria as a country with tremendous athletic potentialities but deeply regretted that up to now the nation had not been able to recognise her own greatness hence he said, many things were not yet tackled with seriousness.*

*Mr Young-Blade pointed out that his stay in Nigeria was more of a holiday than business trip.*

*He had wasted his precious time and valuable energy in his camp at the National Stadium waiting for athletes who would not turn up for training. He described it as a shocking experience.*

*Mr Young-Blade said that the poor standards of performances in the country's athletics to-day could be improved if students in the country's colleges and schools could recognise the importance of vigorous and persistent training. "Keep me busy all the time, you will get your reward all the year", the American coach assured.*

*(Senator T. Olamijulo walked across the Floor and went out of the Chamber.)*

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** It is very indecent for a Senator to walk across the Floor of the Senate when the Senate is sitting.

**The President :** I am surprised at the Senator myself, but he does not seem to know this is wrong.

**Senator Chukwubike :** I want to say that the extract I have just quoted reveals that the players themselves are not interested. Perhaps that is because of the poor condition under which they play. The administrators themselves do not follow the expert advice given by the coach.

I am saying that there should be no favouritism in selecting those to represent us in the international football matches, bearing in mind that Nigeria is one and that the glory of the Mid-West, North, East or West is that of the

whole Federation, and that the defeat of our national team is a national calamity.

I must emphasise that the ugly method of selection is one of the major causes of our repeated failures in the field of soccer. If after the training and coaching all the members of the first team come from Lagos, or from the West, why should they not represent the country? Those who are responsible for the selection should save this country from further defeats.

Nigeria encourages total disarmament as this is an enemy to peace and progress in the whole world, but does not, I say does not, encourage sports and soccer. The Government should take pride in the activities of our youths. It is not sufficient to say that the Minister of Labour, Chief J. M. Johnson, is responsible for sports. Whenever a national match is on, other Ministers should not go on picnic. I must remark that even our respected Prime Minister has not watched matches in Lagos more than twice, and the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, whose house is opposite the stadium, has never been to the field to watch matches.

I am saying that our Ministers should encourage our players by their presence on the field when they play. Their presence is very important.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** On a point of order, I wish to inform Senator Chukwubike that the Minister of Finance has his own football team which he finances.

**Senator Chukwubike :** That is a private football team. I am speaking about our national team. The Minister of Finance should go to the field. The presence of our Ministers and leaders in the field will encourage the players. For instance, in Ghana, the President of that country goes to the football field in shirt and knicker to encourage the players, but in Nigeria it is a difficult thing.

Our players themselves should be more nationalistic in their activities. They should regard their defeat as that of the Federation and that of the nation as a whole. They should also regard their victory as a thing of joy for the whole country. We should not be too regionally minded as far as soccer is concerned. Sometimes each region wants to recruit back the best players it has. The

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interest of the nation should prevail against that of the region in this case.

Lastly, I would suggest a complete take over of our national football team by the Government.

Having brought all these convincing facts, I pray this House to support this Motion and to reject the Government's Amendment.

I beg to move.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** I beg to second the Motion. As the Mover has rightly said, in recent years this country has experienced great humiliations as a result of constant defeats of our national soccer team. The disgrace comes in when one thinks of the size of each of the countries to which our own team has been a regular under-dog. Take Ghana, for instance, which is not as large as any of our Regions—

**The President :** Now that Senator Olamijulo has come in, I wish to remind Senators that Standing Order 28 (2) reads—

*Members shall not cross the floor of the Senate unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Senator.*

I wish to point out that a serious breach of the Standing Order has been committed.

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** I am very sorry.

**Senator Ukattah :** I was referring to the size of countries like Ghana and Dahomey, that each of these is not as large as any of our Regions except, perhaps, the Mid-West. It is true that a competitor should take the outcome of a competition in the spirit of sportsmanship. But it is equally true that every good competitor should go in with a view to obtaining victory. We have a team that goes out and loses all matches and not winning any! Then it must be admitted that our team is not up to the required standard. That is the fate of our national team to-day.

What are the causes of the weakness of our national team? Why is it that Nigeria is not able to raise a soccer team that will give name and dignity to the largest country in Africa? Why is it that we cannot raise one, only one soccer team that we can be proud of anywhere? We have the men. We have the enthusiasm and a very generous Federal Government and Regional Governments. What we require

now is to examine those factors that are contributing to the poor standard of our performances. I would like to go through these causes very briefly.

One of them is inadequate preparation. Senators know that for a team to go out and do well, the players must have had a lot of practice and must have all been together for some time so that they can understand one another, and know their weakness. Where one is weak, the other will understand and will easily make up for that weakness. In the case of our own soccer team, the players come from the various parts of the Federation. It is not always easy to get them to come together, and when they do come at all some of them do so only a day or two to the date of the match, with the result that there is no real training. In the field of play one will see that the players lack coherence and combination, and the essence of team work is completely destroyed.

The second point is favouritism in the selection of the players. It is the members of the N.F.A. that are guilty of this. They like to pick players mainly from Lagos because they have Lagos players near them. They lose sight of the various talents we have in the various nooks and corners of our country. That is one of the reasons why, when we send our team to play other countries, the team will not measure up. The members of the N.F.A. are responsible for this.

The third point is the unwillingness on the part of certain employers to release players. Most of our players are employees of one or other of the departments and industrial concerns that exist in the country. We have no law to force an employer to release a worker. To the ordinary man, John is a player, to the coach also, he is a player; but to his employer, he is an employee, and there is no law of the land to compel the employer to release John to go and play. When he is released at all it will be a day or two to the date of the match and there will be no time for adequate preparation.

My fourth point is on the lack of health facilities. Most of our players lack adequate medical care. Senators know that when adequate medical care is not given to players they will lack physical fitness which will help them to stand the strain of a long match lasting for 90 minutes. The energy is not there.



Senators also know that after the players had played for half the time they collapse like empty sacks—empty sacks never stand erect—or like bees that have lost their sting and become harmless.

Not only that, most of the players are heavy drinkers and smokers. As heavy smokers and drinkers their energy is sapped and they cannot stand the strain of a long match. That is why after the first half of the match they all look helpless and allow their opponents to do as they please. What I usually do when the announcements are being read is to tune off the radio and go out having, already known the result as a foregone conclusion.

The fifth cause of our constant defeat is lack of suitable training facilities. The present position of the City Stadium does not constitute a good training ground, and it does not at all conform with international requirements for matches of an international nature. Good training grounds and facilities should be provided because unsuitable training facilities do hamper thorough and efficient training.

The sixth cause is the lack of encouraging financial aid from our government. One often hears of the Nigerian Football Association being under perpetual financial straits because even the little money it has is always being mis-managed.

It is however heartening to note that from this year up to five years hence the Federal Government will make available to the Football Association a generous and colossal sum of £10,000. All the same, the fact that this sum is to be provided merely shows an admission by the government that hitherto it had not given active financial support to sports, particularly football. This sum of £10,000, though I say it is a colossal sum, is still not enough and I think that a little more is required because of the volume of work to be done to regain our lost national honour in sports.

The last cause is the tendency towards indiscipline on the part of the players. They get out of hand and refuse to obey and accept orders. And we will notice that this indiscipline does not exist in a team fielded by any institution or a college. We must have to curb this inclination to indiscipline, by giving adequate powers to whoever is the coach to control the players as it pleases him.

These are what I consider very serious handicaps to the success of football in this country, and are holding us back from winning matches. Perhaps, one might ask then what are we to do in order to improve the situation? I have some suggestions to make.

The Mover of this Motion has said that the time has come when professional footballing should be introduced in this country. While I agree *in toto* with him I think that may not be practicable at the present time, and in any case it may not be immediately acceptable. I would rather endorse his second point—that of getting all the players in Lagos and finding employment for them in Lagos. This can be easily arranged because in all the parts of the Federation the federal territory is the only spot where our players can be accommodated and employment found for them.

The next point is that some kind of agreement should be reached with employers on this question of releasing their workers who are members of the national team. An agreement may be reached to compensate the employers on the number of days their workers stay out of work in order to take part in any international match. The National Sports Council which is now the new body responsible for sports should think on these lines to compensate such employers.

The other point is the provision of adequate medical service which should be given free to the players. We should ensure that the new body responsible for sports retains the services of a medical officer, and if this proves impossible free and regular medical check-up should be arranged instead.

If medical care is not provided we may have some players with some kind of internal troubles in them; we only see them with their jerseys coming into the field to play, and if they are worried by any disorder no one can detect. Until after playing for a while we see one or two of the players collapse. What then would be our reactions. Surely, we are not going to hang players who have collapsed.

So I am strongly suggesting that free medical care should be provided with some degree of constancy because it is absolutely necessary that our players should have it.

In order to encourage these players, and possibly to attract others so that we can have a

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kind of continuity among them, where a player deteriorates in form and standard and can no longer take active part in the game compensation should be given to him in cash or in kind, in appreciation of his past performance.

Talking about indiscipline I would like to suggest that whoever is the coach should be given a free hand to deal with any recalcitrant player. The coach, too, should be given a free hand in the selection of players for any international match, and no interference should come from the National Sports Council. I am saying this because by the very nature of his job as a coach he knows the players better than any other person. He is the shepherd and should know his sheep; he ought to be able to say, for instance, that "John" is fit or unfit to play.

I do not intend to repeat what has already been said by the Mover; so I beg to second.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I rise to amend the Motion as follows:—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to the end of Question and add—

"this House notes with appreciation the efforts being made by the Federal Government in the field of soccer in Nigeria, and urges the Government to continue to do so."

I oppose this Motion because it would appear that Senators have not been taking note of the many statements which have been made of late with regard to the question of sports generally and soccer particularly.

I would like to assure Senators that the assistance we are giving to sports, as far as the government is concerned, is both moral and financial; and for the past three years we have been doing everything within the limits of the finances at our disposal to encourage sports generally in Nigeria, and in this respect I speak for all the governments of the Federation.

Incidentally, sports is being handled by the Federal Government, but we have not got an overriding influence to control the Regional Sport Councils in the various Regions. Sport Councils have been set up in the Regions and we have also the National Sports Council at the centre.

Only last year when the N.F.A. ran into difficulties and were not able to meet up their bills owing to mismanagement of affairs, rather than let soccer die a natural death, the government came to the Association's aid with a grant of £30,000 to pay off outstanding debts.

From this Senators can see that we have not been idle financially on this question of soccer success in this country. Not only that, we have now voted £10,000 annually for the next five years to meet up the cost of maintaining a high standard in soccer.

A Senator is saying that the sum of £10,000 is too small; well it is a fashion in this country to say that any money voted for any project is too small. We must at the same time realise that we have very limited money to spend, judging from our manifold needs. We therefore have got to cut our coats according to our cloth.

We have been very generous in the realm of sports judging from past performances. It will be found that in the previous years, we had been giving £23,000 to the Sports Council. Now they are going to get £33,000, which is an increase of £10,000. This has been done when other major matters are going down on the decrease as far as voting of Government fund is concerned.

Senators must remember that we are particularly interested in amateur sports when they are talking of professionalism in soccer. There is nothing against the introduction of professionalism in our soccer. Our Government will be interested whenever private bodies are prepared to set up professional soccer teams. This certainly cannot be the responsibility of Government.

In the field of amateur soccer, we have set up a Caretaker Committee, headed by that illustrious civil servant, Mr Edet but because of the multifarious duties that he has to cope with, he resigned this post. Another eminent Nigerian, Chief Osagie, is now the head of the N.F.A.

We have got very good co-operation from the Regions. The Regional Sports Councils are doing their best to salvage soccer from the fate that we all do not like it to continue to share. But it will be unfortunate if Senators go away with the idea that Nigeria has always been defeated even by Dahomey and Togo. That is not true to fact.

We have defeated Dahomey, we have defeated Togo. We have even had drawn games with other African teams and beat some of them here. In fact, we have beaten some of the international teams who came all the way from Europe. We also beat the Russians. I am not, however, saying that we are resting on our laurels.

I share your views that we can do more and that is why Government is injecting large sums of money into sports in order to help people who are responsible for soccer administration to go on without having to worry about finance.

At the moment, all the Governments of the Federation are very anxious about sports. I do have regular meetings with my colleagues in the Regional Governments to try and see what we can do about soccer.

In the last two years we have been doing a lot. But I must bring one thing home to Senators. It is that, America, big as the country is in population and size as well as in world influence, is unable to control the whole fields of sports. They are very good in certain aspects of sports.

But we can see that a small country like Australia has been beating them for the past five years in tennis. Even though the United States has more tennis courts and more tennis players, still they find it very difficult to wrest this victory from the Australians.

We are not going to borrow a leaf from that but we can be very proud of our achievements. I deal with sports generally because the Mover of the Motion has travelled from the realm of soccer to that of athletics, thereby giving me a chance to deal with this matter myself.

We are leading to-day in West Africa in cricket, lawn tennis, table tennis and hockey. In boxing, of course, we are well-known both in the professional and amateur level. So that when Senators talk of sports, Nigeria has every right to be proud of its position.

It is not heartening for our people to have the feeling that Government does not think much about sports. I am appealing to Senators that much as they would like some of our Ministers to be present at football matches I shall welcome any Senator if he shows up whenever we have football matches all over the country.

The Senate was in session not long ago when we had an international cricket match with Ghana. I am sorry to say that no one Senator turned up to cheer the Nigerian team.

I feel now that the clarion call that has been sounded by the Mover of the Motion will help all of us to show more interest in sports. By doing so you will be helping me and helping the country. But it will be unfair if you will let it go on record that we have not done much at the moment because we have gone all out to do our best.

I would not like to mention the name of the President of the Republic because you all know what he has personally contributed to sports in this country. If we talk about putting up representation, I think the President's presence at all sports meetings at least once every month, which he has been doing is sufficient, to make up for what Senators call lack of interest on the part of some of us the Ministers.

I appeal that we must all help. The Government should not carry this responsibility alone. It has given money. It has given the players playing grounds and it has done everything to encourage the players. Senators will agree with me that amateur sports cannot be the direct responsibility of the Ministers, especially with regard to asking people to come and play and the selection of teams. It must be the responsibility of the Nigerian Sports Council and its subsidiary agents, the Regional Sports Council.

There have been many changes of late. If you read your papers this morning you will find that the N.F.A. has taken in two more men in order to buttress the already hard task that the Committee has been doing of late. We have been doing our best and we shall continue to do more.

It will be found that for the Sports Council we have voted £33,000 this year as against £23,000 last year. Soccer will benefit from this in addition to the £10,000 that it will be having yearly for the next five years. When we think of the fact that Government has been very stringent about voting money because of the Six-Year Development Plan and compare what the Government has voted for sports this year with what it gave five years ago, we will find that there has been an increase of about 200 per cent. I think then that we deserve the

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congratulations of Senators and not their  
censure.

I would have been too pleased to accept the Motion if it had not said that we had not done enough. It is difficult for me to come here to accept inefficiency. I am trying to prove here now that not only has the Government done a lot to help soccer morally, and materially, but that it has done everything to help the Sports Council which is in charge of the overall interests of sports in the country. The Council is going to have £77,000 this year which I consider is enough to play with. We have given moral backing.

For information, and if I will not be accused of being immodest, I travelled from here to Morocco in order to give our football team the moral backing which they needed. I shouted myself hoarse. In fact, I was an unenviable minority, but unfortunately we lost the match.

I shall welcome them any time even if they cannot go far away, if a group of Senators can travel with us to Ghana, Dahomey and other places to cheer our team to victory. We are not satisfied with soccer as it is now. I assure Senators that the Mover and the Seconder of this Motion have convinced me that they are very knowledgeable about soccer matters.

It will be realised that though Government has taken over effective responsibility for giving money for the past two years, it will take three to four years before we can see the effect on soccer. We must first of all start from the schools, which we have done.

I thank Senators for showing this keen interest in soccer. I have to thank them on behalf of the Government for this interest in the affairs of soccer. But whatever happens, we shall continue to give our best until we are able to win always. For this we ask for your moral support. On account of these reasons Government is unable to accept this Motion.

With your permission, Mr President, I beg to move the following Amendment :—

Line I, leave out from "That" to the end of Question and add "this House notes with appreciation the efforts being made by the Federal Government in the field of soccer in Nigeria, and urges the Government to continue to do so."

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) I beg to second.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu** : The Government has come again ! This goes to confirm my previous charge. Although I was speaking on the Floor of the Senate, from what I had in mind I was referring to the other place, that is the Lower House, where seventy-five per cent of the Motions presented are amended before they are accepted by the Government.

In any case, these Amendments are not very disappointing as the Amendments in the other place because to be very frank, the Government has shown some sort of interest in sports generally in the Republic.

If one could recall the recent contributions the Government made to stage the big "Tiger-Fulmer" fight in the country—at Ibadan—one would not fail to appreciate the Government's interest in sports. The very employment of able coaches by the Government is a very big contribution. We should recollect that the panel of coaches in Nigeria consists of ex-world champions ; for instance, in boxing we have Hogan Bassey, the ex-world feather weight champion. I know that he must have been receiving a very fat salary as the national boxing coach. This is another contribution made by the Government to sports in the country.

Well, one can rightly recall the connection of nearly all the V.I.Ps here with athletics in Nigeria. The Minister has mentioned the President of the Republic. The President we know is very interested in athletics. People like Mr Edet, the Inspector-General of Police ; Mr Giwa Osagie, the Director of Prisons ; Chief Akin Deko and others are also very much interested in sports. They are the illustrious sons of Nigeria who are very, very interested in soccer.

**Senator Chief Z. C. Obi** : What about "J.M.J." ?

**Senator Abaagu** : I thank the Senator very much for reminding me of "J.M.J." As the Government has taken the trouble of appointing somebody in the Cabinet in the person of "J.M.J." who is very much interested in sports, to be in charge of sports I think that the Government has done more than it is expected to do.

I remember that the Minister has already mentioned the large sum of money the Government has given and is intending to give in aid of soccer in Nigeria. What we have said is that the associations or the bodies managing these sports are not competent themselves. They are engaged in internal squabbles. They embezzle funds, they disagree among themselves and they waste more time in settling internal quarrels than putting more interest in the management of these bodies or associations connected with soccer.

I want to place on record that the Government has done more than it is expected to do for soccer in Nigeria and, for this reason, I think it will not be a disgrace if the Mover of the Motion will be kind enough to withdraw his Motion. We have noted the spirit of it.

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

*Question, That the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Motion, as amended, agreed to.*

**Resolved :** That this House notes with appreciation the efforts being made by the Federal Government in the field of soccer in Nigeria, and urges the Government to continue to do so.

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
SECOND ALLOTTED DAY

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(13TH APRIL).

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Senator T. Olamijulo :** In continuing my speech, I would like to say something about the money contributed the other time and, as such, I would like Senators to listen. This is why I was trying to hurry up Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku when he was making a speech the other time.

The point I was making yesterday was that the Government should do all that lies in its power to subsidise the efforts of the Regional Governments with regard to awarding scholarships to people to receive training in mechanised agriculture. We need people from all the Regions to know how to use mechanised implements. We need the aid of the Federal Government to be given to the Regional

Governments in order to train people to undertake mechanised farming, while students from all the Regions are trained in mechanised agriculture.

Research alone will not help the country. We have had enough of research. Of course, we benefit by the researches, but these are not practical. We want practical things to be done for the country. For people to continue to be clerks, doctors, lawyers and technicians alone will not help this agricultural country. It is very essential therefore that we think very seriously of what is going to happen in the near future to our country when a lot of us, especially our children who are coming out from schools, have no knowledge of farming.

What are we going to do, how are we going to be fed if we continue to depend wholly and solely on the old methods of farming which our fathers handed over to us? How are we going to continue like that when our children who are educated know nothing about farming? I hope that the Government will do something concrete about mechanising our agriculture. That is the first point I would like to deal with.

I should then congratulate the Federal Government for the assistance it is giving to the pilgrims. I say this not because I am a Mohammedan, but because I feel a lot should be done in Africa as far as religion is concerned. I know that many people care very little about religion. We have a lot handed to us from the Hebrews and from the Arabs. We should be proud as Africans because the cradle of knowledge and religion started from Africa—from Egypt. Africans are backward to-day because as a race her inhabitants have never tried to be original. Africans are apt, many a time, to imitate and then to do all they can to surpass those they are imitating. We were trained to believe dogmas such as to prepare for war when we want peace. This is the way in which we have been trained. We have believed such dogmas without examining their merits or demerits. Now, let us think of how these people who trained us began running the race of mastering the air, the sea and the land in order that they might surpass every other people of the world.

Our countries in Africa were taken from us under the guise of being trained to be better people. But have we not now discovered that we have been suppressed and that we are now

[SENATOR OLAMIJULO]

just recovering? Already the race for power has started and we have been going all along for supremacy. But we must always remember that the more we have soldiers, the more we have policemen and policewomen, the more will these people cater for war and for trouble.

Can we not then, as African, go the other way? Should we accept the training that has been given to us—to pursue war, as we are to-day pursuing it? Can we not, as Africans, pursue the other way and think about world peace, seeking this through God the Maker of Heaven and Earth? We can work hard in the way of trying to know more about God by pursuing knowledge generally with regard to God and as such try to know more about our world and about God.

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** On a point of order, I think the Senator is deviating from the matter under discussion which, if I may remind him, is the Budget Speech. He has all the time been talking about God and we might remind him that he is not on the pulpit.

**The President :** Will Senator Olamijulo please continue with his speech.

**Senator Olamijulo :** Thank you very much, Mr President. I am sure that the people of the present age will like to hear about things that are material and not about things that are abstract. What I am saying now is that it is our duty as Africans to try to be original. We have been trained to work for peace but to expect war when we are looking for peace.

I want us Senators, elder statesmen and stateswomen, to think now the other way round and if possible, through our Ministers who are now our ears, our eyes and our mouths, to be able to say to the world that Africans should rise now and prepare for peace, but in doing so to avoid catering for war in order to get peace.

Our Prime Minister is a God-fearing person. He, as well as our Ministers, is respected throughout the world. I want us to think very seriously about all that I have been saying and make sure that the peace of the world is what we cater for and not, as we are doing at the moment, for war and for trouble. This is my second point.

My third point concerns made-in-Nigeria goods. I am rather very sorry that our Minister of Finance is not here to-day. I hear some Senators say that the Minister of Finance has a representative here in the person of the Minister of Health, and I hope that he will carry my message to the Minister of Finance.

It is my opinion that the Minister of Finance has been proclaiming made-in-Nigeria goods with one hand and trying to sabotage them with the other. The fact is that local industries for the manufacture of certain imported goods are never encouraged in this country. A case in point is in regard to the distillation of spirits. It will be observed that although these spirits can be distilled in Nigeria, such distillation has never been encouraged simply because the Government collects much money as duties from imported spirits.

**Senator P. A. Ogunidipe :** On a point of order, in view of the fact that we are hoping to adjourn to-day and that so many Senators would like to speak on this Budget Speech, probably the President could minimise the time for each Senator to speak to ten or fifteen minutes.

**The President :** I am afraid we have to give Senator Olamijulo his right.

**Senator Olamijulo :** As I was saying, Mr President, the distillation of spirits in Nigeria has not been encouraged simply because the Government collects much money as duties from imported spirits.

**The President :** Senator Olamijulo should please bear in mind that he has only five minutes more. He had fifteen minutes to himself yesterday during which he spoke on this Budget Speech and to-day he has spoken for over twenty minutes on the same subject.

**Senator Olamijulo :** Thank you, Mr President. My point is that we have a lot that can be made in Nigeria. Medicine of all kinds and other pharmaceutical products can be manufactured in this country, but these, as I have said, have not been very well encouraged. I am therefore not very happy that a lot of things that can be made in Nigeria are not being made simply because the Government is collecting a lot of duties on imported ones. And where such things are manufactured in this country, the excise duties that the Government collects on them are higher than would be expected.

I am very proud of our Federal Government. I am very happy to learn that we shall now be manufacturing our own spirits. We shall no longer import spirits from Rotterdam and Amsterdam. I remember having gone to the Netherlands in 1947 to see where they manufacture spirits. Unfortunately, I was nearly killed there by a tram. I am happy that God spared my life there. The efforts of the Federal Government in this direction must be commended.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** On a point of order, the President had earlier said that the Senator speaking had only five minutes more.

**The President :** I did say so. However, Senator Olamijulo has exhausted his time.

**Senator P. O. Okoro :** I beg to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill. In doing so, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by other Senators.

The Minister of Finance must be congratulated on the good work he is doing for this country. The Minister of Finance had already become a financier before becoming a Minister of State. He was a big farmer, a company director, and a successful private businessman. With all the experiences that he gained in his past business undertakings, it is not surprising that he has shown such ability in handling the finances of the Federal Government. The Minister of Finance is an eloquent speaker, and Senators are always happy when he speaks. The sound of his voice is musical. By the way and manner in which he has been handling his duties he has shown that he is politically and economically mature. He is a credit to this country.

The President of this Republic has laid the foundation stone of our Minting and Security Printing Company, which is another milestone in the political history of this country. We shall now print our own money here.

Since we had our independence about three years ago, we have proved to the world that we can live co-operatively as one country in spite of the divisive forces which are trying to disrupt the unity of this country. We have also pursued with remarkable insight our economic development.

However, I would like the Minister of Finance to take serious notes of all our remarks, because we are representing the public in this Senate. We make investigations before coming to speak here. A Bill of this nature is not good to be rushed over. Our views should be adequately expressed on it, so that we can tell the Government where they have gone wrong.

Now, I would like to talk about the transportation of cement from Aba to Jos. It costs three shillings *per* bag to transport cement from Aba to Jos. The transportation of cement from Oron to Calabar, which is only a distance of about fifteen miles, costs over one shilling *per* bag of cement.

I am, therefore, asking the Government to check excessive transport costs, otherwise the public will suffer greatly. After all, a seller will sell according to how much it cost him to purchase an article.

We are happy to hear that the Nigerian Railway Corporation made high profits during the last financial year. It means that the Government is aware of the exorbitant charges made by the Railway Corporation in transporting bags of cement from one station to another. The Government should investigate this immediately.

Now, in Aba, the price of cement is about eleven shillings, whereas in Jos cement costs about eighteen shillings. The price of cement is high because of the high transport charges which the seller takes into consideration before fixing the prices of cement in different towns.

The Government should protect the public so that they may enjoy purchasing locally produced goods. It is amazing to learn that the cost of transporting cement from Nkalagu Cement Factory to Calabar is higher than the cost of transporting cement from England to Calabar. Senators should imagine the distance from England to Calabar and compare it with the distance from Nkalagu to Calabar. This is why the Government must step into this my request, so that the public may be protected from undue exploitation.

I would like to say that the people living in Calabar are suffering a great deal. The licensing authorities of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry do not issue import licences to people of that area so that they can import cement from overseas. Since they

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cannot buy cheaply the Nkalagu cement, I think, the best thing to do is to import from overseas at low cost.

**Senator Ogunidipe :** On a point of order, the Senator speaking is irrelevant. Transport owners are private businessmen and as such have no dealings with the Government.

**The President :** He is laying his complaints to the Federal Government and therefore he is not irrelevant. Will the Senator proceed.

**Senator Okoro :** My intention was to explain the situation so that the Government will find it easy to look into this matter. If things are allowed to remain as they are now, we will not enjoy our locally produced goods. Take for instance, in Japan the price of a bag of cement is 5s-6d while in Egypy it is 6s a bag. I wonder why our own cement cannot cost the same as in these places. I do not think that this is in the best interests of the people of this country. We are always profit-conscious in all our dealings, and we never think of the effect of such profits on the poor people who are not able to buy even a single one of these commodities. We all know it is good to make profit, but we must think about the poor people. If cement costs 8s a bag in this country, it will help the public to build more houses for themselves. One only has to move into the rural areas to see the type of houses we have there. It is only when we come to Lagos that we see sky-scrapers. What about the people in the interior? Do they not want to see such beautiful houses? I think they do. These are the people we are protecting.

I know everyone of us in this Senate can buy any amount of cement, but that is not the question. The question is, what about the poor people in the community? The Government should look into this and see whether they can prevail on the Nigerian Railways to reduce their transportation cost.

From Oron to Calabar is only fifteen miles and it costs a shilling normally by water, but if one wishes to transport cement, say, from Oron to Calabar, the Elder Dempster Lines will charge about 25s per ton. This is because the people in Calabar have not been granted import licences, those of them who already have the licences have not had them renewed for them. If the Licensing Authorities were

sympathetic with the public, they would have renewed these people's licences for them. This is another thing I should like our Government to look into.

By doing this, the Government will be able to encourage the traders of this country to get more money and thus be in a better position to pay their taxes. We know very well that if we fatten our pigs or cattle or goats, they sell better and higher. So also will the Government get more money from these traders if they encourage them to realise more money out of their trade, and thus pay more tax.

I hear the Minister of Finance ask whether I do pay my own tax. Of course the Minister himself knows that I have always paid my own tax fully and in time.

Before I resume my seat, I must say something about education. We must realise that the fundamental right of the governed is that the Government should give them education. We should have free education from the Government. The cost of education is becoming too burdensome to the Regional Governments, and I should like the Federal Government to take up education. This is causing a lot of havoc in all the Regions.

I now wish to refer to the unity of this great country. If we disperse from this House without mentioning that matter, we will be failing in our duties. The unity of this country has been seriously shaken, and we have had several words of advice from both the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister. They have warned us against making provocative utterances. I think, normally, if somebody is ill, that person seeks the help of a doctor on whom he depends for his cure. These two people are our doctors and we must listen when they advise us on grave matters like these. We must leave ourselves to them and see what they can do with our unity. If we do not do this, it will be very difficult to forecast what will happen to this country in the next three years, whether we will all dash in pieces.

**Several Senators :** No ! No !

**Senator Okoro :** I do sincerely hope the answer will be no. And if we want the answer to be no, there is one important thing we must do: whenever the Prime Minister or the President advises us, as they have been doing, it is our duty to summon all our children and tell



them exactly what has been said and like that they too will carry the advice away, and before long everybody will have heard it and abided by it.

In conclusion, I am glad that most Senators here do not want disagreement. I have myself been enjoying good relationship with everybody here, even those people I do not know. They say 'hello, good morning' and we shake hands and smile at one another. I think that is the way it should be, both inside this House and outside. People should not create disunity from the highest places. If our children begin to misbehave, it is our duty to call them to order and direct them in the way we want.

I beg to support.

**Senator Alhaji Y. M. Abudu :** I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I should like to join other Senators who have spoken in praise of the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has presented the Budget, and also the Federal Government for the way they have been pursuing our economic development and financial policy. This has resulted in the progress which we all bear testimony to in this country.

I want to congratulate the Government on what has been achieved so far in our Six-Year Development Programme. It is well-known that we have not achieved all we want and that what we have yet to accomplish is great, nevertheless, the Government is making every effort to achieve more.

Another welcome action of the Government is the establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Bank. This is a good move by the Government, and it is a real achievement. But I would like to say that the activities of this Bank should not be restricted to Lagos alone. It should be extended to cover all the Federation. All the industrial entrepreneurs in the Regions should not be forgotten. This Bank should be made to be of help to them as well, and political and Regional connections should not be allowed to dominate its operations.

Many Senators have spoken about the Nigeria Police. Some have paid them tribute and others have pointed out some faults in the Force, especially in the Traffic Unit. But as far as I am concerned I have nothing but commendation for our Nigeria Police. Our Nigeria Police have done very well. They

have helped to maintain peace in this country, and they should be compensated for their vigilance and impartiality in discharging their duties.

I want to seize this opportunity to ask the Minister of Communications not to forget Abeokuta. We have on the Floor of this House and elsewhere catered for ourselves on the question of automatic telephone exchanges. The Minister gave us promises on every occasion, but these promises have not been redeemed. I do hope that in this Financial Year these promises will come true.

Senator Ukattah has said that if people are prevented from exporting Indian hemp to the United Kingdom we should allow it to be grown and smoked here. I am strongly against it. As we all know the evils of this Indian hemp, I can say that nearly all of us may not have smoked it before, but we have read about the evils which this Indian Hemp is doing to the health of people who are smoking it. I think we have come here to protect the interests of our people and not to let them indulge in what we know are evils and can bring them untold hardships to their health.

I want to thank Senator Olamijulo for championing the cause of Muslims by thanking the Federal Government for what they have been doing in regard to pilgrims who are going to Mecca and Medina. Personally, as a Muslim, I want to thank the Federal Government, and I want to say that they have not done enough considering what other Governments in the Federation are doing, especially the Western Region and the Northern Region.

We know that this Federation is predominantly populated by Muslims, and any encouragement which can be given to the Muslims must be given. The Federal Government has done a little bit, but they have not done enough. They should be able to cater more for the welfare of Muslims, especially those who are leaving this country to go to Mecca and Medina.

Now, I want to turn to the unity of this country about which some Senators have spoken. It is known that we are all anxious about seeing to the unity of this country. We all want this country to be united, and I think that we, as the elder statesmen of the country, should set the ball rolling from here. We should bury our own hatchets. We should

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bury our Regional and tribal feelings here. We should go out to advise our people to listen to the advice which has been given by the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic.

I want to go further, if I may, by suggesting that in view of our position as the Upper House in this Republic this House should consider appointing at least four Senators from this House to wait on the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic in order to find a way to put a stop to this inter-tribal warfare which is going on between the different tribes of Nigeria, and by so doing we shall be showing that we are alive to our own responsibility as the leaders of the nation.

The President and the Prime Minister have given advice. I know that some of us who are responsible citizens would take that advice, but some rascally politicians who have an interest in this tribal warfare might not listen to them. So, if an elderly party is appointed in this House they would go to the Prime Minister and the President in order to find a way of putting a stop to this inter-tribal ill wind which, in fact, "blows nobody any good". I think that such a step would show that Senators in this House are showing to the people that they know their responsibility, and they are also discharging it.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief E. E. Boyo :** A Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue of sixty-two million two hundred and seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty pounds for the current financial year is now before this House.

I shall preface my comments on it, firstly, by congratulating the hon. Federal Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, for the labour that has gone into the preparation of the Budget of the nation, and, secondly, by associating myself with his sentiment that the first Budget after the attainment of a Republican Status by our country should carry the label of the National Budget.

What I think is implied in this title in the concept that we have at last arrived at our objective of nationhood and that henceforth the nation as a whole must be prepared and,

indeed, willing to make the necessary sacrifices for building the nation. A Budget of roughly £63 million for the size and population of our country cannot by any means be regarded as very large ; and if we look at the Budgets of some of the more developed countries in the world, we would find that this amount is no more than a small fraction of the total cost of keeping a modern state viable.

In our own circumstances, however, we are faced with the problem of restricting our national expenditure according to our resources and our growth as an independent nation. Seen in this light, a budget of £63 million in the first year of republican status and the fourth of national independence certainly speaks very well for the progress we have made so far.

Further, the willingness of other more prosperous nations to offer us financial aid for our development programmes is an indication of both the goodwill that Nigeria enjoys abroad and an expression of their faith and confidence in us—this notwithstanding whatever benefits we know may eventually accrue to them from the transactions—

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** On a point of order, Standing Order 26(1) reads as follows—

*"A Senator shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes."*

Senator Chief Boyo is reading his speech.

**The President :** The point of order is correct, but I do not think Senator Chief Boyo is reading his speech. Please proceed.

**Senator Chief Boyo :** The recovery of Western Europe after the second world war would have perhaps been impossible (most certainly much slower) without the American post-war financial commitment to her.

To-day, France, Western Germany and England, to name only a few, have recovered sufficiently not only to stand on their own but even to stand up to the United States in the financial world. A policy of international money borrowing cannot, *per se*, be criticised as bad as long as we are certain that it is all in the interest of the national effort and will ultimately yield the sort of fruit we would wish

to sow for our children. What we the elders of this country who are chosen to watch over its destinies ought to do, in my opinion, is to make certain that the objects for which these monies are borrowed are for the betterment of our nation. That this is in fact so, is apparent from some of the national development programmes outlined in the speech of the Minister of Finance to Parliament.

The Nigerian Industrial Bank has been established for the specific purpose of developing our resources and every encouragement should be given to private Nigerian investors not only to use the bank but also to take up shares in it so that it may in time become truly national and completely Nigerian. From the excellent showing of the contributions of the Central Bank to our development programmes, there is every reason to expect that the new Industrial Bank will justify its existence and the foresight of those who founded it. I wish it the best of luck.

At the national level, the items to which we should continue to make our greatest commitments financially outside specific development programmes are education, health, small-scale industries and the provision of suitable jobs for trained personnel.

During the past decade or so, the total number of Nigerian children entering secondary schools has grown beyond all expectations and so, naturally, has the intake of our students into our universities as well as those abroad. It is now becoming evident that if we are to avoid disaster, provision for suitable employment for all cadres of trained personnel—technical and professional—will have to be made in our estimates and budgeted for well in advance of the time they may in fact be required. It does appear to me that already we are perhaps in the ironical position of producing more graduates than we can perhaps employ immediately and yet those graduates are, in number, in fact still completely inadequate for the needs of the country as a whole.

Most of our hospitals for instance are still without adequate provision of specialists in the various branches of medicine and yet it is apparent from the reports one hears, that Nigerian medical graduates are qualifying as specialists in numbers which we in our time would have thought impossible. I feel that the time has come for us to overhaul the

machinery for the provision of suitable establishments—

**The President :** Sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Senator Chief Boyo :** I think the time has come for us to overhaul the machinery for the provision of suitable establishments for trained personnel in all our institutions and Government agencies and to realise that in a young and virile country where young men and women ought to be ambitious, restrictions of their progress after they have been properly and adequately trained should not be imposed by a limited establishment of suitable posts which were intended for a colonial era of limited opportunities for Nigerians and which to-day are completely inadequate for the needs of the nation.

What I have said for medical graduates applies equally to all other trained technical and professional men. I have chosen the medical profession as an example for two reasons. The first is because I am sure that every member of this House would want to be able to have easy access to a highly skilled medical specialist if he or she were ill. The second is that from my own son who is holding a specialist appointment in our medical services, I have come to be aware of the rapid growth in the number of young Nigerians who have in the last few years withstood successfully, the rigours of postgraduate training as specialists and who have returned home to be disillusioned by the lack of provision for them to utilise their training in appropriate specialist posts.

I wish humbly to suggest that a special Committee of this House or of Parliament be charged with the special duty of advising Government on expansion in establishments which is likely to result from our rapid technological and educational growth. A similar foresight in the phasing of our staff needs in our various development programmes will ensure that qualified Nigerian engineers, architects and other technical personnel, are utilised to the maximum benefit of the country.

I have once before referred in this House to the very special needs of the people of the

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Delta areas and at the risk of repeating myself, I shall now do so again. The peculiar physical features of these areas make life for the inhabitants extremely hard and difficult and for generations, these people have borne their discomfort with an admirable philosophical outlook on life. In this present age they need not continue to do so and I am, therefore, stressing again the need for a special land development and land reclamation programme for these areas—some of which to-day are yielding considerable revenue to the country from petroleum. The problems of life for the Delta people of whom I am one, problems like the provision of suitable small-scale fishing industries, suitable health facilities and suitable land on which to build their homes, have all to be faced by us if our entire growth as a nation is not going to be lop-sided.

I am confident that both this House and the Government will give serious thought to the problems of the Delta people. I shall support the Motion that the Bill to authorise the Budget for the current financial year be enacted.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** There is nobody on the Government Bench !

**The President :** I am aware of that. I have looked into that and I think we have to proceed without the Members of the Government Bench.

**Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu :** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill so very well moved by the Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh. In 1952, the Budget for the whole year was just a little above £6 million for the whole Federation. But to-day we can budget for over £62 million in our Estimates. This is no doubt a testimony that the country is growing.

I would like to say a few words on some Heads of our expenditure. On the Police, I want to say that I associate myself with the views expressed in the Lower House. In that House, many Members called for the general improvement of the conditions of service of the Police. I am glad, however, that the Government is doing something in this direction. The Government is providing suitable accommodation for our policemen, and has almost Nigerianised all the higher offices in the Force. I am satisfied that the conditions of

service of the Police are receiving attention from the Government.

On the question of the provision of accommodation, I would like to say that this should not be confined to the policemen in cosmopolitan towns. Policemen in the rural areas should also be provided with suitable accommodation and offices.

On the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, for the role he played at the Geneva meeting. Some Senators have already called the attention of this House to that role. I would like this House to register its satisfaction with this great role played by the Minister. He tabled his six points before the Geneva meeting and the points were accepted. Already, countries like Russia and Great Britain have expressed the desire to scrap duties on our exports to these countries.

However, it appears to me that, since the attainment of independence, Nigeria has become a dumping ground for all types of manufactured goods coming from overseas. Senators might know that this does not happen in other great countries like Great Britain *et cetera*. One could hardly import anything into Britain just because one wanted to do so. Every article that is imported into Great Britain is screened by the Board of Trade and they must be satisfied that there is need for the importation of such an article before the article is imported. If countries like Great Britain and the United States and others, who are already very, very rich and highly industrialised, could afford to put a check on their imports, I am wondering why our own Government should not start something in that direction. I am, therefore, asking the Government to set up a Board of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to screen all types of imports into this country.

I would like to mention that there are quite a large number of pharmaceutical preparations which are practically useless. Some of these preparations do not conform to British Pharmacopoeia standards. There are claims on the labels on some of these preparations which are in most cases very offensive because these drugs do not have such activities as are labelled on their packets. Yet these drugs are sold and imported in very large quantities into this

country and our money is thus fleeced away overseas. I am, therefore, saying that the time has come for us to screen all our imports. There is need for us to do so. It will save our money.

I would equally like to seize this opportunity to say a few words on what the Minister of Economic Development announced to the Members of the House of Representatives. He made reference to the control of trades and mentioned that the time had come when retail trade should be the exclusive business of indigenous businessmen. To me, this is welcome news. This is a very welcome suggestion and we now look forward to the Government putting this suggestion into practice. It is time for the Government to legislate, in one way or the other, for retail trade to be confined only to indigenous businessmen.

On the Ministry of Communications, I would like to say that some of us who come from rural areas are not very happy with the services of our post offices. Take for instance, my own area—Kwale in Aboh Division—where you can hardly telephone anybody after 5 p.m. simply because the post office closes at 5 p.m. and telephone services which are operated by this post office are also discontinued. As a result of this, after 5 p.m. on week days and 12 noon on Saturdays, you cannot make use of the telephone in my area. On Sundays, of course, there are no telephone services at all.

Apart from the fact that these services are not very adequate, one can hardly hear the voice of someone speaking from say, Lagos, to another person in Kwale. The voice is generally very faint. The situation was so unsatisfactory that I was forced to make enquiries from the officer in charge of telephone services in Benin who regretted to say that there was nothing he could do because the equipments were very old and no efforts were made to change them. I am now appealing to the Minister of Communications to extend adequate telephone services to those who live in rural areas in Nigeria.

It appears to me that all the time it is only those in large cosmopolitan towns who enjoy the provision of these amenities.

On our defence, I would like to repeat what I said in my contribution to the debate on the

President's Speech. I observed that even though during our colonial days defence units were unfortunately concentrated in one area, now that we were self-governing I was sure that our Ministers would be bold enough to spread our military units and installations throughout the Federation. This will be a gesture or a sign that we are one and we want unity. I would like our military installations and units to be spread all over the Federal Republic because, apart from the fact that it is a very wise thing to do as these military installations would not be easily destroyed by enemies in case there is war, it is also a good gesture towards unity.

I would now like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact that it is now almost nine months since the Mid-West Region was separated from the Western Region. Before this separation it was agreed that after the separation a fiscal commission should be appointed to look into the finances of the two Regions by way of examining the assets and liabilities of the two Regions and then making adequate adjustments. But up till now we have not heard of the appointment of such a commission and it would appear that nothing is being done to carry out the agreement. We would like to know exactly where we are. Those things that belong to the Mid-West should be given to the Mid-West and those that belong to the Western Region should be given to the Western Region. I think that the Minister of Finance should be able to do something in this respect.

On the Ministry of Health, I would like to urge the Minister of Health to look into the complaints of our pharmacists in the service of the Federal Government. These pharmacists have been making some agitations and sending delegations after delegations to the Minister of Health, but it would appear that their efforts to improve their conditions of service have always been futile. They have, I believe, a good case.

May I seize this opportunity to say that pharmacy, in all great countries of the world, is a very important profession, and that it is always a surprising thing to hear, in this country, some people saying that pharmacy is not a profession. Degrees, even to the level of doctorate ones, can be obtained in pharmacy in places like England, America and Russia.

[SENATOR OPUTA-OTUTU]

Once again, I would like to repeat that pharmacy is a profession and pharmacists should therefore be treated with some respect.

Let me now draw the attention of the Minister of Information to the fact that it is his duty to inform and to educate, not only those who are in Lagos, or in Ibadan or in any other of the big towns in the country, but also the bulk of our people who in fact go to the polls to elect us and by whose support we are here to-day. Most of these people live in the rural areas and it is incumbent on him to give them the opportunity of choosing the right type of people by providing them with the means through which they can know what is going on in this country. To this end may I then suggest to the Minister of Information that he should now extend the rediffusion service to the rural areas.

Most people in Lagos can afford to buy radio and television sets. Some people even have more than one radio set, but poor farmers and fishermen in the rural areas cannot afford such expensive sets. What they can afford is just the rediffusion set. Perhaps two or three members of a family in one house can afford to get a rediffusion box and pay about two shillings and six pence each month. This will afford them an opportunity to listen to what is going on in the country.

Most of these people do not, at present, know what is going on around them, but during elections they just see people pushing them here and there without their understanding what is going on. Many of these people cannot read newspapers either because they are illiterate or because they live in places where newspaper services are not available. It is therefore only by listening to the vernacular translations of the news bulletin that they can have the opportunity of knowing what is going on in the world.

I am therefore appealing to our Minister of Information to think very seriously of extending the rediffusion service to all the hamlets in the country. It appears to me that these services will be quite cheap in that wherever a post office is situated rediffusion services can easily be made available to the people in that area. If I may go further, I would suggest that rediffusion boxes in Lagos could be removed to the rural areas to enable these services to be

quickly established in these areas. As I have said earlier on, people in Lagos can afford to buy radio and television sets and it is therefore only fair that people in rural areas who cannot afford these things should be given such amenities as can be made available by our Government.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson) : May I remind Senator Chief Oputa-Otutu that broadcasting is a concurrent subject on the legislative list and that, if the Regional Governments will agree, there will be no difficulty at all in extending the rediffusion service to all parts of Nigeria. I must say, however, that this agreement is always difficult to obtain.

**Senator Chief Oputa-Otutu** : As the Federal Minister of Information, I think the Minister can call a meeting of his colleagues in the Regions and they can discuss this matter together. I think it will be a very appreciable thing if the Minister of Information will make the move.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** : I have called such a meeting before and up till now the Regions have not yet given their consent.

**Senator Chief Oputa-Otutu** : On the Ministry of Transport, I would again like to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to the inconvenience which the users of Sapele ferry are suffering. In fact the approaches to the ferry are a disgrace to the Ministry of Transport. The same thing applies to the Onitsha ferry. Accommodation on the Onitsha ferry is so tight and one can hardly cross in one's car from Onitsha to Asaba or even from Sapele to the other side without losing one's silence. This is a disgrace and I think that the time has now come for these things to be improved. I am happy that the Minister of Finance is now here and I am sure that he too has, at one time or the other, experienced this inconvenience himself. The Sapele ferry is an eye sore and the approach to this ferry, which is about a hundred square yards, should be properly drained and made a bit more decent than it is so that the users of this ferry may no longer continue to suffer the inconvenience which, at the moment, they are suffering.

Apart from the unsatisfactory services given by this ferry business, there is only one ferry now running from Sapele to Onitsha. It is

my opinion that there should be at least two such ferries. In fact there were two before and I wonder what has happened to one of them.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The approach to the Sapele ferry is a regional road, not a Federal one.

**Senator Chief Oputa-Otutu**: The area occupied by the Marine Department is what I am referring to. In any case, let something be done by the Minister of Transport.

Finally, I would like to say a few words on the Electoral Commission. Between now and December 12 there is bound to be an election in this country. The life of this House expires on the 12th of December, 1964; so it has become necessary for the Government to start now to plan for the Federal elections. Our independence and our ability to govern ourselves will be judged by the conduct of the Federal elections. Every citizen of Nigeria wants the Federal elections to be free and fair. I repeat, every citizen wants the Federal elections to be free and fair. Therefore, arrangements must be started now towards that end.

The election should be free and fair. It is usual to hear of the rigging of elections, selling of ballot papers and all that sort of thing. I do hope that whoever is going to be the Chairman of the Commission responsible for the election would be a person whose integrity is never in doubt. I feel I must have to make this statement in order that all those who are taking part in the forthcoming elections will be assured that the elections will be free and fair. It is not only sufficient to say that elections are going to be free. There must be every effort made to prove that the elections are going to be free and fair. The members of the Commission who will be charged with the responsibility for conducting the elections must be men of the highest integrity.

I would not like to use the privilege of being a Member of this House to cast aspersions on anybody, but I am an old Member of the Legislatures of this country and I have experienced a lot of things. I feel I have to say these things. Because of the confidence and love this country reposes in our Prime Minister—for he is a righteous person—I have always felt that I need not worry. (*Hear, hear*)

I have to repeat that the Commission that will be charged with the responsibility for conducting the elections must be composed of men of very high integrity.

I do not intend to take all the time of the House. I would like to give other Members the opportunity to say a few words. But while I wind up, I am again calling the attention of the Ministers to the few points I made. I like to feel that they are with us here in the Senate and that they will do all they can to help us.

**Senator M. Idrisu**: I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. Before I say anything further on this important Bill, I would like to associate myself with those who have paid a glorious tribute to our very able Federal Minister of Finance. I would add that the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been very lucky to have such a man whose strong personality and financial knowledge has contributed a lot to the economic growth of this vast country of ours. Our wise and God-fearing Prime Minister has made a very wise choice by appointing Chief Festus S. Okotie-Eboh to be the Federal Minister of Finance. I believe my fellow Senators will agree with me that his experience and wise planning in financial matters will help the *Federal Republic of Nigeria 1962-68 Development Plan* to be a great success.

I do not want to waste the time of the Senate by repeating what those who have spoken before me said, but I would like to make some observations on Trunk roads 'A'. Although it was mentioned in the President's Speech that the Federal Government has the intension of improving all Trunk roads to a reasonable standard, I want to appeal to the Federal Minister of Works to give the Uba-Bama and Yola-Wukari Trunk roads first consideration.

The reason why I say so is that it is a pity to know that in the Federal Republic of Nigeria there are still Trunk roads 'A' with bridges having wooden deckings and culverts of a temporary nature. The Uba-Bama road has five bridges of wooden deckings between Yola and Gombe. The Yola-Wukari road which links the Eastern Region with Adamawa and Sardauna Provinces has about ninety or more culverts, each of a temporary nature. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Works to see

[SENATOR IDRISU]  
that those wooden bridges and culverts are replaced with concrete materials.

My last point on roads is the tarring of the Bauchi-Gombe-Numan-Yola road. If I am not mistaken, it is about two years now since we heard that there is a proposal to tar this road which is always closed to traffic every rainy season during the months of July and August. I would like to know how soon the work of tarring this road will be started. I am appealing to the Government to see that the work of tarring this road starts next dry season.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** I must join in showering encomiums on our indefatigable Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, whom I should like to christen *Our National Financial Wizard* or *The Custodian of our National Financial Intelligence*. He has indeed acquitted himself creditably in holding his portfolio to the chagrin of the doubting Thomases.

Our successful struggle for political independence led by His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, now the President of our Republic, who gave inspiration to all Africans to fight against imperialism, has yet to be equated with our struggle for economic emancipation.

Economic independence can be achieved, I believe, in three ways. The first is by boycotting the boycottables (I have spoken about this some time ago); the second is our productivity; and the third is by creating a healthy climate for foreign investment.

To boycott the boycottables enjoins us to improve and patronise our local products with a view to raising our standard of living. Those who prefer imported goods to our local products are the liabilities and the mentally imprisoned elements of this country.

Raising the standard of our living cannot be accomplished by putting more money into the hands of our people without raising their purchasing power. Neither the producer nor the consumer stands to gain by this method of economic development. Workers demand for more pay is legitimate, but payment must be commensurate with productivity.

Productivity inspectors should be organised to check recalcitrants or delinquents; alter-

natively, there should be a device to determine the daily productivity of each worker. A labourer must be worthy of his hire.

Our youths must undergo moral re-arming by realising the evil of cheating their employers and that ill-gotten goods never prosper. Their tendency to grow rich overnight without working for it must be discouraged.

The productivity inspectors should be able to find out which of the workers deserve elevation and more money for their productivity, and not merely on their academic qualifications. I do not condemn academic qualifications, but these should be a means to an end and not an end in themselves, as it appears to be the case nowadays.

It is commendable that our youths burn night candles in order to gain academic distinctions, but this should not be done at the expense of their jobs or during the working hours, for which they are paid. This would be iniquitous and unpatriotic.

Our youths should refrain from taking too much to pleasure and easy life; these are the evils which threaten the rise of a nation.

This brings me to the Ministry of Information and its activities. I wonder why certain films are allowed to find their way into this country to be televised and shown on cinema screens to corrupt our children.

It is the natural responsibility of parents and of the Government as representatives of the parents to protect the children from watching any film that may influence their character adversely.

Burglary, murder, gun-shooting, prostitution or whoredom are exhibited to corrupt our children. We are, therefore, certainly not surprised that some of our youths behave or tend to behave in the manner of the characters they see on the television or cinema screens.

Churches should help to cry down the importation of evil films, which must be banned.

Healthy climate for foreign investors has been created in this country. But recent events have precipitated a threat to our stability and have confronted us with a test of our maturity to rule ourselves.



Our respected President of the Republic, the symbol of our unity, has counselled us. Our God-given Prime Minister has also spoken. It is all quiet now and peace appears to reign, but lasting peace now lies with our political leaders.

It is the responsibility of our political leaders to find a satisfactory solution to the cause of our disagreement. I said in the dissolved House of Representatives years ago, and I repeated it here in this Senate on the 10th April, that our solution to any form of discrimination in the public service which motivates the accentuation of tribalism and sectionalism will be found in the equal encouragement in education and the placing of premium on merit and merit alone.

Banning tribal unions is no solution whatever to this problem. Rather, our Government should enact measures against tribal discrimination and incitement.

We condemn racial discrimination in South Africa, America, United Kingdom and other places. The late President of the United States of America, John Kennedy showed the way by enacting a measure against racial discrimination and incitement.

Mr Harold Wilson, the leader of the Labour Party has given a pledge to enact a measure against racial discrimination and incitement in England. What are we doing in Nigeria when we know that our greatest problem to-day is tribalism? Talking and talking alone will not do it for us. It is said that action speaks louder than words.

Carpet crossing is a great threat to our national unity. Those who want to cross carpet must tell those who voted them into power before doing so, or they will face the consequences. This action disturbs our unity a great deal. It is indeed the greedy politicians, the opportunists and the careerists who disturb our peace and tranquillity in this country. Those who stand to gain by encouraging carpet crossing are doing a great disservice to this nation.

The word "tribe" in our national anthem is a shameful reminder. Other nations have tribes but no record or reminder of it is embodied in their national anthems. The music itself has a religious and not a national inspiration. I know that Senators do find national inspiration from national anthems of other countries.

I can recall when the national anthem of Senegal was played last night, it was highly inspiring. When I say this I am mainly referring to the music of the anthem and not the wording and I am entitled to my own opinion. I am assuring Senators who are saying that my views are not correct, that I studied music and I know music very well.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, what type of music did Senator Chief Onyia study? Did he study Itsekiri native music or which?

**Senator Chief Onyia :** The only thing is that many people here do not know that before Abraham, as Jesus said, "I was". So before the Senator who puts this question to me started schooling, I had been receiving lessons from America and playing music in the churches. But he does not know that.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Senators will be surprised to hear that Senator Chief Onyia does not even believe in Jesus Christ.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** It is not altogether so. We should not allow ourselves to be dominated by colonial ideas. Foreigners should not be allowed to write our national anthem for us.

**Senator P. A. Ogundice :** On a point of order, I think Senator Chief Onyia is being irrelevant. We are not discussing the national anthem now.

**The President :** Senator Chief Onyia is correct. He is discussing things concerning the Government's activities.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** In congratulating the Minister of Finance for his activities, I think I should also congratulate him on considering my suggestion for decimalisation of our currency which was advocated by me before the Central Bank was set up. This, I think, should be followed by a change, also to the metric system in our calculations—ten inches and not twelve inches make a foot is recommendable.

The Minister of Communications must explain what has happened to the V.H.F. station which he promised us in this House would provide quick services. Asaba should have a direct line with Benin and not through the Eastern Region as is the case nowadays.

With these few words I beg to support.

**Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry :** May I take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government who voted millions of pounds for the development of our country. May I also thank the Federal Ministers who worked day and night planning the development of this country. My special thanks go to our able and energetic Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotic-Eboh, who made this huge sum available. We women are particularly grateful for the thousands of pounds voted for women's organisations in this country. All these show that our Federal Government is always thinking of our women-folk.

I am now to appeal to our women to try all they can to co-operate with the Federal Government rather than to criticize them harshly. Kind, motherly and constructive suggestions will yield us better results.

**The President :** Are we all women ?

**Senator (Mrs) Kerry :** I am appealing to the women through you, Mr President, for we are part of the men's body. Senators know that a person has a whole body made up of many parts such as the eyes, feet, hands, and so on. As these parts are to a person so are women to men. Without the co-operation of the women with the men, the survival of this country will be difficult. Every Senator knows very well that where there is no woman there will be no nation.

On behalf of the women in this country, I register my deepest gratitude to the Federal Government for acting so kindly to all of us in this Federation. I pray that Almighty God will give us the great spirit of co-operation and tolerance which is the main-stay of our sex.

May I now appeal to the Federal Government to look into the behaviour of our girls who tend to lower the moral standard of this country by putting on very short and open dresses and going about almost naked. In my humble opinion as a mother, this is morally wrong and against our custom. It is not in our custom that we should go about naked.

Ghanaians have their own method of dressing. Indians have their own traditional method of dressing as well as the English. So do all countries of the world. One wonders, therefore, who the Nigerian girls of to-day are imitating by putting on the short and unpleasant dresses I have referred to.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Federal Government to look into the way our girls behave nowadays. We, the parents of the nation are indeed ashamed of them. By checking all acts of immorality on the part of our girls we shall be building our nation in a correct and decent way. We Nigerians should popularise our traditional way of dressing by teaching our children how to wear our national dresses.

May I conclude my speech by emphasising the fact that our girls need more moral education because they will become mothers of the nation.

Thank you, Mr President.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, may I, Mr President, on behalf of my Colleague the Minister of Lagos Affairs, be allowed to review, very briefly, the main aspect of the activities of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs and of the various Bodies whose general policies have been under the control of the Minister of Lagos Affairs during the past year.

I would, in the first place, say on behalf of the Minister of Lagos Affairs how happy I am to welcome Senators to the City of Lagos. The importance of Lagos in the economic, social and political development of the country was underlined by its being raised to the status of a City on 1st October, 1963. I am proud to have been able to say that what Senators wished for during the last Budget Session has become a reality even before this present Budget Session.

As Senators very well know, the Ministry of Lagos Affairs which works in close co-operation with the Lagos City Council and the Lagos Executive Development Board is responsible for providing Lagos with most of its vital needs and services. The development in Lagos and Nigeria over the last three years has been tremendous. This significant development has, quite naturally, created more than proportionate increase in the demand for essential services. The provision of these essential services for Lagos whose attraction to many people in the Regions is becoming increasingly more and more irresistible, and through which most Nigerians travel to other parts of the world and the majority of foreigners

make their first contact with the country as well as live and trade, presents one of the most complex of problems. We are satisfied that the Ministry, the Lagos City Council and the Lagos Executive Development Board have been able, within the limitation of time and other resources available, to meet, to a reasonable extent, the increasing demand for the increased services of Lagos.

While much of the work of the Ministry is not such as to attract publicity yet it is generally appreciated, if only partially, that its Land Registry, Land and Valuation Divisions have been coping with more and more work.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** On a point of order, many of us do not understand the speech of the Minister which looks like an interruption of the debate. I wonder why the Minister should take up some of our time. After all, we are going to adjourn at five o'clock. We do not even follow what he is saying. We, therefore, feel that his speech is irrelevant to the debate.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** It is the practice for Ministers to make Ministerial Statements to both Houses of Parliament—the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Minister of Lagos Affairs was unable to make his Statement to the Lower House. He, therefore, felt that it would be a better chance to make it to the Upper House where there are more mature legislators. This would also be a way to put it on record. Otherwise, he would not have any record of his past activities.

**The President :** I will allow the Minister to proceed.

**Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule :** During the past year, the Land Registry has processed about a thousand applications for first registration whilst it dealt with a very large number of transactions upon registered titles. The recent passing by Senators of the Registered Land Bill is a most welcome tribute to the work of the Section and the Ministry in the past year.

As in previous years, the Ministry has continued to render assistance to diplomatic missions in Nigeria towards the provision of temporary accommodation in official residential quarters and, or the preparation and allocation of plots to these Missions for the purpose

of their building their own quarters. The acquisition of sites and property on lease for Nigerian Missions abroad has also, in most cases, been conducted by the staff of the Land Section of the Ministry.

Strenuous efforts were made during the past year, to improve conditions of living in Lagos and to make Lagos a worthy capital City of the Federation of Nigeria. One of the main factors which make living in Lagos a little more expensive and less comfortable than it otherwise would be is congestion on the roads. Senators are well aware of the projected second Mainland Bridge in respect of which the Ministry is already engaged with the task of acquiring the site ready for the time when construction work is to begin.

Until the new Bridge is built which should ease the traffic congestion, it is my view that attention must be concentrated towards making the best use of Lagos roads. In pursuance of this objective, efforts and consultations on the part of the Ministry and the Lagos City Council have been geared towards effecting such measures as parking only on one side of certain streets on certain days, no-horn notices, fresh provision for the removal of cars left on the highways of Lagos in breach of traffic regulations, the introduction of zebra crossing in a few places and the provision of car parks. Senators will bear witness to the better flow of traffic that has resulted so far from the measures already taken by the Ministry. Besides, discussions on the subject have been initiated in the Lagos Traffic Advisory Committee, membership of which includes the Lagos Chamber of Commerce, and a small sub-committee of the Committee has been appointed to look into the specific problem of traffic congestion on the Ijora-Apapa-Malu stretch and to make recommendations.

Senators have on many occasions deplored the increasing number of beggars and the activities of these beggars in the City. The seriousness of this problem cannot be minimised especially from the point of view of the impression which the beggars leave on many a foreigner who makes his first and perhaps the only contact with Nigeria in Lagos. The hon. Minister has, therefore, consulted with the various Authorities concerned with a view to pinpointing the problem and having some effective action taken.

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

As has been mentioned on more than one occasion in this session, one of the major problems confronting workers in Lagos is the question of residential accommodation. In tackling this problem, the Ministry has kept in close touch with the Lagos Executive Development Board which has continued since independence to perform its functions of ensuring an integrated and co-ordinated development of Lagos. The problem is tackled on three fronts. In the first place, land is made available to people who wish to and can build their own houses.

In this connection I would mention such projects as the reclamation of the Victoria Island, as a result of which approximately 1,200 acres of swamp land will be rendered available for housing and other developments. During the year under review, there were allocations and a significant development for housing purposes of such land as was reclaimed before independence at South-West and South-East Ikoyi. There were also Lagos Executive Development Board's various freehold land projects whereby plots were sold freehold to people for the purpose of building their own houses. There is also, on the second front, the Board's freehold housing scheme whereby houses were built and sold freehold to those people who prefer to buy a completed house. Besides, the Ministry have taken the first step in the provision of houses for low-income workers under the Government's low Cost Housing Scheme. Work on the first phase of a scheme by which the construction of 1,400 housing units is envisaged, is under way.

The problem of planning and providing for Lagos is daily becoming more and more complex and is involving a multiplicity of Authorities. There is urgent need for co-ordinated planning. It was this need that led to the request for a United Nations team of experts on Town Planning, and their Report is now being examined.

Finally, I would like to place on record the important role which the Lagos City Council and the Lagos Executive Development Board played during the past year in the reception of many visitors from abroad. Their activities have been of special interest to a large number

of distinguished visitors. The various schemes and particularly the housing projects have been visited by some prominent people such as His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia, the Prime Minister of India, Mr Pandit Nehru; the Prime Minister of Congo Republic, Mr Cyrille Adoula; President Tubman of Liberia; President Leopold Senghor of Senegal, the British Prime Minister, Sir Douglas-Home and a large number of Parliamentary delegations from the various parts of the world.

As I promised earlier, the statement is very short. It is merely a Ministerial Statement to place on record the activities of the Ministry for the past year so that Senators may see what we have been doing and may therefore have something upon which to comment or criticise.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. Nwoke :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill ably moved by our most popular Minister of Finance, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Nigeria. The Minister has shown himself as a man of very high integrity, a man whose record has been of great competence to the point of being entrusted with a very rare industry, the Security Printing and Minting industry of Nigeria. This is a very rare honour for any nation to do to any of its citizens. The Minister is to supervise and take charge of this delicate and rare industry, and I have to congratulate him for this honour.

Now, we have to spend a colossal amount of £62 million to run the services of this great country. I have got a short time to speak on the Bill in order to allow others to contribute to the debate on it, and I will start with the Ministry of Health.

It is most unfortunate that this Ministry could not appreciate the fact that pharmacists are professionals and had to be allowed to go on strike before listening to them. Much as I do not like strikes in medical departments, I think it was rather provoking to feel that a pharmacist at this stage is not a professional, at least in the Nigerian Medical Service. I hope that with orientation of thoughts and actions the Minister will handle the situation better still by negotiating with the pharmacists.

Some of the problems in this Ministry are created by those I would call 'pedlars'. I cannot put all the blame on the police, but I think it is the fault of the Ministry of Health to allow these drug pedlars to operate in all the nooks and corners of this Federation. The people have got all types of illegal drugs. Some of them are imported from the Spanish Island of Fernando Po, or Panya, and in most cases these pedlars do not know what these drugs cure. Most of the drugs are poisonous and these pedlars keep on selling them to the public and we keep on getting bad results here and there. The position is even worse in the Eastern Region where the pedlars mount up rostrums at every market place and dance to the tune of music. They engage a number of young girls to do the dancing sometimes so as to sell their illegal medicine. In some cases the pedlars make the medicine themselves. I do not know under what medical ordinance they are allowed to make these medicines they are selling and the medical authorities have not on any occasion queried them. We all know the qualification a man should possess before compounding medicine.

These quacks who carry rocks and bottles of medicine about should not be allowed to continue to do so. I do not know whether we are now imitating England or any other country of the world. I should feel that when we enact a law we should respect the law. Rather than allow these pedlars to continue to go about playing with the lives of our people, I feel that those who are interested in making research into native medicine should be encouraged to make drugs from our own roots and herbs so that we can see what they are capable of doing. These people should also be made to stay in registered areas where anybody who wants to suffer may go either to be cured or to die. We should not allow them to continue to go about in the country inviting innocent people to come and die.

We need a lot of research into our native medicine and those pharmacists who are not employed in the public service could do well by engaging themselves in such secondary industries. Medicines like tablets, bottles of mixtures and so many other medicines which, if I mention here now many people will not understand, can be produced by these pharmacists if encouraged.

The nation should encourage our people to engage in secondary industries. By secondary industries I mean industries where some of the imported drugs can be produced. After all, most of these drugs imported from overseas are duty-free and there is no reason why the Government should not guarantee the replacement of some of them with our native medicine.

I want to talk now on the Ministry of Aviation. The hon. Minister, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, must be congratulated on his appointment to this Ministry. He is the right man who should be appointed to handle such a Ministry, and I do believe that during his term of office in the Ministry he will provide us with aerodromes all over the country.

When last I visited Kano it was a difficult and most unpleasant journey by train. But if there had been aerodromes in all parts of the country, I would have preferred to do my journey by air. I hope the Minister will be able to provide us with these amenities.

The Government at the last Budget Session promised to encourage our indigenous businessmen to develop their businesses, but up till the present moment, I have not seen that promise fulfilled. We all know too well that there is unemployment in the country and the situation may be worsened when most of our students now in the Universities start coming out in thousands. If we encourage these private businessmen to develop, they will be able to provide employment for most of these students and at the same depopulate big townships where most of the people from the rural areas come to seek employment.

I now come to speak on the Police Force. I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate Mr L. O. Edet, one of the sons of this country, who has been promoted to the post of Inspector-General of Police. He is the first Nigerian to climb to this height and we all wish him well in his new post.

This Department must be very careful about our security measures. I dare say that we pay lip service to security in this country. We have not got sufficient security measures. For instance, about three weeks ago, it was reported that some quivers of poisonous arrows were imported to Umuahia on their way to Port Harcourt. It was a fact that such things were brought to Umuahia and the culprits

[SENATOR NWOKE]

were arrested. Why did the police allow the lorry carrying such deadly weapons to pass through Port Harcourt before the lorry was stopped at Umuahia? Serious steps should be taken and the manufacturers of such deadly weapons should be brought to book.

Great care should be taken not to disturb the police. A lot of people confuse the police during the course of their duty. It is most unfortunate that in the Federation to-day, we still have some medical officers who ask the police to go and search the pharmacists. It is very unpleasant. Pharmacists who misbehave should be punished, I agree.

We have some politicians in this country who made uniforms for themselves and declared that the uniforms were meant for war. This is a serious thing. I am sure there is no war in the country. If this is true, it means that we have nobody to fear and we have nobody to respect. One cannot do that in the Eastern Region. Such people should be seriously warned. The police should study how to convert that uniform to peaceful use so that it would not scare people away.

Unfortunately, people have been talking about tribalism. This is not a real war. It is a common thing. The fact is that most politicians are afraid because election time is drawing near. Instead of demanding benefits from the Government for their various constituencies, they are demanding the benefits for their tribes. Instead of a politician saying that such and such benefit does not go to his constituency, he says that such and such benefit does not go to his tribe.

I would like to say a few things about the State House. His Excellency, the most worthy President, should be given maximum respect. Quite apart from what the Constitution provides and the Oaths that all of us have taken, both the Upper House, the Lower House and the Regional Houses of Assembly, we must respect our Head of State. That single honour should be given to him. We should not attack him here and there. The Prime Minister cautioned the public against this disrespect to our Head of State a few days ago. Every care should be taken to respect the President. We should not give cause to the Prime Minister to warn us again.

I would like to say something on education too. I feel that education should be a federal subject. There should be uniformity in the system of education at all material levels. There should be uniformity also in the service conditions of teachers and all the workers. Some people have argued that in Britain County Councils take care of education. But Nigeria is not Britain. We have nothing in common with Britain when it comes to the question of education. The very language which is the basic factor of disseminating information is strange to us. Therefore this problem is still there. At all costs, we should have a uniform standard of education in the country.

The hon. Minister of Finance would have to look into certain increases in customs duties. Permit me to say that the increase in duty on alcohol should be reduced. The more this increase is encouraged the more we give chance to the firms selling these drinks. The more the Government continues to increase duty on whisky, dry gin and brandy, the more we give chance to people to patronise the smuggled stuff coming from Panyan. We must be bold enough to say this to the Minister of Finance.

I appeal to the nation to start to think of the problem of unemployment. Most our students would soon leave universities. When they come out from the universities, we must have to give them job.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** I wish to associate myself with the other speakers on the Appropriation Bill moved by the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh.

It is with great sense of responsibility and deep feeling that I have to say that all we need in this period must centre around the things that will make for the stability, peace and unity of this country. This is the fifth Budget Session since this House came into being. All those charged with the responsibility of piloting the ship of our state have acquitted themselves creditably and discharged their duties honourably.

Now, I would like to come to the Budget Speech itself. We see that some outstanding achievements were made during the past year. We have been told, and it is true, that an

Industrial Development Bank has been established. This is needed in this country because of our resources and our size. There is great need to establish an Industrial Bank which will cater, naturally, for industrial developments.

We notice with great pride that last year we achieved a record level of currency circulation. There is no doubt that it is not a very easy thing for a country to have a continuous rise in currency circulation without a hitch. We have laid the foundation for a money market and there is growing confidence in our currency all over the world. Nigerian currency is cashable anywhere in the world.

The entry of Nigeria into the Customs Operating Council is a great achievement because we are the only country in the whole of Africa which has entered into this Council.

The establishment of a Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company is also a great step in making this nation one and great, not to talk of the different factories which have sprung up in the country. All these not only satisfy our internal demand, but also allow for export of some of these commodities which we have manufactured.

Many Senators have spoken at great length on the need for federalising Primary Education in Nigeria. It is highly necessary that there should be educational and technical co-operation throughout the Federation. We need knowledge, and I think it is only by co-operating not only with ourselves but with other advanced countries of the world that we can have knowledge. If all the Regions in the country can co-operate educationally, then we shall have a spirit of belonging to one father with equal opportunity to face the ordeals of life. This will also bring about the much desired unity for which we have laboured tirelessly in this country.

But I would like to warn the Federal Government that all our advisers must be Nigerians. We want the idea of bringing these educational experts from abroad stopped. They come to the country to provide jobs for their brothers and sisters to the exclusion of qualified Nigerians. I want us to remove all psychological and colonial mentalities in our education.

**Some Senators :** No ! No !

**Senator Ugwuocha :** But this is true and—

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** The Senator is imputing improper motives. Our Education Departments in the whole country are completely Nigerianised, and I want to say that Senators do not agree with the views the Senator speaking is expressing.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** The Senator who has just interjected simply jumped up to speak without being called upon to do so. This is irregular, Mr President, and I would like the Senator to be called to order.

**Senator Chief Ugwuocha :** The next point which I want to speak upon is about unity in the country. Many Senators have expressed personal opinions on this question of unity, and I want to express my own opinion too. Political rivalry and the knocking of heads together in the country are the order of the day. Once you do not belong to the same political party with your next-door neighbour, you become his enemy, and if you go to the extent of contesting an election against him, he will be after your life. Senators, is this not the order of the day ?

**Several Senators :** No, no !

**Senator Chief Ugwuocha :** Yes. It is. Politics is full of bitterness and rancour. In the circumstances, therefore, I am advocating for a one-party system of government in the country. This type of Western democracy where the majority forms the government and the minority is in the opposition is alien to this country's tradition and does not suit our needs. If we cannot have a one-party government in this country, I suggest that we revert to the old system of government.

My next point is that it has been said by our colonial masters that black nationalism is the greatest single political force in Africa to-day. I hope we can combine democratic system of government with our tribal set-up. With rivalries among political parties, sooner or later there is bound to be civil war.

**The President :** I wish to draw Senators' attention to the fact that time is very short and it is good that everybody thinks of other Senators who want to speak this evening.

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** I wish just very briefly to say a few words to remove some of the mis-

## [MINISTER OF HEALTH]

conceptions under which I believe some Senators are labouring in their contribution to this Debate, particularly with regard to the Ministry of Health.

I think Senators are prone to forget that the provision of health services is purely a Regional subject that has nothing to do with the Federal Government. In fact, the Federal Government is responsible only for the provision of health services for the people of Lagos. However, the Federal Government is also responsible for the registration of doctors, together with their training, the contents of their education; the registration of nurses, the contents of their training and their education.

I wish very strongly to point out that even if it were possible for the Federal Government to be responsible for all the health services in the country, it will be completely undesirable. When we had a unitary form of government in the colonial days, the medical services in the country were controlled from Lagos, and Senators will recall that in those days there used to be strong criticisms of our medical services throughout the country because the whole of that organisation was completely inefficient. Therefore, if Senators disabuse their minds of all these prejudices and look at the whole thing objectively, they will appreciate that the question of sickness, life and birth is a personal and individual matter and all the schemes which are designed to help people during sickness should be controlled by the people who directly benefit from these services.

In that respect, I would like to point out that the best hospitals are those hospitals which are owned by the community and which serve the community and in which the members of the community have a hand in running. This is one of the reasons why many of our hospitals are not satisfactory nowadays. We have inherited a system of hospital and health services from the colonial regime which was not meant for an independent nation which we now are.

Members would recall that in those days the medical services provided by the colonial regime were not, in fact, provided for the people who resided in the area in which the hospitals were sited. They were primarily intended for the treatment of the civil servants of those

areas and after the civil servants had been satisfied, the local inhabitants were then treated.

That was the pattern in those days but now we are improving and, in fact, are spending a lot of money on education. In those days many of our people were not even aware of some of the services which were provided. Now they are aware and they are demanding these services, and when they demand them, we find that the services which are available are inadequate.

Everyday we read in the *papers*—and I myself have said it several times—that the number of doctors available in this country is totally inadequate. We have one doctor to 40,000 people of our population. When we look at the medical services and the vacancies available throughout the whole region, we find that here in the Federal territory, I do not think we have vacancies for more than about 20 doctors.

We need at least 200 doctors more here in Lagos, but if we have them, we will not be able to pay for them because the money available will not be sufficient for us to pay for them; that is due to the type of set-up we have. The people who will benefit from these things have a tremendous purchasing power nowadays, they can afford to buy radios and television sets for themselves but they all expect that they should go to the General Hospital and get the most expensive antibiotics free of charge. These antibiotics are very expensive indeed. If you send them to the pharmacists, they will have to pay for them and that is why we have devised a means whereby the Government will pay for half of this very expensive treatment and the people themselves will also contribute half of the cost of the treatment.

This is what is done throughout the whole civilised world. It is only in a place like Britain where—they are very rich indeed—they are able to spend £600 million a year on medical services alone, which works out at about £20 per head of the population.

Any of you can just look at it seriously. You will find—many Senators here are Pharmacists and you have spoken about pharmacy—that even if you have pneumonia in England and you have pneumonia here in Lagos, you will still need the same type of drug, the same skill and the same nursing to treat you.



It does not matter whether you are white, black or yellow; it will not cause very much less than it will cost in England to treat a person with modern drugs whether in Lagos or in China or in Japan. Therefore, you cannot expect the cost of treatment to be very much less than at least £20 per person per year. If we have them, I assure you that we will be able to provide medical services about which you yourselves would be very proud. But we have not got them and, therefore, we have to reorganise our views about this provision of our medical services.

I would like to appeal to Senators to be moderate in their criticism of our medical personnel. Some of them are very careless. I admit, but I think it is very wrong for Senator M. B. Chukwubike to refer to some of our nurses who are working in the hospitals as murderers. I think it is unfortunate that he has used such a language in connection with these nurses because they are working under very trying circumstances and they are exposed to some of the most acute dangers in their work. If their patients have tuberculosis they will be the first to get it. If there are patients with any other type of infectious disease, these nurses will be the first to get it. They are devoted. Some of them, of course, as human beings, are careless and we are doing our best to weed out the careless ones.

During this debate, Senator Chukwubike pointed out to us that Government hospitals are very inefficient and that the mission hospitals are very well run. Well, surely, we must look at the thing very calmly and see what type of materials the mission hospitals use. They employ African girls and boys, all are Nigerians. In fact, the condition of service of the people working for the mission hospitals is much inferior to the condition of service of those who are working for the Government, but, still you get efficiency in the mission-run hospitals because it is easy for the mission authorities to reward merit very quickly and to punish careless nurses very quickly too.

But when you have a civil servant running a hospital which is what we have, it is not so. Ninety per cent of our hospitals in this country are run by the Government and the nurses, doctors and pharmacists who are working in them are civil servants. The process of getting rid of a civil servant is not easy.

Any of you who has ever had anything to do with a civil servant will know that once he gets confirmed in the civil service, short of committing murder, it is impossible to get rid of him. The worst that could be done to him would be to give him a warning notice and to have his increment deferred.

By the reorganisation which we are trying to introduce into the administration of medicine in this country, it should be possible to detach it from civil service control and enable us to run it efficiently so that we could reward those nurses who are pulling their weight and remove those nurses and doctors as well who are not pulling their weight.

I would like to refer briefly to the question of pharmacists. A lot has been said in this House about these pharmacists, particularly, by those Senators who are themselves pharmacists. I welcome the points which they have made, particularly the point which was made by Senator Ukattah. He did point out that we should make more use of these pharmacists so that they could manufacture drugs for us.

If he read the *Hansard* of the 26th of March, containing my contribution to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill in the Lower House, he would find that I pointed out that here in Lagos we have a Pharmaceutical Laboratory where we are producing drugs for not only hospitals in Lagos but also for some of the hospitals in the Regions who are buying from us.

I pointed out also that the annual production in this laboratory is now 60 million tablets, 126 gallons of liniments and 17,000 bottles of perfusions, as well as other products which are being produced in this laboratory.

This is a new development whereby we hope to be able to stretch the meagre vote which we have for drugs and equipment in order to meet the requirements of our people here who are daily pressing on the splendid services which we are able to provide for them.

Another point which I wish to stress is that in all services which are provided for the people, I think it is necessary that one should know exactly for how many people one is catering so as to be able to know how much one has to ask for. Here in this country nobody really knows for how many people the Federal Ministry of Health is catering.

## [MINISTER OF HEALTH]

It is erroneous to think that because we have the General Hospital, the Maternity Hospital and the Children's Hospital in Lagos, these hospitals are only treating people who are resident in Lagos. Some of the Senators have come from the Provinces, probably with their families some of them sent for their families to come and get treatment here in Lagos. We dare not refuse them treatment and we cannot refuse. It is the same thing in the Regions. You have a hospital in Enugu ; people come from all over the place to this hospital. It is impossible for them to budget for the patients who attend the hospital. Therefore, it is necessary for us to know exactly where we stand in this matter.

We produced a scheme whereby here in Lagos we can cater for half a million people because even before we knew the result of the census, our own figures of birth-rate and death rate in Lagos has indicated to us that there are definitely more than half a million people living in Lagos. We know that there are more than half a million people living in Lagos and we know also that the Federal Government is currently spending about £3-10s per head of the population of Lagos in providing medical services. If these people who are living in Lagos also subscribed of their accord about £2 per head, that would give us about £5-10s per head and we are certain that we would be able to produce something. If anybody came from the Provinces to join this scheme, we could then say that the Federal Government is responsible for these people here and is already providing £5-10s that if he wants to get medical service from Lagos, he has to pay £2 for his treatment and that would cover him for the rest of the year.

It would not be any hardship on any of our people at all because we know—and we are absolutely definite on this—that they are currently spending by far more than this in payment of fees to private medical practitioners and in the purchase of drugs some of which Senators have criticised this afternoon.

I also wish to say a few words about the point made by my Friend, Senator Oputa-Otutu, on the control of importation of dangerous drugs into this country. We are, in fact, controlling this and I think, as a pharmacist,

he himself will know that one cannot import into the country any dangerous drugs unless one has a licence or one is a pharmacist.

Officers in my Ministry are working in collaboration with the Board of Customs and Excise to ensure that no drugs are imported into the country except by people who are licenced to do so.

It is very difficult for us to control the sale of these drugs in the open market but we certainly are doing our best to ensure that only those pharmacists who have the licence are allowed to sell these drugs ; but when there is a shortage of medical personnel, people do take advantage of this shortage and they go about into the bush and pose not only as qualified pharmacists but they also pose to be doctors. They carry about all sorts of drugs with them and when people are just looking for people to treat them, it is impossible for them to ask for the credentials of these people who peddle drugs about in the villages. They just come out and say—"I have been working in such and such a hospital and I have some medicine, I have injections".

These people are patronised particularly in areas where there had been an epidemic of yaws and people have been used to the dramatic improvement which is attendant upon an injection of penicillin or arsenical compounds if they have yaws and, therefore, they have terrific faith in injections.

As a result of that, it does not matter whether they have yaws or not, patients in these areas do ask for injections and unscrupulous people exploit these sentiments and go about giving injections even in open markets.

We are not unaware of this situation, and the Medical Associations throughout the country and the Ministries of Health of all the Governments of the Republic are certainly doing everything they can to stamp out this undesirable practice.

I feel that I should make this position clear to Senators so as to remove the misapprehensions which they have expressed.

**Senator P. A. Ogundipe :** May I first of all thank you, Mr President, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I know that the time at my disposal is short so I shall be very brief.

The first point I wish to speak on is the unity of the various ethnic groups that make up this Federal Republic. This point is very important. Before I make my simple and humble contribution, I want to give due appreciation to the President of this Federal Republic for his very wise approach to the problem.

He advised us to be calm and he too adhered to it. We know how he was worried by some over-zealous and irresponsible politicians but he did not reply. We know the worth of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe as a politician and we know that if he wants to reply he knows very well how to reply but as the Head of state, he did not reply in the language that his attackers can understand. Like a father, he was calm.

I must not forget to mention also, the contribution so far of our honoured Prime Minister. I give him my strong and unalloyed support. We all know of the cool-headedness of the Prime Minister and this he has displayed in his call on the tribalistic politicians, asking them to disarm and place premium on the unity of the various ethnic groups of the Republic.

If not for the time that is against me I should have said more in praise and in appreciation of the part played by these two great leaders of Africa for the unity and stability of this great Republic.

As Senators know, the unity of this country is our prime concern and I would like to offer some suggestions for the achievement of this unity. It is my firm belief that our present Constitution places too much emphasis on regional matters with the result that the predominant tribe in each Region dominates the Region.

What I am trying to say is that our present Constitution should be carefully looked into and changes should be effected as quickly as possible because if we look closely into our Constitution we shall see that the Constitution itself is responsible largely for the disunity which we are experiencing in this country. Our Constitution whether we like it or not has made us more tribe-conscious. Senators may be wondering why I have made this statement.

I am of the opinion that we have assigned to the Regions through our Constitution responsibilities which in the interest of the nation

should have been assigned to the Federal Government. If we reduce the powers and responsibilities of the Federal Government we shall be more united in that we shall offer greater and better opportunities to the citizens of this country from the various tribes. This will afford them the opportunity to come together, work together, study together, play together and even lie in hospitals together and either die or survive their sicknesses together.

Let me give a few concrete examples of the social services which I feel can unite us. The first one is education. As far as university education is concerned, it is my humble opinion that we are on the right path. All our universities, the Ahmadu Bello University, the University of Ife, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, are doing their best to maintain the unity of this country.

Our boys and girls from all the tribes in the Republic are living and studying together in these universities. Our premier University, the University of Ibadan for more than ten years has been showing the way to the unity of this country.

I am sure that Senators can bear testimony to this. I think more can be done in this respect. We should have other higher institutions of learning sited in all the Regions of the Republic where our boys and girls can live and study together. I would exclude primary schools because children in primary schools will not generally leave their Regions of origin except their parents work in other Regions.

We should have more inter-Regional secondary schools to cater for Grammar, technical and commercial education of our boys and girls and admission to these schools should be distributed evenly among the Regions.

Even if there is a Region where there is a lower standard of education, it is the duty of the other Regions to help in raising the numerical strength of the educated people in that Region. National secondary schools should be built by the Federal Government in the various Regions of the Federation.

I am not unaware of the fact that something is being done in this direction, but I give this as one of the examples of the way in which we can improve the unity of this country.

[SENATOR OGUNDIPE]

Let us consider the question of our roads. Even the roads can play some part in the improvement we so much desire. If the roads are better constructed, and more of the roads converted into Trunk 'A' Roads and made larger, we shall be able to move freely, and the people of one region will be able to meet the people from other Regions.

There are people who wish to travel from one Region to another, but because of bad roads, they are afraid of doing so. We might not be quite conscious of this fact, but I am sure that better roads will certainly help us to travel more easily and we will, thus, be able to meet one another more frequently.

Now, let me speak on industries. Unfortunately, in the Federal territory, there is very little or no land suitable for the establishment of industries. Why then do we not site all the Federal industries in the Regions instead of trying to site them in places already congested. Let us carry all the industries to the Regions and let all the employees of these industries be representatives of the Regions.

We speak so much about the lack of unity here and in the House of Representatives, although to a lesser degree here in the Senate, but I do not think the Ibos, the Yorubas or the Efiks in the Nigerian Railway Corporation, who are all working together think so much of disunity as we do here. Many of them—

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of information, if my Friend will stop repeating himself, and give a chance to other Senators who are anxious to speak, it will be better.

I am not very anxious to wind up, I would like some other Senators to speak still—it may not take me more than fifteen minutes to wind up. If it is your wish, Sir, I would like to wind up by 5.30 p.m. As provided in the Standing Orders, the Senate will be interrupted at a quarter to six o'clock. In order to give Senators who are anxious to contribute to the debate some time to speak, I would have to wait till 5.30. But if Senators are going to keep on repeating themselves, then I shall have to wind up.

**The President :** Please let him proceed.

**Senator Ogundipe :** In the interest of the other Senators who are anxious to contribute to the debate, I shall wind up now, but I am not doing so because the Minister of Finance wants to wind up. We have our right to continue for two days, but I am winding up so that one or two Senators may be able to contribute.

One more point which I think may contribute to the unity of this country has to do with the civil service. I do not know how the politicians have brought about the wave of repatriation of people from one Region to another in their own country. This has done a lot of harm, but it is not too late to mend.

I hear someone say that the amendment should start in the Western Region. I do not know where it should start. I am sure however that it is not too late to mend.

What I am suggesting is that we change over and go back perhaps to the colonial practice of interchanging staff. Let us have, say, about 20 per cent of the senior staff in the Northern Region coming to serve in the civil service of the Western Region, and 25 per cent of the staff of the Western Region going to serve in the Northern Region. We could also send some people to serve in the Mid-Western Region from the Eastern Region, and *vice versa*. After all, we are all in the same country.

I do not say that because we have more educated people in the East, those educated people should be dumped in the West or in the North, but I want it to be a sort of interchange between the Regions. In that way, people who work together everyday would have a sort of fellow feeling and sympathy. The idea of separating the Regions is doing us a lot of harm.

Briefly, therefore, I want to say that the constitution should be revised and that we should allow certain functions which have been called 'Regional functions' to become semi-regional so that it may be possible for people from different Regions to work in different parts of the Federation.

I beg to support.

**Senator Hassan Rafindadi :** It is with great pleasure that I join other Senators in congratulating the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, who presented the "National" Budget.

Since taking office in 1958, as the first Nigerian Minister of Finance in charge of the financial and economic affairs of the Federal Government, Chief Okotie-Eboh has handled his assignments with care and diligence unsurpassed in any Parliament anywhere in the world. His exceptional ability, coupled with his business experience, and his prudent financial policy make him a unique Minister in this highly specialised and technical art. He is not only a practical economist, but a classical scholar who combines a literary appreciation with a sound knowledge of practical business. The art of managing the financial affairs of a nation is a field in which few people excel, and the Minister belongs to this rare class of people.

His wide knowledge and experience in financial affairs, combined with his dexterity and pushful attitude, have no doubt brought fame not only to himself but to this country. These noble attributes of his are not only reflected in the buoyancy of the Federal Government's finances, but in the other important factors which have contributed to the political stability of this nation.

I would therefore like to pay tribute to the Minister of Finance for his sterling qualities and his untiring efforts to keep the finances of this nation in good position.

An examination of the six Budget Speeches of the Minister reveals a gradual but steady rise of our revenue, and this has contributed to the success of our economic programme; and we can expect this country in no distant future to achieve its desired economic prosperity. The financial policy of the Government over the years has helped to arouse the people to face realities by the mobilisation of our local resources. This is very commendable indeed.

Since the Minister of Finance took office in 1958, he has used his ripe experience to improve the revenue collecting machinery of the Government, in spite of the lack of the required executive capacity and the unsteady prices of our primary commodities.

The formation of the European Economic Community did not help our situation as far as the question of commodity prices was concerned; but in spite of that the Central Bank came into being, political independence came as well, and we are now faced with the

Six-Year Development Programme. I would implore the Government to use every safeguard to ensure full implementation of the programme, particularly by placing great emphasis on agriculture. The proposal to construct the Niger Dam which is a cornerstone to full industrialisation, is commendable.

It is very clear that for the development programme to succeed, industries must be established and agriculture encouraged, because they form the two principal pre-requisites to economic prosperity. It is not encouraging to note that the Government is not taking agriculture seriously in that the poor farmers in the interior are not being sufficiently assisted. Although, because of the constitutional set-up, agriculture is a regional matter, with the Federal Government only responsible for the research part of it, the question of agriculture ought to be vigorously tackled. The present arrangement is unsuitable, because it tends to make us forget the importance of farming and what impact it will have on our economic development.

Agriculture must be revolutionized to make our farmers engage in mechanized farming, so that our agricultural products can meet with local demands and tastes as well as overseas requirements. The development of agriculture should not lag behind, and as such, I am suggesting the creation of a new Ministry to be called the Ministry for Rural Development. If this is not possible, a Division for Rural Development could be created in the Ministry of Economic Development to co-ordinate the various measures of the Regional Ministries of Agriculture. If we do this, we will ultimately be contributing to the pace of our economic development.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Senator A. O. Airewele :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which has been ably moved by the Minister of Finance. In fact, his usual method of preparing the yearly estimates gives much pride and pleasure to every Nigerian, and we are indeed very grateful to him for his tireless efforts to raise from abroad loans which are essential for our economic development and the raising of our standard of living.

Much has been said on the question of federalising education in Nigeria, and it does appear that the Federal Ministry of Education

[SENATOR AIREWELE]

has not thought it fit to give the various suggestions a close study. I think the time has come to think of this matter seriously because, as is often said, the voice of man is the voice of God. By virtue of his office as the Minister responsible for Education in the Centre, the Federal Minister of Education should summon a meeting of his counterparts in the Regions for a discussion on the question of making education a federal matter.

The Regional Governments are faced with the problem of financing and maintaining the government colleges as well as the voluntary agency schools, and this is constituting a big strain on them. This problem was passed to the various governments of this country by our former colonial masters. The Federal Government should think seriously of federalising education. After all, we are all training our sons and daughters who are going to be Nigeria's leaders in future.

For example, the maximum building grant given by some Regional Governments to a Voluntary Agency college is between £10,000 and £15,000, whereas that given to any Government College is at least £300,000 to £400,000 to start with.—

**Senator Salahu Fulani :** On a point of order, I think it is becoming a habit in this House for Senators to read their speeches. If this practice is allowed to continue it is my fear that a situation might arise when some Senators will procure other people to write their speeches for them, and they will present them to the House as though what is contained in them are of their own thinking.

**The President :** I know it is out of order or Senators to read from their notes. I did not notice Senator Airewele reading from his notes. However, it is a timely warning to all Senators that it is out of order for them to read their speeches.

**Senator Airewele :** Every Minister of Education knows very well that £10,000 is not sufficient for the building of a modern block of three laboratories, not to talk of other buildings like dormitory, staff quarters, assembly rooms, and so on. We feel that if this is the case, the Federal Government should take step and try to bridge the gap that is really existing

between the Government-owned colleges and the voluntary agency colleges, for we are really training our sons and daughters of Nigerians.

We feel also that in doing that, in bridging this gap, much efficient work will be done by our Government and by the voluntary agencies. I am suggesting that more grants should be made available to the voluntary agencies for their capital expenditure. I also suggest that teachers' conditions of service should be improved so that they may be stable and work more efficiently.

Furthermore, the training of teachers should be considered as very important and more facilities should be extended to the voluntary agencies so that they will be equipped with more efficient masters.

Now, coming to the question of agriculture, it has been said times without number that too much research is carried on by our people. All I see is that there is always research without the results being put into practice. In this way, I think the research will not prove useful. As we all have observed, the only production which has been achieved through research is nothing but eggs. We feel that in future the results of the different researches should be made available so that our farmers will benefit from the findings.

Furthermore, our poor farmers really deserve congratulation because most of them have been using their old system of farming and yet they are able to give us enough food to eat. I feel that they should be encouraged by way of loans to enable them purchase modern equipment.

Now, to come to Police, I want to say that they really deserve commendation. Those living in the Federal territory deserve more praise because most of them really appear to be very obedient. Each time we come here we find them very dutiful and hard-working, when we compare them with those in the countryside. I am sorry that the Minister in charge of Police is not here.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** We are here.

**Senator Airewele :** Well, I want to say that since 1961, the policemen stationed at Ekpoma have been living in hired houses. Each time we make a complaint we are told that their buildings will be started as soon as

possible and that materials are forthcoming, but up to the moment no buildings have yet been started. We will be grateful if arrangements are made for these buildings to be erected.

About the Prisons Department, it appears that most of us do not remember the people working in that Department. I feel they do a lot of work, more especially the men who are charged with responsibility for looking after the criminals. Anybody who visits the prison yard will really know what the warders are doing in the various prison yards. I feel that these people too deserve equal commendation.

**Several Senators :** Finally.

**Senator Airewele :** I think I still have about two minutes more. Now, about the unity of Nigeria, it is gratifying that the annoyance of some people is getting less and less now because of the wise method by which our leaders are handling the matter. It will give us more pleasure too if the broadcasting organisations and the newspapers are advised not to give any news that will be disheartening to people. Anybody is free to give them, care should be taken in the type of news that is given out in order to avoid sowing seeds of discord.

There are many people in this country who are very happy whenever there are agitations and wranglings while there are really many others who worry and try to see that the situation returns to normal. Some people who like trouble do not want our quarrels to be settled. We pray that our leaders will be able to use their initiatives and find amicable settlements to our quarrels.

I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am very sorry that—

**Senator J. I. Idehen :** On a point of order, we do not know what is really happening here. Most of us have not uttered a word on the Appropriation Bill. I consider it disgraceful that we should close the debate without our saying one word. What are we here for then ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am very sorry for the situation in which some Senators have found themselves, but I think Senators are aware that they passed a Motion this morning that at its rising to-day the Senate shall adjourn *sine die*

and, therefore, we have only fifteen minutes here to do lawful business as a result of that Motion.

It is my duty to reply briefly to the very constructive speeches that have been made by Senators. The time at my disposal is so short that I cannot do justice to the various points made by Senators, but even though certain Senators have not spoken, I am sure that most of the points they were prepared to make must have been made by their Colleagues here. If they have not, I think they can content themselves in the fact that this Senate has contributed much to the Parliamentary deliberations in this country.

Some Senators have said that this is an election year and, perhaps, during the next Budget Session, some of us may have quit the stage. Whether that is so or not, I think that Senators here can take pride in the fact that they have rendered their stewardship most creditably to their great country.

It is amazing that members of the public have not been made to be aware of the importance of this Upper House. As a result of this, not many members of the public come here to listen to the words of admonition and words of encouragement which Senators, as members of the Upper House, have given to the country at large. I think that the Ministry of Information must do something more to make Senators realise that the Upper House is not just here as a rubber stamp. They are here to make constructive suggestions for the ruling of this country. Senators are part and parcel of the government machinery of this country, because without their approving this Bill to-day, the Government cannot spend any money at least for the next six months. So Senators are very important in the machinery of Government.

I would like to start by complementing Senators for the way they have tired me out eulogistically. It gives me a sense of humility and a sense of responsibility. It makes me tremble because when our state fathers are showering praises on one man, the man must be very careful otherwise one will slip. If such a man slips, those that praised him, will also say otherwise. It is my prayer to God that during my tenure of office, when I continue to enjoy the confidence of the Prime

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Minister and all Members of our Parliament, which include Senators, God should take care of my feet so that I may not slip at all.

There are two very important speeches that were made by two respectable Senators here. I would like to quote the two of them amongst many others.

Senator Z. C. Obi in closing said, with your permission Mr President, I beg to quote—

*I feel that I should now wind up, and in doing so I pray that God will grant us the knowledge to love one another and to realise that we cannot do one without the other in this country. May He also grant that the unity which He has given to this country may abide with us. Senate Official Report, Column 289, lines 6-12, 13th April, 1964.*

Also Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba made two very important statements and, with your permission, Mr President, I quote—

*I cannot conclude my speech without touching that very important issue of elections. Later this year fresh elections will be held into the Federal House of Representatives. Nigeria is potentially a very great nation. Our reputation will depend largely upon our ability to harness all our resources for the progress of the inhabitants within the framework of political stability. Senate Official Report, Column 293, lines 41-49, 13th April, 1964.*

He went further to say—

*We ought to know that a foreign investor wants to make profit, but he also wants to be absolutely sure that his investment is safe and secure. If we follow carefully the trend of events happening in this country from 1962 up to the present time we shall find that there are one thousand and one political lessons for us to learn. We ought to make our politicians of to-day take a course in these political lessons and make them pass an examination with credit before we allow them to think about ruling us. Senate Official Report, Column 294, lines 4-15, 13th April, 1964.*

These are very wise words. These are very important words for the economic stability of this country. It is no use deluding ourselves into thinking that a non-Nigerian is not an investor. It is the non-Nigerians that we call

investors. Even in our own hamlets, any community that cannot open its door to strangers, will be moribund and will live in a compartment by itself. There will be no progress in that community. Therefore, nobody should think that Nigerians are so beautiful, both men and women; that Nigeria is the largest country in Africa, and as such people will try to bring their money here to invest and industrialise this country.

What have we got? We all know that we are potentially rich, there is no doubt about that. But the most important point is that we lack the technical know-how and we lack the money to develop our country. These two factors are the only things that can make this country grow in stature and make people live healthily and wealthily.

Senators have talked about education and roads. In fact everybody in the Lower House has been asking for telecommunications facilities, roads, higher education, hospitals, *et cetera*, but when we want to tax people, they say "Why do you tax us?" How can money fall like manna from heaven? Moses is no longer living and so manna cannot fall from heaven anymore. Some Senators are reminding me that we have a Moses in the Minister of Health; but this Moses which we have is a sinner. (Laughter).

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I hope the President will protect me from the Minister of Finance.

**The President :** I will protect you. You are certainly not a sinner.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** This Moses can only produce *quinine* and other tablets, but he cannot produce manna the type which falls from heaven for people to take freely.

Why I quoted the two speeches is because the unity of this country does not benefit just one tribe; it benefits the whole of us. So when people talk about it, people should not just think that it is a political speech or a political stunt. It is very important for the economic development of this country.

I am in a position to say this, because the very moment a Senator makes a statement here, that affects our economy. Senators may wish to see the number of letters and representations I receive because of that single statement.



Some weeks ago people talked about nationalisation and the Prime Minister was forced, a few days ago, to make a statement about nationalisation. It is good for people to say "Let us nationalise, let us do this or that", but how many Senators here who are running business can testify that we are ripe enough and ready to carry on our business with honesty of purpose.

Here in Nigeria, when a man opens a small business and tells his younger brother or cousin to run the business for him, that brother or cousin of his will use the money in carrying the type of girls who wear short frocks as was said by Senator Mrs Kerry. The money will be wasted.

So that is why I subscribe to the views expressed by Senator Chief Onyia about the three points he made about the economic stability of this country. Senator Chief Onyia talked about the question of productivity. He mentioned boycotting the boycottables, which has been philosophised already. He also mentioned a healthy climate for foreign investors and that is what I have been talking about.

Naturally, no man wants to put his money where there is trouble. When there was war in Germany, people could not put their money there. If Senators were asked to put their money there, would they like to do so? Certainly not; but if Senators say yes, they should go and try to put their money in Russia and see whether they can get their money back.

The points Senators have made can be attributed to the sense of responsibility which they have for the upliftment of our economy.

I subscribe to the views expressed by one Senator, when he said that it is not enough for Senators to speak about unity and peace tranquillity only here. He said that they should go forward and send delegations to the President and the Prime Minister. I think we should act on it. I am sure that it will have some value and result. Let one Senator from the North, one from the East, one from the West and one from the Mid-West go and present the case of Senators to the President and the Prime Minister, that is to say that, although Nigeria is heterogeneous, she must unite, otherwise a divided Nigeria has no

honour for any Nigerian whatsoever. I think I commend that idea seriously to Senators to implement.

Now, Senator Chukwubike spoke about high duties on locally manufactured goods such as stout and beer. There is no such thing at all. The policy of the Federal Government is to impose high import duties on goods that could be manufactured here in Nigeria in order to protect local industries. It is only this year that we found out that some of the industries we have here could pay their way and make profits, and as such they should contribute to our coffers. As Senators rightly pointed out, the Nkalagu Cement Factory was protected and is still being protected and is making profits in such a way that they are issuing dividends. So we thought that we should put extra duty on their products. It is a fact that these local industries want to make profits at the expense of the common man, by selling their products even more costly than the imported goods.

I had cause within this month to issue a letter to cement factories saying that cement is important for people to build a new Nigeria, and therefore when the manufacturers are given protection, they are expected to reduce the prices of locally produced cement. I entirely agree with the Senator in this respect, but I do not agree with the Senator who said that the cost of transporting cement from Nkalagu to Port Harcourt was more than the cost of bringing cement from Britain to Nigeria. I think that comparison is not tenable.

However, I think I should ask my Colleague the Minister of Transport to pass this on to the Nigerian Railways, that they should not increase the freight on the transportation of cement or finished products to the disadvantage of the people of this great country.

My friend, Senator Lagunju, spoke about the Auditor's Report. All I can add to what I said in the Lower House is that the Auditor's Report has now been referred to the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives and that they will look into it and we shall act on that. But I want to assure Senators that most of the things said by the Acting Auditor there were exaggerated and the comments uncalled for.

I have answered them almost word for word in the Lower House. Indeed it is the duty of my humble self to protect the finances of this country. I will not allow any fraud to go unpunished. Those who defrauded the Government have all been brought to book and they have been put into the hands of the law.

Finally, I must say again that the Senate is a great credit to Nigeria. Senators can rest assured that the Prime Minister is quite cognisant of the fact that they are doing a worthy job for the progress and stability of Nigeria. His presence here throughout yesterday shows Senators this fact. Despite all his engagements, he was able to stay so long here. (Hear, hear).

I do hope that in future all my colleagues will come in here in order to reply to all the points that Senators will put to the House.

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 read a Second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn sine die. (THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

Adjourned accordingly at sixteen minutes to six o'clock.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS—14th APRIL, 1964

### AVIATION

#### Fire Services

**O.34. Senator E. I. Onwokae** asked the Minister of Aviation, what arrangement he is now making to train suitable Nigerians to fill the Aerodrome Fire Services Section of his ministry.

**The Minister of Aviation :** The fire Services Section of my ministry is completely Nigerianised except for only one expatriate officer who is on contract. However, a comprehensive scheme for training more Nigerians is being undertaken. There are five officers' courses of eight weeks duration in progress at the moment at the Nigerian Fire Services Training School, Ikeja.

Refresher courses of six weeks duration take place from time to time and a training course for new recruits is also in progress. A senior Nigerian Fire Officer is at present in the United Kingdom for advanced training with the Ministry of Aviation.

### EDUCATION

#### Federalisation of Primary Education

**O.5. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Education, whether after consultations with his regional counterparts, he will recommend to the Federal Government the

advisability of taking over financial responsibility for the recurrent cost of primary education throughout the Republic.

**The Minister of Education :** The question of taking over financial responsibility for the recurrent cost of Primary Education cannot be lightly undertaken by the Federal Government under the current constitutional provisions, which makes Primary Education a Regional responsibility.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Fire Services Division

**Senator E. I. Onwokae** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he is aware that the Chief Fire Officer in the Fire Services Division does not recommend the Deputy Chief Fire Officer to act for him whenever he goes on vacation leave; and when the post of Chief Fire Officer will be Nigerianised.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** The Chief Fire Officer is subject to the direction of the Federal Fire Commissioner who, in addition to other duties, is in overall command of the Federal Fire Service. The command is therefore not changed by the absence of the Chief Officer. The post of Chief Officer will be Nigerianised as soon as a suitable Nigerian is available.

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SESSION 1964-65

12th—14th, 16th, 20th March and 10th—11th, and 13th—14th April, 1964

### EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bills : Read First, Second or Third Time=1R, 2R, 3R

Com. = Committee    Q = Oral Question    Q = Written Question

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