

PROCEEDINGS AND

DEBATES

OF THE

FIRST ASSEMBLY

ANAMBRA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Volume 2

24th March to 23rd May, 1980

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 24th March, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, may I take this opportunity to welcome all of you back to the business of the House after a long recess. I wish to inform the House that from today there will be roll call every morning after prayers and also after adjournment of the day's business. This system has been necessitated by virtue of the fact that some hon. Members in the past got into the habit of signing in and out first thing in the morning and then disappearing. This has to be checked if we must comply with the constitutional provisions.

The committees which could not present their reports are expected to do so by Wednesday this week. The delegation to the United States of America is back and members of the delegation will be expected to give written reports of areas assigned to them by Friday this week. Constituency reports from hon. Members are expected to be in the Speaker's office by Friday this week.

Honourable Members will meet the Majority and Minority Leaders after the normal session today.

Chairmen of all the Standing Committees will meet in the Speaker's office at 3 p.m. I repeat: all the Chairmen are to meet in the Speaker's office at 3 p.m.

The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources will also meet at 2 p.m. in the Deputy Speaker's office.

ROLL CALL

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members would please answer present when their names are called. In future, this rather burdensome method of me calling and hon. Members answering, will of course be replaced by hon. Members pressing a button on their

chairs at the appointed hour and that will be regarded as marking the hon. Members present and once the roll call is over, the computer will also be switched off. We were informed that the computer system will be installed from Lagos at no distant date.

Present

Agballah, O. P.
Agbo, E. A.
Agbo, J. N.
Akunne, J. O.
Anyabuiké, D. C.
Azegba, F.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Chukwuka, C. E.
Chukwuka, G. B. C.
Didigu, S. O.
Ede, S. N. O.
Egbe, P. J. N.
Egwuonwu, M. N.
Ekuma, N.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Eneje, J.
Enendu, G. A.
Eze, P. I.
Ezenwa, A. N.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Ezeugwu, M. I.
Idoko, B. C.
Igboka, G. N.
Igwe, M. O.
Ikeoha, D. C.
Itanyi, E. A.
Macduhu, E. J.
Mba, B. O.
Mbaso, L. A.
Morah, O. C.
Ngene, D. O.
Njoku, L.
Nnaeto, A. O.
Nnaji, C. O.
Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
Nwambeke, P.
Nwafor, G. C.
Nwobodo, N. O.
Nwofor, F. C.
Nworah, D. C.
Obah, M. C.
Obiekwe, I.
Obeta, S.
Obuna, A. A.
Ogbodo, S. J.
Ogbuka, C. J.

[MR SPEAKER]

Odo, A.
 Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
 Ojemeni, S. O.
 Ojukwu, M. C. O.
 Okeke, B. C. N.
 Okeke, C. E.
 Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
 Okoye, G. R.
 Okoye, F. N.
 Okoye, V. C.
 Okpaga, A. E.
 Omeje, E. P. I.
 Omeke, A.
 Onyefuru, G. N. C.
 Onyido, S. I.
 Opata, C. U.
 Ozoekwem, S. N.
 Udeani, H. C.
 Ugoh, O. M.
 Ugwuokpe, W.
 Umeaba, W.
 Unabia, P. U.
 Unigwe, F. B.

Absent

Alor, S. N.
 Emehelu, C. O.
 Emodi, F. C.
 Iburu, N. A.
 Ikeh, B. O.
 Igwe, F. E.
 Odife, S. E.
 Ogbaga, A. U.
 Okafor, S. N.
 Okeke, A. O. C. S.
 Okonkwo, L.
 Osita, R. A.
 Ottah, A. O.
 Udeorah, S. J.
 Umunna, F. O.

Mr Speaker: I wish to clarify that hon. Members will need two presents to make a full day's present.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Flyovers for Enugu Urban

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): **Mr Speaker** Sir, I rise to propose the Motion standing in my name:

That this House urges the Executive to press upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to construct overhead bridges at all

the Railway Crossings within Enugu Urban Area in the financial year 1980 in order to reduce the rate of holdups already seriously affecting the business life of the State as a whole.

We all know the hardships encountered by both pedestrians and motorists in the township of Enugu which is the show-piece of Anambra State. We know what it costs the whole population in both time and money, knowing too well that time is money. The most glaring of it all is the effect of the holdups in the peak hours of the morning when school children go to school and in the afternoon when they return. We know the ordeal they encounter in trying to cross the roads. We all know what it means to civil servants going to work. Majority of the civil servants reach their offices between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. instead of 7.30 a.m. as is the rule.

In order to reduce this hardship, it become very necessary to urge the Nigerian Railway Corporation whose duty it is, to put up these flyovers or overhead bridges in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people and improve the economy of the whole country and Anambra State in particular. The go-slow hampers movement of both pedestrians and traffic as I have said and the flyovers, if constructed, will help us a great deal.

We know the handicap of the people of Anambra State since the war ended, compared to what we were before the war; what Enugu was looked upon as. Enugu was ranked as first or second to Lagos in the provision of amenities, in sanitation, and in the provision of infrastructure. But since after the war, devastation has not been erased from our urban towns and added to this is the neglect by the military of the people of Anambra State by denying us all what was our due from 1970 up to October, 1979. To stress our needs, it is necessary, I may suggest, that we lead a strong delegation to the Federal Government, personified by the President, to look upon Anambra State as a neglected area deserving urgent attention. The accord of the Nigerian Peoples Party and the National Party of Nigeria, if it is anything to go by, should be called upon to rectify the evils and bad management of Anambra State since the war ended.

This Motion is supposed to be a very short one since I know that it affects everybody here. Apart from affecting us, it affects everybody who comes to Enugu, both young and old, the poor and the rich.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to second the Motion of flyovers for Enugu Municipality. The talk of these flyovers is not a new thing in Enugu. We have been crying everyday of congestion. I experience this because I live near a railway crossing. If the suffering of the people, not only motorists but almost everybody who passes through that area is to be alleviated, I think this Motion needs nothing but an "Okay", because the experience of driving along our roads is that in every fifteen minutes you must get blocked by a railway gate. In fact we should build the flyovers if we are in a position to fund it, for there is nothing we can do to ease public movement expect providing them with roads to go to their places of work and come back, especially civil servants.

A worker may stand at a gate for more than two hours waiting for the train to pass. It may eventually turn out to be a trolley that is passing. In fact the most annoying thing is that the gate will be closed thirty minutes before the time and people will start to queue from Uwani to Coal Camp in order to find a way. As far as we know, Enugu is just like a roundabout movement. You can never slot from this side to the other side. So, once this gate is closed, in fact it becomes a total black-out on all sides. You cannot move from Uwani to the Secretariat or even to this area without crossing a railway line. And I think the present railway lines are outdated for this township. They are not supposed to be in the centre of this township without providing an easy passage to others. The Railway authorities, as I see them, do not care for other transport users.

So I am seconding this Motion very well and ask this honourable House to see that this is not a Motion we pass and it dies there. We should make this Motion a specific one because if you go to Lagos, you cannot suffer this kind of thing, go to Kano, you see them, underground. I do not need to mention overseas where train goes its own way and you do

not even know that a train is passing. But they are all Railway Corporations. Nigerian Railway Corporation is not different from other Railway Corporations. So we must therefore take a cue from others to pick up.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to stop so far. Thank you very much.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I think the issue of railway crossing here in this context is giving a dog a bad name in order to hang it. I do not think that the hold-ups as we find in the town, are solely as a result of railway crossing. The point is that the society has learnt to exist without regard to regulation or law. If you create a road that could take five lanes at a time, you would still discover that the 'go-slow' continues. Build overhead bridges above all railway crossings in the town and you will discover that the remedy is not yet in sight. It would all mean pursuing will-o-the-wisp which would land us at the point where we started. What is more, building overhead bridges across the railway crossings in the town does not seem to be our priority at this time. In fact, I would have supported this Motion if it had been directed towards asking the Nigerian Railway Corporation to move away entirely from the town. This is possible because you could link Emene through the new Abakaliki express road and connect at Amichi. In fact, it would even cost less than building overhead bridges over all railway crossings in the town.

So, Mr Speaker, I want to oppose the Motion; firstly because it is not our priority and secondly because it will not solve the problem. We have got to amend our attitude to the use of highways before you could get vehicles moving in our towns. Thirdly, the best thing is to prepare a Motion asking the Railway to quit the town so that the whole issue of the Railway monopolizing some large acres of land in the town and so causing the said inconveniences will no longer be there. I beg to oppose.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker for offering me this opportunity to contribute in support of the Motion. I am speaking in support of the Motion because whatever we need in this world, our safety ranks first. Whatever

[MR MBASO]

amenities we require, we need to be safe first before we get the amenities. Therefore, if we die, probably because of hypertension after having waited for a long time at the railway crossings or other crossings in the town, then it means that we have not enjoyed what we need on earth or what we expect to enjoy.

Nobody ever passes through life twice, even the novels or the books on anthropology have never told us this. So whatever we know we can do to enhance our well being, whatever we can do to improve the lot of our own existence, we have to endeavour to do that while on earth because we cannot pass here twice. If fly-overs are built across railway crossings, I will handle that of railway crossings first, it will ease hold-ups. It will actually ease movements and congestions in the town. It will even help to rid us of the danger of pick pockets and other people who are car thieves. There are about three or four points where we have hold-ups whenever trains are coming. Not only trains, even though trains pass very often here, but there are hold-ups when what we call trolleys pass, the tanker or the motor-rail and other things that move on rail.

Whenever they pass, whether passenger train or goods train, there are generally hold-ups. Therefore, if there are fly-overs, because it will be quite expensive to construct tunnels, they will facilitate decongestion and the hold-ups. Also Sir, we are very lucky we have not experienced the tragedy of trains colliding with cars in this part of the country. That has been existing in other parts of the country and we have been reading about them in other parts of Nigeria and even in other countries. So we don't have to wait until we experience that before we try to wriggle out of the possible dangers because once they are losses in human lives and property, I don't think that there is any other thing we are living here for. We live here to serve our God and ourselves and die when our bodies are too weak to fight disease.

Whenever there are hold-ups, we waste time and there is an adage which says that time is money. We cannot, under normal circumstances, and with sane minds, try to lose what we have gathered together, probably under rains. So we don't need to waste whatever

money we have gathered through the toil and sweat of our day to day existence. Since time is money and we make money and don't want to waste it, we have to conserve and preserve time so that our money will also be conserved and preserved. One can imagine the heat, the tension and the loss of time that are usually involved during hold-ups. Some people drop out after some time. We heard the story of a prominent citizen of Imo State in the fifties who dropped at the hold-up in Lagos. We all know him. His own made history because he was a prominent person. There are other people who drop out.

And it is also my humble contention that when we are asking for the construction of fly-overs in Enugu we have also to think of constructing other overhead bridges where people can cross the busiest parts of the roads in the town. For example, if one wants to cross to Abakpa-Nike from the Abakaliki express road, probably around one o'clock or between seven and seven-thirty in the evening one has to spend all the time on earth waiting and has to risk it at least to try and with what some of the taxi drivers do one could actually end up in the mortuary and nobody will ever like to do that. Therefore anything that constitutes danger to life and property of individuals should be removed and the constant and incessant delays along our roads because of hold-ups resultant from trains coming in and going out are detestable and in order to make sure that such detestable things are removed from the social problem of our existence in the towns, we have to find a way to wriggle out. So the construction of fly-overs, and overhead bridges will help to alleviate most of our sufferings.

In conclusion, I will say that in order to safeguard our lives and property, we construct all these things because life is the greatest treasure one has on earth; so let us preserve our lives and property by trying to wriggle out of difficulties such as the hold-ups we have in the towns.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr S. J. Ogbodo (Enugu East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion—
That this House urges the Executive to press upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to direct the Nigerian Railway

Corporation to construct overhead bridges at all the railway crossings within Enugu Urban Area in the financial year 1980 in order to reduce the rate of hold-ups already seriously affecting the business life of the State as a whole.

You know that what is happening in Enugu is enough proof that we actually need fly-overs. For example, this railway line across Enugu is just in the middle of the town and if you observe exactly when there is a hold-up in Enugu you will see actually that with this fly-over, the congestion will be lessened. Again in the morning if there is a hold-up in Enugu you must know that the cause comes from a train passing from any of the directions in Enugu. Say for example, coming to Ogbete area, when a train is passing, they will close that railway crossing there. Then at Uwani, they will close the gate there as well, so that there will be a hold-up at Uwani and then there will be another hold-up at Ogbete market. Then coming to the other side of Enugu, if you are going to Emene side from New Haven side, there will be a hold-up. Then if you are moving down to Emene the gate will be closed because the train is going in the same direction. So I believe that the introduction of these overhead bridges in Enugu will lessen the congestion in the town.

And not only that, I will like other link roads to be introduced in Enugu, say, like building a fly-over bridge at *mili-ani* side if you are going to Ogui Urban Area, that is, Urban Area linking Ogui Road. Then if you are going from Uli Street, there will be another fly-over there so as to lessen the congestion. So I am in full support that with the introduction of these over-head bridges across the railway lines, congestion in Enugu township will be eased. With this, I support the Motion. Thank you.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I rise to give a double support to the Motion. In the first instance, to think that fly-overs are not our priorities, I will say, is an erroneous thinking because roads are our priorities. *Ipsa facto*, fly-overs are our priorities. The presence of the railway crossing in the heart of Enugu has constituted a menace to all road users. In the first place, you are to remember that Enugu is

already bisected by valleys so that it becomes very difficult to go from one part of Enugu to the other without necessarily passing the railway crossing. And it is high time the corporation which derives its fame from Enugu, through the coal which was essentially the power used by the Railway Corporation, thought seriously of improving the conditions of this capital city.

If you can imagine the amount of damage that is done economically by the sort of delays we have here and yonder, all over the town, I do not think that you will hesitate to support that fly-overs be built, not only fly-overs over the railway crossings but over the valleys because Enugu as it were is disjointed; each section lives on its own without having regard or knowing of the existence of the other. I think that with these fly-overs, there will be less congestion. It is very clear and everybody agrees, because somebody who was opposing it suggested taking all the railways off the township. That is, he agrees that the railway crossing helps to enhance the delays we have. With these fly-overs, everybody will come to enjoy and there will be easy passage from one part of Enugu to another. With this very short contribution, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr P. Nwambeke (Abakaliki East): I beg to oppose this Motion. In the first place, I think we are going to do the right thing at the wrong time. This is the time when we say we want improved condition of roads in the rural areas. There are places in Anambra State, where people cannot walk, not to talk of riding bicycle or driving a car in the rainy season.

Several hon. Members: Where?

Mr Nwambeke: Abakaliki for instance. We have got no roads at all and you are talking of fly-overs in Enugu where people are moving.

An hon. Member: Say it loud!

Mr D. C. Anyabuiké (Awgu East): On a point of Order!

Several hon. Members: Order what?

Mr Anyabuiké: Order 26 (2). The hon. Member is talking of modernization of a place like Abakaliki and is asserting that it is a waste to have these fly-over bridges over the railway. But according to the tone of this Motion, the

[MR ANYABUIKE]

Mover is asking the Federal Government, through the Executive to direct the Railway Corporation to construct a flyover in Enugu Urban and not in urban towns like Abakaliki and something like that . . . (Laughter). With this I am opposing . . . (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Awgu East (*Mr Anyabuiké*) has done well to develop the argument but certainly the hon. Gentleman is within the debate. Your point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Nwambeke: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. The trouble with us Nigerians is that we are always in a hurry. If people were to use the roads as they are supposed to, I do not think there will be too much congestion on the roads. We are talking about the railway crossing only. What happens about the crossing at the Ogui Road/Abakaliki Road junction where the crossing is not affecting the movement of transport? We still have congestion! We still have hold-ups! The fact is that some people are unnecessarily in a hurry. They push in their cars, they want to take their turn where they are not supposed to and so cause obstruction and then there is a hold-up. That is not caused by railway crossing; we cause that one ourselves. If you build flyovers, people will still be in a hurry; there will be more accidents because they will feel that the road is now safe for them. They drive faster and they will fly. (Laughter).

We have no water at Enugu, the capital city of Anambra State, not to talk of other places. No light! Why not divert this money that will be used for flyovers to build other essential amenities.

Several hon. Members: Federal! Federal!

Mr Nwambeke: It is Federal, but light is also Federal. It can be directed that way. I do not think that what we need most now is flyover. Let us do the right thing at the right time. Thank you.

Mr J. Eneje (Ezeagu Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I am among the supporters of this Motion. If we are going to blame the railway because they established their station in the centre of the town, we are wrong there I think, because the railway is very old in Enugu. It has been

staying there before some of us were born. And for us now to site it away from the present place is out of question. Another point is that if we try to do many things at a time, we can never get them done. In my own point of view, to build overhead or flyovers, there are two points in it and to face facts about the traffic in Enugu, so many people commit road offences wilfully.

About the financial aspect of it, so far as the money is coming from the Federal Government, I do not think that there will be any problem. It will not be necessary for us to belabour this matter. So, I support the question of flyover. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to stop.

Mr C. U. Opatá (Nsukka South): Mr Speaker, while this Motion has been brought up with the best of intentions and motives, I am sorry to say that it has some technical problems and because of the technicalities involved, I stand here to oppose the Motion. I agree that there is the need for flyovers in certain parts of Enugu, but also I know that Enugu is a town in Anambra State and there is a particular government that is responsible for the roads in the townships in its area of domain.

Secondly, this Motion is urging the State Executive to pray the Federal Government to ask the Railway Corporation to build flyovers along the level-crossings within Enugu urban area. I think that the type of flyover in this Motion stands as a sort of road network and it is the responsibility of the Railway Corporation of this country to design ordinary road network.

Thirdly, I do not think that all the roads within any urban area are Federal roads. If all of them are Federal roads, then the Motion would have been: "To ask the Federal Government to build flyovers across these roads". Then, as these roads are not Federal roads, it is the responsibility of the State Government, within its financial resources, to build flyovers along the State roads. If you go to page 96 of the Constitution, Schedule 2, Exclusive List, number 8, the roads reserved for the Federal Government are listed there and I do not think that all these roads that have railway crossings are among them. So, I am saying that inasmuch as there is an urgent need, not ordinary need, to have flyovers in Enugu, this Motion should be redesigned to bring out

what we want, direct it to the State Government or single out those areas that are within the competence of the Federal Government and ask them for it.

So, on this ground, I am opposing the Motion. Thank you.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg that this Motion be referred to the Committee on Works, so that it will be either recast or make it have a different meaning to avoid the intention the Mover has in presenting it. So, with this, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: That this Motion be referred; any support that this Motion be referred?

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second what has just been moved by the Majority Leader. In my own mind, this Motion is ambiguous and if we continue to debate it, we may not come out with anything reasonable. So, I suggest that the Motion should be recast and it is my suggestion too that the Federal Government should urge the Nigerian Railway Corporation to build a railway station outside Enugu. I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: Anybody supporting?

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, I support the views put up by the Majority Leader that this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee and to offer that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to take care of all the roads in all the State Capitals in this Federation. While I am standing on this, I also say that the responsibility of asking the Federal Government to build flyovers is that of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Wherever there is railway crossing the road, it is the responsibility of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to ask the Federal Government to build a flyover. This is the only point I want to raise so that whatever committee is handling this Motion, will take this fact into consideration.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Is it the view of this House that the Question be put on the Motion of the Majority Leader?

Several hon. Members: Yes.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion accordingly referred.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, we have an august visitor in our midst this morning and he is no less a personality than Senator William Jefferson. He is a Senator in the Senate of the State of Louisiana in the United States of America. Senator Jefferson was one of the Black Americans who received in Baton Rouge, Capital of Louisiana, the Parliamentary delegations from here.

Later on, as I said earlier, Members of this delegation will be reporting to you on the outcome of our visit to the United States of America. But I think I will like to say, at this juncture, that the delegation was particularly received in each of the States by the black corps, that is the Black Americans in the legislatures. They always have their own group meetings which they call Black Corpsoers. Senator Jefferson happens to be one of the distinguished Black Americans in one of the Senates in the United States of America. We are happy he is here with us. Please show your . . . (Applause).

At the end of this morning's session, Senator Jefferson will be around on the Floor of the Chamber for hon. Members who may want to ask one or two questions. He will be here untill afternoon today when he flies back to Lagos. He is really here on a visit not very much connected with the legislature, but since his business brought him to Enugu and to Nigeria and he had made contact with Legislators from Anambra State, he had to find time to fly into Enugu to see us here and have the opportunity of watching us in session. We say a big welcome to brother Senator Jefferson. You are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow 10 o'clock. Mr Speaker, in moving this Motion for adjournment, I think it is very, very late of we to have not made any statement with regard to the assignment of the Liaison Officer in this humble State.

Please Mr Speaker, I have a special view about this, but I think the Nigerian Government is trying to demonstrate the democracy

[MR ANYABUIKE]
Mover is asking the Federal Government, through the Executive to direct the Railway Corporation to construct a flyover in Enugu Urban and not in urban towns like Abakaliki and something like that . . . (Laughter). With this I am opposing . . . (Interruptions).

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Mr Nwambeke: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. The trouble with us Nigerians is that we are always in a hurry. If people were to use the roads as they are supposed to, I do not think there will be too much congestion on the roads. We are talking about the railway crossing only. What happens about the crossing at the Ogui Road/Abakaliki Road junction where the crossing is not affecting the movement of transport? We still have congestion! We still have hold-ups! The fact is that some people are unnecessarily in a hurry. They push in their cars, they want to take their turn where they are not supposed to and so cause obstruction and then there is a hold-up. That is not caused by railway crossing; we cause that one ourselves. If you build flyovers, people will still be in a hurry; there will be more accidents because they will feel that the road is now safe for them. They drive faster and they will fly. (Laughter).

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what we want, direct it to the State Government or single out those areas that are within the competence of the Federal Government and ask them for it.

So, on this ground, I am opposing the Motion. Thank you.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg that this Motion be referred to the Committee on Works, so that it will be either recast or make it have a different meaning to avoid the intention the Mover has in presenting it. So, with this, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: That this Motion be referred: any support that this Motion be referred?

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second what has just been moved by the Majority Leader. In my own mind, this Motion is ambiguous and if we continue to debate it, we may not come out with anything reasonable. So, I suggest that the Motion should be recast and it is my suggestion too that the Federal Government should urge the Nigerian Railway Corporation to build a railway station outside Enugu. I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: Anybody supporting?

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, I support the views put up by the Majority Leader that this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee and to offer that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to take care of all the roads in all the State Capitals in this Federation. While I am standing on this, I also say that the responsibility of asking the Federal Government to build flyovers is that of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Wherever there is railway crossing the road, it is the responsibility of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to ask the Federal Government to build a flyover. This is the only point I want to raise so that whatever committee is handling this Motion, will take this fact into consideration.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Is it the view of this House that the Question be put on the Motion of the Majority Leader?

Several hon. Members: Yes.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion accordingly referred.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, we have an august visitor in our midst this morning and he is no less a personality than Senator William Jefferson. He is a Senator in the Senate of the State of Louisiana in the United States of America. Senator Jefferson was one of the Black Americans who received in Baton Rouge, Capital of Louisiana, the Parliamentary delegations from here.

Later on, as I said earlier, Members of this delegation will be reporting to you on the outcome of our visit to the United States of America. But I think I will like to say, at this juncture, that the delegation was particularly received in each of the States by the black corpors, that is the Black Americans in the legislatures. They always have their own group meetings which they call Black Corpors. Senator Jefferson happens to be one of the distinguished Black Americans in one of the Senates in the United States of America. We are happy he is here with us. Please show your . . . (*Applause*).

At the end of this morning's session, Senator Jefferson will be around on the Floor of the Chamber for hon. Members who may want to ask one or two questions. He will be here untill afternoon today when he flies back to Lagos. He is really here on a visit not very much connected with the legislature, but since his business brought him to Enugu and to Nigeria and he had made contact with Legislators from Anambra State, he had to find time to fly into Enugu to see us here and have the opportunity of watching us in session. We say a big welcome to brother Senator Jefferson. You are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow 10 o'clock. Mr Speaker, in moving this Motion for adjournment, I think it is very, very late of we to have not made any statement with regard to the assignment of the Liaison Officer in this humble State.

Please Mr Speaker, I have a special view about this, but I think the Nigerian Government is trying to demonstrate the democracy

[MAJORITY LEADER]
and I think we have as well, freedom of speech. I have seen that it wasn't very nice of the President to have by-passed my humble Party which runs the government of Anambra State as of now, and posted the so-called Liaison Officer without any consultation. Mr Speaker Sir, I think I have mandate and if each and everyone of us has mandate from our respective constituencies because we are representing a group of people, I have never seen how a full-fledged person will just go into the Ogbete market to buy a dog which that person doesn't train and bring it into his family to have as a domestic animal. Please Mr Speaker, in fact, it is not to my own Party's interest and it is not to the interest of the electorates who have given us mandate to care for this State for at least four years.

Mr Speaker, I am not happy about it and I pray the Federal Government to remove whoever it might have sent in, if at all someone has been sent in as Liaison Officer and give us mandate, if it is necessary or important to have a Liaison Officer. I think the Nigerian People's Party Government in Anambra State is competent enough to select whoever it may think is competent and reliable. With this Sir, I move.

Collapsed Bridge

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I want to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the State Ministry of Works to a bad development in my home constituency where a bridge linking Abatete and Alor has collapsed. I am saying this because I know that one might say, well the local government would come in and do something, but because of the urgency, it is necessary that the State Ministry of Works be alerted about it instead of merely leaving it alone to the local government. Alor has no other outlet to Onitsha except through this road that passes through Abatete and it is important. Most of the people there live in Onitsha and do work there and if this bridge is not reconstructed immediately, it is going to bring hardship to the people of Nnokwa and Alor.

Secondly, I want to take this opportunity to point out that we have had the misfortune of a contractor who would not take off; would not do his work, constructing the road from Nkpor

Junction across Umuoji to Nnobi. This road was supposed to have been finished in July, 1979. But this contractor closed the road, since January and people no longer pass conveniently there; he is not doing the work. He has tarred only about ten poles of the road from Nkpor Junction and we are pleading that we are suffering because the hinterland area there cannot get to Onitsha where we purchase our food and do business. There is no way we can move out except going round through Amawbia. I think this is a lot of hardship.

In the case of the people of Umuoji, they have to re-route and go through Njikoka before they start going to Onitsha except one has to stay for hours there. We are pleading that this contractor be asked to save us the heart-ache. The contract can be re-awarded since the contractor is incapable of doing the work.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Poor Construction of Buildings

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Motion for adjournment and in doing so, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House through Mr Speaker to a dangerous development within our building industry. The contractors to the best of my knowledge, want all the money on earth, but they will not do the job assigned to them. There are two glaring cases of houses collapsing here and there. In fact, there are more than two cases of houses collapsing within our society here. Go to Independence Avenue, there is a house of four floors collapsed even to its very foundation. Blessed be God, no life was lost and two days after, another one not quite far from the one that collapsed, also collapsed. I went there—I am not a building engineer, nor did I do structural engineering, but I found, as a layman, in that field, that the mixture was so poor, the rods used in constructing the house were either so small that it becomes now dangerous that such things should be allowed to continue.

Mr Speaker Sir, I think that this forum be used to warn those people concerned, otherwise, we shall take steps to blacklist any contractor whose work has brought us this kind of dangerous mishap. I think a stop must be put to this method of amassing wealth without any job done and with this, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Just before I put the question, I would like to suggest to the honourable House that the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoh*) should initiate a Bill to check contractors who make poor mixtures in concreting. Tomorrow hon. Members will sign out at the gate. The roll call will be done in the morning at the table, and when we adjourn, hon. Members will sign as they leave the Chamber.

For now, I shall do the roll call.

Roll Call

Present

Hon. Agbo, E. A.
 Hon. Anyabuiké, D. C.
 Hon. Azegba, F.
 Hon. Chinwuba, R. A.
 Hon. Chukwuka, C. E.
 Hon. Chukwuka, G. B. C.
 Hon. Didigu, S. O.
 Hon. Ede, S. N. O.
 Hon. Egwuonwu, M. N.
 Hon. Ekuma, N.
 Hon. Emehelu, C. O.
 Hon. Emodi, F. C.
 Hon. Eneje, J.
 Hon. Enendu, G. A.
 Hon. Ezenwa, A. N.
 Hon. Ezeugwu, M. I.
 Hon. Idoko, B. C.
 Hon. Igboka, G. N.
 Hon. Igwe, M. O.
 Hon. Ikeh, B. O.
 Hon. Ikeoha, D. C.
 Hon. Itanyi, E. A.
 Hon. Macduhu, E. J.
 Hon. Mbah, B. O.
 Hon. Mbaso, L. A.
 Hon. Morah, O. C.
 Hon. Ngene, D. O.
 Hon. Nnaeto, A. O.
 Hon. Nnaji, C. O.
 Hon. Nwafor, G. C.
 Hon. Nwambeke, P.
 Hon. Nwofor, F. C.
 Hon. Nworah, D. C.
 Hon. Obeta, S.
 Hon. Obiekwe, I.
 Hon. Obuna, A. A.
 Hon. Odo, A.
 Hon. Ogbodo, S. J.
 Hon. Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
 Hon. Ogbuka, C. J.

Hon. Ojemeni, S. O.
 Hon. Ojukwu, M. C. O.
 Hon. Okeke, B. C. N.
 Hon. Okeke, C. E.
 Hon. Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
 Hon. Okoye, F. N.
 Hon. Okoye, V. C.
 Hon. Okpaga, A. E.
 Hon. Omeje, E. P. I.
 Hon. Omeke, A.
 Hon. Onyefuru, G. N. C.
 Hon. Onyido, S. I.
 Hon. Opata, C. U.
 Hon. Ottah, A. O.
 Hon. Ozoekwem, S. N.
 Hon. Udeani, H. C.
 Hon. Ugoh, O. M.
 Hon. Ugwuokpe, W.
 Hon. Umeaba, W.
 Hon. Umunna, F. O.
 Hon. Unigwe, F. B.

Absent:

Hon. Agbo, J. N.
 Hon. Akunne, J. O.
 Hon. Alor, S. N.
 Hon. Egbe, P. J. N.
 Hon. Ekwealor, B. A.
 Hon. Eze, P. I.
 Hon. Ezenwaka, T. N.
 Hon. Iburu, N. A.
 Hon. Igwe, F. E.
 Hon. Njoku, L.
 Hon. Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
 Hon. Nwafor, G. C.
 Hon. Nwobodo, N. O.
 Hon. Obah, M. C.
 Hon. Odife, S. E.
 Hon. Ogbaga, A. U.
 Hon. Okafor, S. N.
 Hon. Okonkwo, L.
 Hon. Osita, R. A.
 Hon. Udeorah, S. J.
 Hon. Unabia, P. U.

Excused:

Hon. Agballah, O. P.
 Hon. Okeke, A. O. C. S.
 Hon. Okoye, G. R.

ANNOUNCEMENT

[MR SPEAKER]

Order ! Order ! Honourable Members you will please remember to wait behind and have a chat with hon. Senator William Jefferson, and also your meeting with the Leaders of the Majority and the Minority here in the Chamber.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjour till tomorrow 10 o'clock.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.00 noon.

out, put

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 25th March, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ROLL CALL

Several hon. Members: No roll call!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I am calling the roll.

Present:

Agballah, Ogbuiboo P.

Anyabuike, D. C.

Udeani, H. C.

Declined to respond

Agbo, E. A.

Agbo, J. N.

Akunne, J. O.

Alor, S. N.

Azegba, F.

Chinwuba, R. A.

Chukwuka, C. E.

Chukwuka, G. B. C.

Didigu, S. O.

Ede, S. N. O.

Egbe, P. J. N.

Egwuonwu, M. N.

Ekuma, N.

Ekwealor, B. A.

Emehelu, C. O.

Emodi, F. C. (Madam).

Eneje, J.

Enendu, G. A.

Eze, P. I.

Ezenwa, A. N.

Ezenwaka, T. N.

Ezeugwu, M. I.

Iburu, N. A.

Idoko, B. C.

Igboka, G. N.

Igwe, F. E.

Igwe, M. O.

Ikeh, B. O.

Ikeoha, D. C.

Itanyi, E. A.

Macduhu, E. J.

Mbah, B. O.

Mbaso, L. A.

Morah, O. C.

Ngene, D. O.

Njoku, I.

Nnaeto, A. O.

Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.

Nwafor, A. N.

Nwafor, G. C.

Nwambeke, P.

Nwobodo, N. O.

Nwofor, F. C.

Nworah, D. C.

Obah, M. C.

Obeta, S.

Obiekwe, I.

Obuna, A. A.

Odife, S. E.

Odo, A.

Ogbaga, A. U.

Ogbodo, S. J.

Ogbuagu, F. M. O.

Ogbuka, C. J.

Ojemeni, S. O.

Ojukwu, M. C. O.

Okafor, S. N.

Okeke, A. O. C. S.

Okeke, B. C. N.

Okeke, C. E.

Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.

Okonkwo, L.

Okoye, F. N.

Okoye, G. R.

Okoye, V. C.

Okpaga, A. E.

Omeje, E. P. I.

Omeke, A.

Onyefuru, G. N. C.

Onyido, S. I.

Opata, C. U.

Osita, R. A.

Ottah, A. O.

Ozoekwem, S. N.

Udeorah, S. J.

Ugoh, O. M.

Ugwuokpe, W.

Umeaba, W.

Umunna, F. O.

Unabia, P. U.

Unigwe, F. B.

[THE DEPUTY SPEAKER]

(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members: No quorum !

The Deputy Speaker: I wish to remind hon. Members that there cannot be two presiding officers.

(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members: No quorum ! No quorum ! . . . (Laughter).

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! The first item on the Calendar is Question for Oral Answer. There is a letter from the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Culture to the Clerk of the House. The letter reads thus—

To: The Clerk of the House,
State House of Assembly,

From: The Deputy Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Social Development,
Youth and Culture.

The Hon. Commissioner for Social Development, Youth and Culture has asked me to tell you that she will appear before the House today at 1.00 p.m. to answer orally the question relating to her Ministry. She cannot turn up at 10.00 a.m. as originally scheduled because she is attending a meeting at the Government House.

Grateful relay the information to the House.
Thanks.

(Signed) H. Chukwudolue,
Secretary (S.D.Y.C.)
Ministry of Social Development,
Youth and Culture,
Enugu.

25th March, 1980.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! My remark here is that we should regard it that she did not want to attend because we can't wait after 1 p.m. so that she can answer the question. We may re-schedule it for another day.

Order ! Can the members of the Press please leave us. Clear the gallery, please.

Order ! The House now stands at ease.

Sitting suspended 10.15 a.m.

Sitting resumed 11.15 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker: I have taken the roll call and the House cannot continue with the business of the day because it has not formed a quorum, so the House stands adjourned.

And there being no quorum, the Deputy Speaker adjourned sitting of the House at 11.17 a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 8 (2) till tomorrow, 10. a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 26th March, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, it has come to my notice that yesterday, hon. Members reacted sharply to the new system of roll call by refusing to answer their names whilst the Deputy Speaker was presiding. Honourable Members are opposed to the calling of names or roll call. I am satisfied that hon. Members are in full support that adequate and fair record of attendance be kept in this House. To achieve this, and in response to the popular view of Members, it will now be necessary for hon. Members to sign-in a register in the mornings between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and sign-out between 12.45 p.m. or as soon as a Motion for adjournment of the day's sitting is tabled before the House and 1.30 p.m. Exception will be taken on Monday mornings when Members will sign-in from 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and on Fridays when members may sign-in from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and sign out from 11.45 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The erroneous impression given in yesterday's issue of one of the dailies is regretted. Honourable Members are no truants. (*Applause*).

REPORT FROM THE STANDING
ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker: Has every hon. Member got a copy of the report from the Standing Orders Committee, please? Honourable Members, the copies are in your pigeon holes. If you checked in this morning, I am sure you would have collected them.

Honourable Members, now that everyone has got the report of the Standing Orders Committee, I do formally present the report.

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the report should be considered for adoption on Friday

28th of March, 1980. In moving for the consideration for the adoption of the report, I wish also to appeal that the report should be considered and adopted that day to enable us use it in going through the Bills that will be coming to this House especially the Appropriation Bill. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, while agreeing with the propositions made, I will request that the days given for the document to be considered by the House, be extended. In other words to push off the consideration till say Tuesday next week, as it is a voluminous document.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): I am associating myself with the view expressed by the hon. Minority Leader and in doing so I proffer as my reason that this document is a very voluminous one and the contents will regulate our activities in this House and I wouldn't like us to be rushed. So we should take time to go through the document, so that during the consideration, we will be able to contribute effectively. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr G. N. Igboka (Njikoka Central West): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting what the last speaker, the hon. Member for Aguata West has said, it is fair, and having taken the committee almost five months to produce this document, it will take this House at least some bit of time to go through it, so that if you say Friday, Friday is rather brief. I would prefer sometime next week, say Tuesday, is quite appropriate. Since it is going to be something that will guide our ways of talking, movement and everything in this legislature, I think we had better give it some due extension so that Members can go through it thoroughly. Mr Speaker, that is my opinion.

Question, That the Standing Orders Committee Report be adopted for consideration on Friday the 28th of March, 1980 put and negatived.

Mr Speaker: Suggest a date.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, I am suggesting that two days be allocated for the consideration of the report of the Standing Orders Committee. The days I am

[MR DIDIGU]
suggesting are Monday and Tuesday next week.
Thank you, Mr Speaker,

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I don't want to pretend that I can go through this document within three days or four, and I don't want to disturb my Easter holiday. I think the best date for the consideration of this document should be 7th April—Monday next week. So that we use the Easter holiday to go through it.

Some hon. Members: 7th April is a public holiday.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to remind hon. Members that even though we have just got this document as amended today, we have since the inception of this House had a similar document which has been lying with us for over six months. As a matter of fact all we shall find in this document are mere amendments—the document had already been prepared and very well edited by the Clerk and the staff of this House. It is unfortunate we are seeing it as a brand new document as such. I don't think it is. It contains amendments alright, which will be easily noticed by hon. Members and it will be a pity really if the work of this House is impeded on the flimsy excuse that we are still studying the Standing Orders. I think the suggestion by the hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti West (*Mr Didigu*) has my support. Thank you.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. It is true really that we have had a document which we have been using since October; but we cannot amend what we have not read. We must read through, peruse and analyse, before ever we know and suggest whatever amendments we can do and make to any given document.

So Sir, we have been working all along, the delay in reading this would not in any way prejudice or hamper the progress of the working of this Assembly. We have been working since October 1, and nothing has gone wrong. So that we give this document ample opportunity for study and analysis which would do us good instead of bad and I am suggesting that instead of the 8th day of April as suggested by the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*), I am

suggesting 9th because by 8th the hangover of Easter Monday will still be holding a number of us and I can't see how we can do any meaningful job or make any useful contributions with those hangovers still at our back. With this Mr Speaker, I suggest 9th April . . .

Deputy Chief Whip: On a point of Information Sir, I would like to inform the House that this period being suggested is definitely going to conflict with the budget and as a matter of fact, this document has been presented and if hon. Members understood or appreciated the spirit with which the presenter of this document did it, the idea is to enable us use this document in our deliberations on the budget. The document I am referring to is not Standing Orders we have been using as or portended by the last speaker. . .

(*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Mr Speaker Sir, it is my humble view that we should be given enough time for the perusal of this document. As regards the fear being expressed by Members as to the coming budget, I think we all understand that the coming budget is the main budget and is not something that we should rush. If it takes us a month or two to finish, that wouldn't hamper the running of the government. There is constitutional provision where the Executive can fall back so that we will have time to go through this document. If we want to make use of it in considering the budget, I think we can still do so. I am supporting the person who suggested the 8th of April for us to consider this document so that on that day we will contribute effectively. By then, those of us who are interested in reading the document and analysing it would have done enough job on the document. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Minority Leader: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is one thing we would not like to have from now on, and this is stampeding us into action. This House must take its time in looking at every document that comes before it. If anybody knows anything in the budget that requires the House to rush its work, I am afraid we cannot do that. This is a document

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that will remain with us throughout the life of this Assembly unless amended, and as such, it must be considered with care and anything that will hinder the smooth running of the Assembly removed.

So, I am saying that the House requires some time to go through the document, even if it means going through it in a month, because after all said and done, considering the life of this Assembly and the life of the Assembly to come, because it is going to be the bible of everybody who is coming in here, we must be given an ample opportunity to go through it. That being the case, if it requires our considering the document, say, on the 8th, 9th and 10th of April, it will not hurt us.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: We have listened to contributions by hon. Members, but if we are to continue debating the Motion, any hon. Member can make a Motion stating the date in the terms it should be debated.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to move with the consent of this House and with your leave that this Draft Standing Orders placed before us be considered by this honourable House on the 8th and 9th of April, 1980. In moving this Motion, Sir, I have put into consideration all the views of the hon. Members, but I am inclined to agree with those who say that we need enough time to read and peruse and have proper understanding of the things contained in the Standing Orders. And I have also to consider the importance of this Standing Orders because the regulations therein contained will guide our lives and conduct within this honourable House.

Therefore, I do not see the reason for rushing over the matter whereas we have an alternative. As has been pointed out by the previous speakers, we are not bound to move or to go by this for whatever may come before the House, until we have said this is approved. We can rely on the existing Standing Orders until we get this approved.

So, I am moving, Sir, for all that has been said and for the reasons I have now hereby adduced that the 8th and 9th of April be the

dates set apart for this honourable House to consider the contents of this Draft Standing Orders.

I beg to move, Sir.

Mr L. Okonkwo (Awka North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion that the document bearing the Standing Orders for this honourable House be considered for adoption on the 8th and 9th of April. And in doing so, Mr Speaker Sir, it is necessary to emphasize that we should not rush over this document, knowing fully well that it is this document that is going to be, unless otherwise, our mandate, for the life of this House and even for the life of the House after this, and therefore, it needs time for consideration. Moreover, we do not delay in considering it in view of the fact that we anticipate some urgent work ahead during which we would like to use this document; because of that, I feel that 8th and 9th April will be alright for its consideration. I beg to second.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to oppose the dates given, and in opposing it, I am suggesting Thursday, 1st May, 1980 which is almost a month from the end of this month. This document is essential and it is very important. I do not want hon. Members to continue to make amendments on the document after we might have passed it. We have been using the old Standing Orders since October and I do not see why we should bother about this new one.

My idea of giving up to a month is for the Members to go home and read it line by line and have time again for the forthcoming Budget of the State, because giving us much work will conflict with the Budget. I think after the Budget we can have time to go home and rest at least Thursday and Friday.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion that the reading of this document be postponed to 8th, 9th and 10th of April because I feel that even though the document is voluminous, I feel that if we are really serious one can go through it between now and 8th of April, and in doing that we have to take into consideration that this document will help us a lot in considering the Budget that is coming. I will, therefore, support the Motion that this be read three days as mentioned above.

Thank you.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion of the Majority Leader that the document containing the amended Standing Orders be deferred till 1st of May. It is not necessary that this amended Standing Orders must be used for the forthcoming budget.

I do not know whether some hon. Members who are insisting or trying to stampede us into accepting the amended Standing Orders have already got an insight into what the budget is. And since we have considered the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 1979 and we used the old Standing Orders and it went through, if there is anything contained in the new budget that will require us to use the new Standing Orders, I think there is always a way out. It will not be late even if we give the budget another two months as an hon. Member here has clearly mentioned that there is a constitutional provision which actually stipulates that the Executive can at least draw as much as they had on the last budget until the new budget is approved. So if somebody really wanted to handle this document carefully and considering also other Bills, report from the Judiciary Committee and other reports we have got here, I think 1st May is not too far and I stand to support the Motion of the Majority Leader.

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand to support the Motion moved by the Majority Leader. The essence of allowing Members to deliberate on the amended Standing Orders is very, very important. We are going to be in this House for not less than three years from now. And I do not see why we should be in a hurry about the Standing Orders. This Standing Orders is going to be handed down to those who will come after we must have passed from this House of Assembly and it should be a document, that should be a first class document. So that we can during this one month deliberate by ourselves, by seeing the errors and mentioning the errors to any committee that will be appointed to look into it. If you rush it, you find out that tomorrow we start suspending one Standing Orders and it will bring some sort of confusion. It will look as if people are being used for purposes which they do not know.

So, I am of the view that we should be allowed enough and reasonable period of time so that by that time we come out with the document, we know we have got a good document for use.

Thank you.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, between now and 8th April is two weeks. Inasmuch as I believe that this document is a document of documents, if we give more time than necessary all the Members will lie fallow with the result that nobody will make time to study it. If we say that two weeks is not enough for an hon. Member to go through this document which is not more than a hundred pages, I wonder how serious the Member is. I am considering seriously the seriousness of this document and it should be given priority.

Considering the estimates, we defer the estimates and finish considering this one. So I am supporting the idea of setting aside the 8th and 9th and perhaps 10th of April to discuss this document. It is fundamental and the longer we postpone it, the more some damage may be done because we want it to go into operation as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to oppose the Motion that this document be considered on the 8th, 9th and perhaps 10th of April for one additional reason and I hope that when that particular Motion is disposed of, the Majority Leader may move his Motion because I do not think that two Motions stand at the same time on a topic.

In the first case, the one we are using— if you read the title there you see: 'Standing Orders of the House of Representatives 1962'. Those of you who are conversant with the Press are aware that this particular exercise is almost underway in the Senate and House of Representatives and extending it to May may help us to get a copy of their own so that we combine it with whatever we have here and produce the best.

So I am saying that we defer it and make use of the existing one to consider the Budget if it comes before then and allow some time

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to make more research and collect more documents which will be very relevant and vital to the document we are considering.

So, I oppose it and when it is disposed of, I am of the view that it be extended to May. Thank you.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to throw some more light on the argument for considering the document on the 8th and 9th. The last hon. Member who spoke referred to Standing Order 2 that refers to parliamentary system and in that document as we used during the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, we have not got any powers to amend a financial Bill. And it is relevant. It is important that in the presidential system this House has the ultimate power for approving appropriation and we want a legal document to give us that power and this is the essence of this new Standing Orders.

So, I urge hon. Members to buckle up and study this document in two weeks so that we can consider it and pass it so that when the Budget comes we shall do a nice job. We use our knives to truncate it, to slice it, or to increase it as the case may be and if we wait till May, I think we are enjoying ourselves ignorantly.

So, Mr Speaker, I will urge hon. Members to sit up and read this document in two weeks so that on the 8th and 9th we shall consider it and pass it and thereby arm ourselves to deal with the Budget and the sponsor of the Budget. So I ask that the Question be now put.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): I am in support of the original Motion. The other Motion mentioned by the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) was in order because it was not a Motion by the Majority Leader and when he moved it, it should have been an amendment to the original Motion. People started speaking on the original Motion and nobody seconded it, therefore there was no Motion except that one about 8th and 9th April.

Well, Mr Speaker, there is no need deceiving ourselves. What other research do we think we are going to make in order to make an amendment in a well thought out Standing Orders? We have been shouting that the

Standing Orders Committee have not worked up and given us the Standing Orders we should begin to use. People have been saying this months ago. And now that the Standing Orders is ready why can't we sit down and read it for a period of a week or two weeks? And then we begin to give an excuse we want a stretch of a whole month to study a document before we can come and debate. In other words, we are incapable of studying this document in two days. Suppose one is a lawyer. Those of you who are lawyers and you have a case to tackle in court and the documents are there before you and you are to argue it and you tell the court to give you six months to study your case. I mean it is a very poor excuse. (*Laughter*).

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, let us tackle our business and approve the Standing Orders after going through it on the 8th and 9th of April and make use of it right away. Let us know that we are handing down something from the Members that no House binds the other. Even if you make a law now, it does not follow that when a new House is constituted, it is not free to amend what you have said. Therefore it is no use saying that it is going to be a bible, a big document. Therefore we are going to hand it over so that the other people will continue to use it. They will continue to use it but if they find fault there, they can also amend it.

Therefore if we make a mistake on the 8th and 9th, well it will be left to those who will come back in 1983 or 1984 to make the amendment and continue from where we stopped. So, I am in support of the original Motion that this Standing Orders be considered on the 8th and 9th of April.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I humbly beg this honourable House to adopt the Motion that the document be considered on the 8th and 9th of April. In the first instance it is not voluminous as we say. It is typed in double space. The first two sheets are only preface by Mr Speaker and pages one to fifty-two relate to the document. After page fifty-two, they are all minutes of the meeting of the Standing Orders Committee. I don't see why people should be scared by saying that this is very voluminous.

Another point that is very essential is in the handling of the budget. If we use the old Standing Orders which was a parliamentary

[MR UMUNNA]

system, no hon. Member has the right to increase any figure in the budget but you can decrease it. But from the preamble I have read from Mr Speaker's preamble, you will now have the power to increase or decrease as the case may be.

So, I am urging this very House not to dissipate energy on this document any further but to approve that we deal with it on the 8th and 9th.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House consider the Draft Standing Orders on the 8th and 9th of April, 1980.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Bursary Award to Anambra State Students

Chairman Education Committee (Mr O. C. Morah): Mr Speaker Sir, I crave your indulgence to use Standing Order No. 25 to make a slight amendment which was due to the slip of the pen. It will now read . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order !

Question, That Order No. 25 be applied to the Motion, put and agreed to.

Mr Morah: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In line 4, 'post-primary' should be changed to post-secondary.

Question, That the words proposed to be deleted be deleted, and the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr Morah: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in our names which reads as follows—

That this House urges the Executive to make adequate financial provision in the 1980 Estimates to ensure that Anambra State Government evolves a general and comprehensive bursary award policy, aimed at alleviating the sufferings of students of Anambra State in post-secondary institutions within and outside Nigeria, in view of the escalating cost of education, particularly at the post-secondary level.

Mr Speaker Sir, in my preamble I crave your indulgence to briefly enlighten this honourable House on the achievements of the Scholarship and Student Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Education. This unit was established by the East-Central State Government in 1973, in Executive Council Conclusions numbers 73 and 74 of 2nd March 1973. In response to the increase in boarding fees into Nigerian universities, scholarship overseas and allowances paid by this State were raised from 1977-78 thus:—

1. From ₦880 per post-graduate student per annum to ₦1,050;
2. from ₦660 per medical student per annum to ₦747; and
3. from ₦528 per undergraduate per annum to ₦600.

In 1977-78 financial year, Anambra State Scholarship Board awarded 104 post-graduate and 79 undergraduate scholarships tenable Overseas; 35 post-graduate and 455 undergraduate scholarships tenable in Nigeria were also awarded. Owing to alleged financial constraint there were no scholarships awarded in the year 1978-79 session.

It was discovered in 1978-79 session that the number of Anambra State university students alone was 4,900. It is quite possible now that the figure must have exceeded 6,000 in the universities alone. A number of representations have come from various students both within Nigeria and outside Nigeria about the problems which they are facing in their various institutions, and it appears so far, that only students of Anambra State origin who are in higher institutions within Nigeria and outside, tend to wear the looks of abandoned children, and this is more so when they realize that students from other States are being catered for by the various State governments.

Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to buttress my reference to other State governments with reference to facts and figures. On 24th January, 1980, the Imo State Commissioner for Education, in a radio broadcast, announced that Imo State students in higher institutions of learning have been granted bursary awards. Ondo State Government has granted ₦500.00 bursary award to Ondo State students, while

[MR OJEMENI]

When they are asked "where is your child", "he has gone to America" will be the reply. The mere fact that his child has gone to America is a pride on his side and so, he sends his child away to America without being well prepared. At certain times these children are sent away without proper information being collected as to how much it will cost to train the children overseas and how much it will cost to maintain the children. After a very short time, the one sent away begins to suffer from hunger and from lack of school fees. Eventually he will be sent out of the school and he begins to stray about the streets, asking for arms. Because of this, it is essential that the government will have to help these indigent children.

I remember that last year, in Jos University, I understood that it was only students from Anambra State who were not given any money by the government. So, it is essential that we shall be prepared this time to help our children who have not got enough money to pay their fees and maintain themselves. With this, Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Floor. It is my view that the award of bursary to our students in the post-secondary institutions is very essential. It is an experience too, that the students of this State have suffered more than others; they still feel the effects of the war when the entire people of this area were put into abject poverty and suffering. The award of bursary to students of post-secondary institutions is very essential because, this does not have to reflect the protocols that are involved in the award of scholarship.

Other students of the Federation have always enjoyed from the Federal and their own State governments awards. It is proper therefore for our own students to be uplifted to the levels of others of their grades in this State and elsewhere.

This Motion as I see it, requires little or no debate. It should flare the feeling of everybody who has the development, well being and welfare of our students at heart. With this, Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the permission to say well done to the hon. Mover of this

Motion. We do not really have to flog this Motion so much. We know that our students all over the world are suffering, especially those in the post-secondary institutions. It is pathetic to see our students abroad working from night till morning, and going to school from morning till evening and then back to work. Most of these students suffer untold hardship, most of them break down mentally and some of them sadly enough are rushed back home, because of their hunger and quest for knowledge.

Back here at home, we have many brilliant boys and girls who could not make it because of indigency, and I am sure that if this House gives this Motion whole-hearted support, then our cry for manpower will no longer be there. Then we will have these boys and girls achieving their aspirations in life. I believe that what is good for the geese is equally good for the gander. All over the north and all over the western part of this country, students enjoy this privilege. I do not see why our own children should not be given this type of encouragement in life.

So, with this Mr Speaker, I congratulate those who moved this Motion and I know that we are all in support. I beg to support. Thank you.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South-West): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute. I wish to associate myself with the views expressed by those who support this nice Motion. It would sound incredible that Anambra State, which is very well known throughout Nigeria and indeed all over the world to be the best or greatest lovers of education in Nigeria, is the only State that is not giving her students scholarships or not even bursary, as it is explained by the Mover of this Motion.

The argument had all along been that our fund is lean, but I am supporting this Motion for the fact that I have known that our fund is not really too lean. What the previous administrations had been doing was that they had always misplaced priorities. I am assuring all hon. Members that by the time we must have worked through the incoming Budget and then placed our priorities properly, we are going to do much better with the so much talked of lean fund than all other previous administrations have been doing.

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The Mover of the Motion worked out the population of our University students as at now to be about six thousand. Assuming that we want every one of these students to enjoy about ₦500 per annum. it is going to give us ₦3 million or about that. This money, really, is not too small, but I think it is not as much as I hope, we are going to cut off from some other areas which we do not think are priorities to the State and give it to education. So, when we must have brought these things into the funds for education, we are definitely going to have enough money to give these students for what we feel is necessary for them.

Fair play demands that our students, it does not matter from what local government area they come from, should enjoy the cake of the State equally. But we know the anomalies in the award of scholarship. Very often, either the sons and daughters of the very rich parents get these scholarships or we at times find those who are not even academically qualified getting these scholarships when the brilliant ones do not get them. As soon as we make it a law, as we intend to do, or we get the Executive to accept it if we move it as a Motion, that every student who gets into a University gets a bursary award, the favouritism in the award of scholarships will die a natural death.

So, Mr Speaker, I think, in fact I am not looking forward to finding anybody who will rise to say that the bursary award proposition is unwelcome.

So, I am supporting the Motion wholly.

Mr O. M. Ugoñ (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker, having read the contents of this Motion carefully, I felt that the intendment of the Motion has not been properly spelt out, unless we want to be benevolent unto death. If we say, to give bursary award to all Anambra State students in post-secondary institutions, it then means that every student who sets his foot into Anambra State is entitled to bursary award from us. It does not seem to me that this is the intendment of the Movers of this Motion. I think they mean, students of Anambra State origin.

If this is so Sir, then the contents, I mean the wordings of the Motion as it stands now, ought to be amended by putting the word "origin". And if this is so, I beg your leave or

the leave of the House to make an amendment under the relevant Order of this House. Thank you.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: You have to second the amended Motion or . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Well, I do not think, properly speaking, that we should regard it as a Motion. I think he is asking for the leave of the House under Order No. 25 of the Standing Orders but I have no intention of seconding it. (*Laughter*). Because, if we look at the wording, we will see it said "students of Anambra State". It does not say "students in Anambra State". I think the "of" takes care of the situation. So, I have no intention of seconding the amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: So, there is no seconder to the amendment?

Several hon. Members: Yes. It has died a natural death!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: I wish to say that this Motion is a very lofty one and the only problem as has been pointed out, is the question of finances. But as has been said by one of the contributors, I do not think this will scar us so much because instead of leaving our students without giving them anything in the form of bursary awards, we can start with a small amount and progress as the years go by and as our finances improve. I think that this will be a form of social policy being evolved by the Government of Anambra State and relying on the principle of the greatest happiness for the greatest number, I think if this policy is adopted, it will make for the greatest happiness of the greatest number of students of Anambra State.

As of now, only very few benefit from the so-called scholarship awards. And the scholarship awards are fraught with so many malpractices because in many cases, people who should get the scholarships do not get them. But if we could evolve this policy of making a sort of award to every student of Anambra State who goes into an institution of higher learning or post-secondary institution, I think that will go a long way in improving a lot of our students. I may also take this opportunity to say that if this policy is evolved, we shall

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[MR OKEKEIZUAGWU]
abolish completely the issue of scholarship. That should be completely abolished and replaced with bursary award so that all our students will be taken care of; not only very few because the amount of money spent on very few students will be able to help about double that number, because it is a very common sight when you go to our universities, you see about ten or twenty students who are on government scholarship living like lords while other students live under conditions which are sub-human.

So, I think it is only fair and just that all the students of Anambra State, who are in post-secondary institutions, should be catered for by the Anambra State Government in the form of making general bursary awards to all of them. The amount may be small, but it should not be so small that it will be merely useless. The amount has to be something reasonable that will be enough for the student to, at least, pay for his boarding fee or provide him with books.

So Mr Speaker, I am whole-heartedly in support of this Motion.

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo P. Agballah):
Thank you Mr Speaker. I am in complete support of the Motion, but I am sorry to say that this Motion is a belated one for many reasons. In the first place, it could be taken that education is free in so many States but I venture to say that if there is a State in which education is not free, it is Anambra State. It is not free here in that parents and communities are the people who set up the schools. The same parents, the same communities are the people who buy the equipment and pay all sorts of levies to sustain schools. In other words, if a rate of school fees is taken out, I can assure you that it will be cheaper than all the myriads of contributions that are made in this State in one form or the other.

Furthermore, of all the governments in the Federation, the Government of Anambra State comes in front as the best lover of children and youth. That being the case, the Government of Anambra State should not stand aside, leaving the young men in the universities to suffer and die of morbid self-pity when they watch the students from other States receiving bursary awards from their

home governments and not even a kobo coming from Anambra State.

The amount involved is a chicken feed. If we go by the statistics given by the Mover, he gave us 6,000 as the number in post-secondary schools. Let us raise it to 8,000, and let us assume that we give a bursary of ₦500 as have been given by other States, it will work out at ₦4,000,000, and hon. Members, ₦4,000,000 taken out of our statutory expectation from the Federal Government for 1980 fiscal year will just be a mere three per cent. If you take three per cent. off our statutory allocation and give to our young men, I don't think it will be a bad show.

Besides, investment in human being is the best form of investment. To prove my statement, during the war, those who were investing in buildings and all sorts of things left the buildings behind and ran away. The only investments that helped to keep us for thirty months were those trained by the members of our area. They were the people who invented the *Ogbunigwe* and all sorts of things that kept the enemy at bay. So, hon. Members, Mr Speaker, I am urging the House to not only urge the government to do this, but to do it forthwith. Thank you.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Motion. In supporting this Motion, I have to draw the attention of this honourable House that apart from the fact that nearly all the States in the Federation give their students either bursary awards or full scholarship to cover books, tuition fees, boarding fees, some States do give their students allowances for dependants.

Anambra State has satisfied itself with few scholarships. In some cases, these scholarships don't go to the needy students. They may go to students from rich parents who can afford to pay fees in these institutions of learning. Even if we argue that we are not as buoyant as the other States and for that sake, may not be able to cater for the needs of all our students, bursary award is a means of helping them. If we can afford X sum of money for scholarships and we have Y students in all institutions of higher learning in this country and overseas, I am of the opinion that this X sum be divided by Y, and whatever is due to each student should be given to him as bursary award.

Concentrating a few scholarships among a selected number of students, sort of deprives a right to education for some intelligent youths who have nobody to speak for them. If this honourable House passes this Motion, as I am sure it will, every student who is in the secondary school will aspire to go to post-secondary institution, knowing that as soon as he is admitted he will have something in the form of subvention from his State government. Some students don't even bother to take the entrance to higher institution because they looked on their background and found that even if they pass the entrance examination they had no money with which to start. But if this bursary award is made, everybody will try to get admitted so that he starts with whatever the bursary is and probably falls back on the contributions from his own people to support whatever subvention the government has made.

Mr Speaker Sir, I think this is a noble Motion which all of us should support.

Thank you.

Mr L. Okonkwo (Awka North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion, and I think what this Motion seeks to do is to remind the government of its responsibility to the people of Anambra State. It also seeks to emphasize one of the pledges made by Nigerian People's Party, that if it is voted into power it is going to come to the aid of the less fortunate ones in the State.

Shortly before and immediately after the war, the government had comprehensive programme of scholarship or financial aids to students. We had a number of financial aids which include open scholarships, crash programmes usually tenable to those doing education in the universities, bursary awards and loan scheme. It was then obvious that every student in the post-secondary institution would be in a position to benefit from one of these scholarships or financial aids, but soon after that, under the pretence that our purse was becoming lean everyday or leaner and leaner day in and day out, the government of Anambra State then started to relax its effort in financial aids to students. The worst hit in this regard were those who could not benefit from open scholarship. This open

scholarship was based on competitive effort by those who could make it.

Apart from that, there were a number others who could not benefit from there as it was intended that such people should benefit in the form of bursary award, or by virtue of the course they were doing they would benefit from crash programme.

Now, why I am supporting this Motion this: it is not only aiming at alleviating the sufferings of the students, but is also trying to obviate the embarrassment some parents suffer when they cannot maintain their boys and girls in post-secondary institutions.

Moreover, it is a Motion that identifies itself with the less fortunate ones in our society. It may interest this honourable House that personally, I feel that any person who has any talent should be encouraged to manifest or to bring out the talent he or she has without suffering any disability brought about by the financial position of the parents and this is where the government comes in.

I am really in full support of this Motion because if it is passed, it is going to do a lot of good to these boys and girls in post-secondary institutions who cannot benefit from open scholarships. I am not saying that we are going to recommend the cancelling of open scholarships, because it helps to encourage our people to aspire to higher grades in their classrooms and at the same time, we are not going to end up there. We must work the program whereby those of them who cannot benefit from the open scholarships will be aided financially and I think this is what the bursary award will do.

In Benue State for example, this bursary award is not confined to post-secondary institutions. It is extended to even primary because it is always a comprehensive programme. And in fact, I will even add that the bursary award should be complemented with a loan scheme whereby a student can benefit from government institutionalized fund and this loan would be revolved. It can be repaid as soon as the person graduates and in so doing one will say that everybody will be encouraged to aspire to go to the university. I think somebody mentioned, this Anambra State and all States, should encourage any child who

[MR OKONKWO]
willing and who has the talent, to go to the university without suffering any disability brought about by financial incompetence.

With this, Mr Speaker, I support this Motion.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this noble Motion. In doing so, I want to remind hon. Members here and those who are going to execute the policy, of the saying that good lords do not make good government. This is one of those noble principles we proffer here. I sincerely hope that those who are going to execute this policy will not make it miscarried. What I mean by this is that in the past, as has been said by some hon. Members, these aids went to those whose parents could afford their education, to the utter negligence of students who are actually indigents. I am calling the attention of the House and of the people who are rightly to execute the programme, to make sure that these aids, if they cannot go round, go actually to the needy students. Cognizance should also be taken . . .

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a Point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to raise this point of Order because the bursary award . . .

Several hon. Members: Order number what ?

Mr Ugoh: This is irrelevancy. Order No. 26 of the Standing Orders. If you like I read it. The point is that the hon. Member on the Floor is talking of the bursary award going round, whereas the Motion says it is for all. Therefore, I think it is not relevant and indeed pertinent in this particular issue. We are talking of general bursary award and not of particular. So, that is the point of Order Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: I think the hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*) was only emphasizing the obvious as stated in the Motion. So the point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Eze: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. By way of conclusion, I am only emphasizing that those who will execute the programme should make sure it reaches the really needy students, if it cannot go round.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, before I give my support for the Motion, I have to point out that the same Motion is already standing in my name and I thought I could have been enjoined in the Mover as a Mover, but much as this is the same, most of the points have been exhausted and I am supporting the Motion, conscious of the fact that bursary awards will not phase out completely the indigence of the students. But I am also conscious of the fact that it will ameliorate the hard conditions of the students. More so, when you think in terms of scholarship in Anambra State and unqualified scholarship because, to me, scholarship is based on excellence and the scholarship so far awarded, very few if any, were based on excellence. It was really based on the prerogative of godfatherism and long-leggedness.

I am therefore not in favour of giving scholarship only to a handful of individuals. It will seem that the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number of persons is being thrown overboard. If the bursary goes to all the students, it is my belief also that education is fundamental industry in Anambra State. This would mean that the government has come to the aid of every family. It does not matter how much it will cost the State. The State will be assured that every individual or at least every hamlet in the State has got something from the State government.

It is with this, Mr Speaker Sir, that I beg to support the Motion.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I am not going to oppose the Motion, but I want to give the implications of bursary awards. Number one, it is likely going to be one-sided . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Speaker Sir, I am not going to be sabotaged by any mechanical fault. I was saying that it is likely to be onesided. Well, some people have already made their minds by calling it dichotomy, but that is not what it is. The issue involves something that is widespread because I know many local government areas are not likely going to produce a number of people or even one per cent. of the people who are going to benefit from it.

Secondly, the bursary award would mean sending our students to international economic gallows. Because this would raise their morale and those who are not in a position to further their education overseas would, with the hope of receiving this award, advance to oversea countries for further studies. It is likely, since there is no certainty that government is going to give bursary award to every student, that most of the students who go overseas hoping that they are going to receive this award, will be stranded. I want hon. Members to see the shame and ignominy of it all that by our own policy, the government have sent people out with high hopes just to pull them down half-way.

Thirdly, economically, what happens to the amount already given as bursary award in the first or the second year of a person's course, if such a student fails to find any money to complete such course, because the government is not bound to continue the award till such course ends? It would mean that government has dumped its money to an area of cultivation that germinates and nobody is there to tend the plant to its production.

Fourthly, it is going to hamper the opportunity of many of our students getting foreign or international scholarships. Because, if the country or if the State is in a position to give bursary award to every student, those friendly countries or friendly organizations that could have come to the help of students would say well, since your State has got the policy of giving bursary award to every student, there is no need giving you scholarship. You should rather wait for the home country.

Fifthly, Mr Speaker, I remember one party claiming that another party had indirectly borrowed the former's programme. The Nigerian People's Party actually promised qualitative education without actually promising free education. A bursary award to every student of Anambra State origin is a form of free education which we did not budget for. So, Mr Speaker, it is one thing to make a policy, it is another to think about its implications. I am not opposing this, but I want us to see what bursary award would look like.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): On point of Order, Mr Speaker. Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. When a

Motion is on the Floor, any contributor speaks for or against the Motion. The hon. Member who has the Floor is not speaking for or against.

The Deputy Speaker: I think he is speaking generally on the merits and demerits and he is only balancing his argument. I remember his saying that he is not against the Motion, therefore all the points he made should be for the Motion. So, the point of Order is not upheld.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Speaker Sir, I should round off. I want us to see that there is likely going to be a conflicting policy. Now, what is the intention of scholarship and what is then the intention of bursary award? I can now see the hon. Members trying to wriggle out of this problem but none of them has given an answer. In fact, there are some conflicting opinions. Some of those who are in favour of this Motion are saying, "scrap scholarship and instal bursary award" while some are saying, "let us have both," yet others are saying "let us have even three"; and I am asking 'the question: is this not a conflicting policy?'

So Mr Speaker, with this enlightenment to the Motion, I beg to support the Motion. (*Laughter and Interruptions*).

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Will hon. Members allow me to conclude . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*) should please summarize.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Speaker, with these points of enlightenment, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): On point of Order, Mr Speaker. Order Number 21 of the Standing Orders.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Order Number 21, what does it say?

Mr Ogbuka: I ask that the question be now put.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

[MR OGBUKA]

Resolved: That this House urges the Executive to make adequate financial provision in the 1980 Estimates to ensure that Anambra State Government evolves a general and comprehensive bursary award policy, aimed at alleviating the suffering of students of Anambra State in post-secondary institutions within and outside Nigeria, in view of the escalating cost of education, particularly at the post-secondary level.

**THE HIGH COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES)
BILL, 1980**

**ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND
READING (13TH FEBRUARY 1980)**

Motion made and Question proposed: That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, may I beg leave to ask that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Judiciary because a number of consultations are going on and if I may add Sir, from the contributions of hon. Members during the previous debates, it was discovered that there was a sort of misconception of what the Bill was all about. Honourable Members hardly realize that this State House of Assembly is merely fulfilling a constitutional obligation as contained in section 234 of the Constitution. That section Sir, provides as follows—

- (1) *There shall be a High Court for each State of the Federation.*
- (2) *The High Court of a State shall consist of:—*
- (a) *a Chief Judge of the High Court of the State; and*
- (b) *such number of Judges of the High Court as may be prescribed by a Law of the House of Assembly of the State.*

In other words, what this Bill seeks to do is to prescribe the number of High Court Judges for this State. The appointment is the exclusive prerogative of the Governor and the Judicial Service Commission. What we are called upon to do is to provide the number which in the next few years, will be left for the Governor to fill.

During the recess Sir, I took a trip to Imo State and the officials there were full of praise for this State House of Assembly, because it is

going to be the first State House of Assembly that has adhered its mind to this section. It is hardly realized by other States that such a law will be enacted. So Sir, I am applying that this Bill be committed to the Judiciary Committee for detailed study, and we may in fact exercise the powers that may be conferred by Order No. 46 of the Standing Orders and invite members of the public to contribute. With this Sir, I ask that the Bill be committed to the committee. Thank you.

ORDER OF THE DAY

**REPORT OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:
CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

Establishment of Mobile Courts

Chairman, Judiciary Committee (*Mr R. A. Chinwuba*): Mr Chairman Sir, may I with your permission, be allowed to read this short document. This is the report of the Judiciary Committee on the Establishment of Mobile Courts. The Motion for establishing mobile courts in Anambra State was sponsored by the hon. Member for Awka South Constituency in the Anambra State House of Assembly (*Mr Okeke*). The Motion reads as follows:

That mobile court with powers to deal instantly with traffic offences on the highways and in the urban towns within Anambra State be introduced as a matter of necessity in view of the escalating death toll on the roads resulting from reckless and careless handling of vehicles by bad drivers.

This Motion came up for debate on 6th December, 1979. At the end of the debate, the matter was referred to the Judiciary Committee for an opinion. By way of preamble, it may be observed that this Motion represents the great concern of hon. Members for the ever-increasing deaths on our public high ways and a real search for prevention of road accidents. The establishment of mobile courts to administer instant justice and thus help to deter reckless driving, appears attractive. But on a closer scrutiny, the Judiciary Committee found a number of faults. The moral aspect of the issue was aptly summarized by the Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*), in the following words:

Mr Speaker, it is known that water has become dirty in this country, and if water is dirty, how are we going to keep what is impure pure? I want to refer to you to one drama I witnessed where it was alleged that a Police Officer and a Magistrate were asking somebody to shake his body. This shaking of the body being translated would be "megharia ahu" which in the other way means, bring out something from your pocket. If people in the court as alleged, if people in the police premises as alleged, if people in the market as alleged, are able to receive bribe in the midst of thousands of people, how much more would the issue of bribery and corruption be revived when we have this type of court with one judge and one driver at a lonely place.

That was just the contribution of that hon. Rev. Gentleman.

The establishment of mobile courts to deal instantly with traffic offences is unconstitutional and the Judiciary Committee is unable to recommend its establishment in this State for the reasons hereunder set out:

1. Such a court would constitute the person to be so charged with such a responsibility both judge and prosecutor at one and the same time;
2. such a Court would offend the provisions of section 33 of the constitution which deals with right to fair hearing and availability of counsel of one's choice;
3. it would create multiplicity of suits.

The Judiciary Committee is strongly of the view that if traffic police men in uniform could be increased and made to perform their duties in accordance with the provisions in the traffic regulations, the incidence of deaths on our roads would be reduced appreciably.

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to lay the report on the Table.

The Chairman: You have heard the report of the Chairman, Judiciary Committee. I believe you got this report by yesterday?

Several hon. Members: This morning!

The Chairman: I will say that we cannot go through it. I suggest that we discuss this.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Chairman Sir, it is my view that the report read out to us from the Judiciary Committee on this question is succinct, concise and to the point. It is my view that the constitutional question raised in the recommendation that we do not go forward with the Motion, is true and the quotation of the hon. Member from Ishielu again in pointing out what will follow if we allow this Motion to go on and pass. If we proceed to a Bill, what will follow? I think it is sufficiently clear that the committee has considered the Motion carefully and that their conclusion that they are not recommending our going forward with it is supportable. It is my view that we better allow the Motion to lapse for the mean time.

Mr C. O. Emehele (Enugu North): Mr Chairman Sir, I beg leave to express my gratitude to the Judiciary Committee for a job well done. As a matter of fact, the establishment of mobile courts in my opinion was the brain-wave or brain-child of the military. I suppose that the military era has gone. Unfortunately, we are still thinking military sometimes, and that I see as a kind of hangover from thirteen or fourteen years of military rule. This is probably why the hon. Member who tabled this Motion couched the Motion the way he did. He wanted quick results — military fashion. But then, he did not take into account the constitutional or legal implications. If justice must be done, it must be very clear to all and sundry that justice has been done. To appoint mobile courts which, as correctly pointed out by the Judiciary Committee to constitute judge and jury at the same time, will be to say the least a complete negation of everything put down in this constitution which we are trying to operate.

With this, Mr Chairman, I beg to pray that this Motion be allowed to quietly die away.

Several hon. Members: It has already died!

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Chairman. This is a legislature, and our duty is to make law and not to support or promulgate anything unlawful. Since the report is quite succinct and explanatory it shows that going forward in implementing or passing this Motion into a resolution or coming back, with this Motion by way of Bill, will be illegal.

[MR MBASO]

I think that suffices and we have to stop. It is my humble submission that we stop further discussions on this as we cannot support anything illegal when we are constituting ourselves and the constitution constitutes us a legislature.

I pray that the Motion lapses. May I then ask that the Question be put.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to beg that the Report of the Judiciary Committee on mobile courts be accepted.

The Chairman: Any seconder?

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to second the Motion that this report be accepted and report progress to the House. Thank you Sir.

Question, That the report on the establishment of mobile courts as submitted by the Judiciary Committee be accepted put and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: Is the Chairman ready with the other report?

Chairman Judiciary Committee: Yes Sir!

The Chairman: You can present the report.

Chairman Judiciary Committee: Mr Chairman Sir, this is the report of the Judiciary Committee on clearing of the Customs Personnel from all the roads in Anambra State.

The Motion on the above subject reads as follows and I quote:—

That this House urges the Federal Government to clear the Customs Personnel from all the roads in Anambra State since Anambra State is far away from the gate-ways of smugglers, and re-deploy them in order that their services will check and arrest or stop smuggling and plough back dividends into the coffers of the Federal Government rather than molesting, disturbing and harrassing the petty traders returning from hinterland markets.

The Motion was sponsored and moved by the Chief Whip (*Mr Obiekwe*) on Friday, 7th December, 1979. The Motion was hotly debated, but from the contribution of the

Member for Onitsha North East (*Mr Umuna*), it became certain that what the Mover of the Motion had at the back of his mind was the clearing of the Customs Preventive Service Personnel from Anambra roads.

There is no doubt that the activities of the Customs Preventive Service Personnel are causing a lot of inconvenience not only to road users, but also a contributory source of inflation in this State. The Judiciary Committee is, however, concerned with the legal implication of the Motion which the Deputy Speaker referred to other committees namely— Industries and Technology; Trade and Cooperatives; Economic Development and Planning; Information, Publicity and Public Relations. So we are only concerned with the legal aspect of it.

It is common knowledge that Customs and Excise duties come under the exclusive legislative list and the State legislature is incompetent to legislate on the subject. It is equally true that a Motion by a State legislature has not the force of law, but only a persuasive effect. The unanimous resolution of a State legislature is not however, to be lightly regarded.

RECOMMENDATION

The Judiciary Committee bearing the above factors in mind, accordingly recommends that a resolution of this honourable House containing a summary of the criticisms levelled against the Customs Preventive Service Personnel, be sent to the appropriate Federal authority. It is hoped that the State legislature being the trustee of the collective will and keeper of the collective conscience of its citizens social justice demands that the appropriate Federal authority would act in terms of the Resolution and in this way the Customs personnel would be cleared from the roads in Anambra State and be confined to the border.

I beg to lay the Report on the Table.

The Chairman: Honourable Members have heard the report by the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee (*Mr Chinwuba*). Again the report is not very long. I think we can comprehend the idea, so I suggest we make

few remarks, or, in short, debate it. Is this acceptable hon. Members? And if that is the case, hon. Members can now make their contributions.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you, Mr Chairman. It is my most humble opinion that this report, though short, is very comprehensive and to the point but my handicap now as regards the import of this report — the recommendation — is that as it stands now, it appears it is only part of the report which we really need for this exercise.

I must say that the issue — the harassment of Customs Preventive Personnel — is becoming so much that we would like to get a detailed and comprehensive report from the Committee on Trade and Co-operatives, so that our resolution as recommended by the Judiciary Committee will be comprehensive enough. Our businessmen are now being put out of business, and the cost of living of people in Anambra State is soaring so high because in almost every road you have these men and they do nothing than collecting money from people. So it is my most humble view that we urge the Committee on Trade and Co-operatives, in particular, to submit its own report, so that we consider it in line with this.

I am in full support of the recommendation made by the Judiciary Committee, but the only area where I defer is the time, that before we pass the resolution, we have to get the report from the Trade and Industries and Economic Development Committees, so that in our resolution, we will be all embracing. In this resolution we will be able to point out the adverse economic effects of the activities of these men on the roads in Anambra State.

So Mr Chairman, I very much support our accepting this report, especially, the recommendation as regards the resolution.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I stand to support the views expressed by the last speaker that while we accept the report as submitted by the Judiciary Committee, we suspend detailed discussion on the Motion until other committees assigned to make their own recommendations have completed their work so as to

ensure that our discussion becomes something based on the collective reports of the committees.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I rise to associate myself with the expressions made by the two speakers, but I have to add that it is very disappointing to see that the other committees did not submit their own reports and they were asked to do so today by the Speaker of the House last Monday. So we expect they will quicken up and present the reports so that we can summarize all of them and then give our own verdict. With this I ask that the Question be now put.

Question, That the report as presented by the Judiciary Committee on the clearing of Customs Personnel be accepted and then referred to the House, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: We may delay reporting it to the House because other committees have not submitted their own reports. I take this opportunity to request other committees to work hard and submit their reports so that we can dispense with the Motion.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: May I crave your indulgence to request that you give these committees time limit, otherwise we act on this because we would like to make our views on this very important matter known before the new financial year, because the presence of these people is causing a lot of hardship to our people. So I crave your indulgence that you give these committees time, and if they do not submit their reports, we can frame a very strong resolution which we will forward and if possible make as public as possible.

The Chairman: I would like the Chairmen of the committees involved to say something, so that we will know their problems, if any.

Chairman Economic Development and Planning Committee (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Mr Chairman, I will state it briefly. We have something really, but we are waiting to get the legal idea from the Judiciary Committee. Now that the report of the Judiciary Committee is out, after all economic activities are conducted within the ambit of the law . . .

An hon. Member: Wayo! (*Laughter*).

[MR EMEHĒLU]

Now that this committee has submitted its report you will have the report from the Economic Planning latest Friday.

Chairman Industry and Technology Committee (Mr C. J. Ogbuka): Mr Chairman on the part of the Committee on Industry and Technology, I crave the indulgence of the House to allow us by next Wednesday to submit our report.

Chairman Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee (Mr F. E. Igwe): Mr Chairman, I crave the indulgence of the House to give us Friday to submit our report on this matter.

The Chairman: The hon. Chairman for Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee was talking of Friday. Is it this Friday, or next week Friday or Friday in December?

Mr Igwe: Friday, 28th of March, 1980.

Chairman, Works and Housing Committee (Mr F. N. Okoye): Mr Chairman Sir, our report is ready but we want to see the Business Committee for us to get out the report tomorrow.

The Chairman: You mean your report is not ready or it will be ready tomorrow?

Mr Okoye: It is ready now.

The Chairman: Then let us have it. It is not ready, it is not circulated?

Mr Okoye: It is ready. We circulated it, it is in the pigeon hole.

Several hon. Members: It is ready. It is circulated. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! It means it is circulated. Maybe several hon. Members have not had time to go to the pigeon holes and pick up theirs. That you can do later. You may share with the hon. Member beside you.

Mr Okoye: Mr Chairman Sir, our report is a very short one and it is a report from the Works and Housing Committee on the Motion calling for the provision of towing vans to be stationed at both ends of the milikin hill Enugu.

The Chairman: Go ahead please.

Mr Okoye: Mr Chairman Sir, this Motion which was moved by the Majority Leader (*Mr Itanyi*) having been duly debated by this honourable House was referred to this committee for further attention and report. In the circumstances the committee visited the State Ministry of Works and Housing and held discussions with the divisions responsible for road safety measures and road traffic regulations. The committee also discussed with members of the Enugu urban council, officers of the road haulage union.

As a result of these discussions and consultations the committee was assured by the responsible Ministry that efforts would be made to place an order for the procurement of this special type of vehicle as soon as funds are allocated and approved in the estimates for the year ending December, 1980.

The committee having been satisfied with the above arrangement would recommend without prejudice, that the House be disposed to approve such items in the budget as and when presented in due course.

I beg to lay the report on the Floor of the House.

The Chairman: Lay the report on the Table. Any more report?

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Mr Chairman, I think we are leaving out one matter unsettled.

The Chairman: What?

Mr Chukwuka: There was a point we were handling by the time the Chairman came in. Some committees were supposed to have submitted their reports today and we are battling over the time when others will submit their reports. That has not been resolved before we went over to another thing.

The Chairman: Which committees were handling the clearance of Custom personnel?

Mr Chukwuka: It was passed to Industry and Technology, Trade and Co-operatives, Economic Development and Planning, Information, Publicity and Public Relations.

Well Industries said next Wednesday, Information said Friday, but we have not resolved on when.

The Chairman: Order! What of the other one Economic Development?

Mr Chukwuka: Economic Development said Friday. Trade and Co-operatives not reported yet.

The Chairman: Trade and Co-operatives Thursday this week.

Mr Chukwuka: Let us resolve it that is what I am after.

The Chairman: The various Chairmen should meet the Chairman of Business Committee and get this sorted out but definitely all the reports should be finished with by next week. I am sure this would be the opinion of the House that we finish with all these reports by next week latest. So all the Chairmen concerned should please meet the Chairman of the Business Committee and sort out the dates so that we can take them up and get them done with.

Any more committees wanting to report? Yes there was a report laid on the Table of the House and we want to accept that formally by Motion and perhaps it will be necessary for the House to decide whether they will need to study that report further or by Motion, take a decision.

Mr L. Okonkwo (Awka North): Mr Chairman Sir, I move that the report submitted to us by the Works and Housing Committee of this House be accepted.

The Chairman: Any seconder?

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Mr Chairman I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: When shall we deliberate on this?

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Chairman Sir, as the report has been accepted, it will be reported to the Committee of the Whole House I mean to the full House as and when you are ready.

The Chairman: The House will now reconvene.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Speaker: The House will now hear the report.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Mr Speaker Sir, the two reports placed on the Table of this honourable House namely; the report dealing with the establishment of mobile courts and another one dealing with the clearing of customs personnel have been deliberated on by this House and we are happy to announce that both reports have been accepted.

Mr Speaker: I will like the House to decide whether we will hear these two reports one by one today or defer deliberation on them for decision to some other day.

Question, That the reports be taken to decide on them today, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) should please read the Motion on the reports.

Mr Chinwuba: On the establishment of mobile courts Sir, this House has decided that the Motion should die a natural death because it is unconstitutional.

Mr Speaker: You mean your committee has recommended?

Mr Chinwuba: Yes and it has been accepted by the Committee of the Whole House. We are reporting to the House that the Committee of the Whole House has recommended that this Motion should die a natural death.

I beg to move that the Question be now put.

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

Question, That the Motion be now passed, put and negatived.

Mr Chinwuba: The second Motion considered by the Committee of the Whole House was the clearing of customs personnel from this State and we are now giving the progress report. This Motion Sir, was considered by the Committee of the Whole House and the recommendations of the Judiciary Com-

[MR CHINWUBA]

mittee accepted, subject of course, that before the resolution as recommended by the Judiciary Committee is accepted, the reports of the other committees namely; the Industry and Technology Committee; Trade and Co-operatives Committee; Economic Development and Planning Committee; Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee, will also be debated on the floor of this House so that a comprehensive resolution should be sent to the Federal Government as recommended.

Mr Speaker: I will like to take that as a Motion and crave the indulgence of the House to put the Question.

Question, That the decision on this Motion be deferred until all the reports of the various relevant committees are received, put and agreed to.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, this is a report on the provision of towing vans for the miliken hill. The Committee of the Whole House deliberated on this and has taken a decision that the recommendation be accepted and I now move that the Question be put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House urges the Commissioner for Works and Housing to take immediate steps to mobilize two recovery vans at strategic points along the miliken hill with a view to removing vehicles that are broken down there to ensure easy movement of vehicles.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The situation in the Premier Brewery Limited

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, seize the opportunity to make a statement on the situation in the Premier Brewery Limited. (*Interruptions*). No, not about the distribution of premier beer.

We have received a copy of the petition of the staff management association of the Premier Brewery Limited in connection with

recent staff changes in the industry as well as the delay in the reconstitution of the board management as well as reappointment of distributors.

As the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Industry and Technology, I want to say that I feel very much bothered about the situation in the Premier Brewery Limited because that industry is the most viable and profitable government concern in the State as of now. The action of government will be to further make it stronger and become more profitable rather than the other way round.

The Premier Brewery is a Limited Liability Company and is registered under the company law, a law that specifies the way, method and procedure for staff recruitment and for other aspects of management of the industry and this law is always to be followed scrupulously. It is the responsibility of my committee to ensure this in this company, and in others, that action and decision affecting the industries conform with this basic legality.

My committee will meet very soon to consider the situation in the Premier Brewery Limited and report to this honourable House.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment, and in supporting the Motion, I first of all associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Member seconding the Motion for adjournment. The condition of the brewery, that is, premier brewery, is a thing that concerns everyone of us and is a major asset in the State, and if left without probing the causes of dissatisfaction, it may grow worse.

Having said this, I also take the opportunity to draw attention to the end of financial year activity which is now going on. Anybody plying Nnewi-Nnobi road will see that there have been heaps of laterite all along the road for the past one and half months not spread, and that has also helped in worsening the condition of the road.

The same thing applies to Nnewi-Amichi road and it is unfortunate that contracts for the provision of laterite will be awarded and these things will be left to be a waste. Already, the rains have arrived again and they are doing serious damage to the heaps of laterite, with the

result that by the end of the financial year, this laterite is not spread to enhance or fill the gulleys on the roads. It will be another million, thousands of naira waste. So, I urge this House to see to it that whosoever is responsible for spreading the laterite should act with immediate effect.

With this, I beg to support.

**Havoc caused by Tornado at
Aji Boys Secondary School**

Mr S. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, I should like to use this forum to alert the State School Services Commission and the Ministry of Education on the havoc caused by tornado four nights ago at Aji Boys Secondary School where tornado destroyed two buildings, one dormitory block and one classroom block. It is my intention to urge the party concerned to come to the rescue of the students affected, more especially now that they are on their second term examination and to aid the community sponsoring the school because if left to the community, as far as rain is fast approaching, it will affect the school badly.

With this, Sir, I beg to support.

Investigate the Premier Brewery

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of the Motion for adjournment and in supporting, I wish to associate myself with the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member for Idemili East. I have a Motion calling on this House, direct to the Committee on Industry and Technology, to investigate the premier brewery as it appears that things are out of hand there. I crave your indulgence, Mr Speaker, to ensure that this Motion is brought to this House tomorrow morning or on Friday.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support
Thank you.

**Please re-award the contract
for these roads**

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and to recall the promise we made to our constituencies on our priorities. This concerns roads. In my own part, there are two roads through which we pass. One is

Amawbia to Nibo extending to Umuawulu and Agulu, work on which has stopped since the past one year. An announcement was made by the hon. Commissioner for Works a few weeks ago saying that the contract would be reviewed, but up till now nothing is happening and shortly the rains will set in and we will be locked out completely. We have no other means of moving out, and towns affected—about four or five towns, have been suffering for the past ten years that the contract was awarded.

Now my humble application is that the Ministry of Works considers, as a matter of urgency, and to ameliorate the hardship of the towns concerned to re-award the contract and commence work on that, so that with the promise of the commissioner the work can be completed in eighteen months deadline given by himself before this House.

I beg to support.

**Recruitment of Teachers in Udi Local
Government**

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment, and in so doing wish to draw the attention of the Sole Administrator of the State School Services Commission to the dirty trick going on in my local government area in the name of recruitment of teachers. When the previous exercise was cancelled, everybody heaved a sigh of relief that a good system would be adopted, but now the system being adopted is worse than that for instead of assembling a panel to interview teachers, the thing is being done on allocation basis and not only on allocation basis, agents are being employed to go into communities to get teachers. Whether those teachers so recruited are qualified or not is another question.

I sound a note of warning. In the first place those that do the interview of such teachers, when some appear before them, they ask, "O! where do you belong to?" I rise up to say that this government belongs to everybody, irrespective of our party affiliation.

Many Members: Shehu!

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order!

Minority Leader: When recruitment or employment of staff is being carried out, it should be done on the basis of selecting the best material to deliver the good. There is no point selecting a teacher who cannot spell her name, or who does not even know the capital of Anambra State. Coming to talk of certificate, some even go to printers and we have examples to prove our case.

(Interruptions.)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Minority Leader: In America that you have just visited, the country practises the presidential system. It is done on the basis of the best qualified man for the job. There is no nepotism, there is no party patronage. So Mr Speaker Sir, you have heard my words and I believe they would be conveyed to appropriate quarters. Thank you.

Give More time to Motions of Public Interest

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, before moving that the Question be put, I have one observation to make. I would like Mr Speaker to consider giving those who would want to speak on Motions that affect the interest of everybody especially when there is time for speeches the chance. Like the Motion you disposed of, that is the Motion on bursary award, we had ample opportunity, ample time to while away with. There were many who wanted to speak but somebody moved that the Question be put. In Motions like that, people should be given chance to air their views, that is Motions that have some sort of general interest.

Secondly, our reports are yet to come to you but I must have to mention this. In October when we started, there was a Motion that passed through this House for re-instatement of road labourers. In my local government area, nearly two hundred thousand naira was spent on grading of local government roads and if labourers are not re-instated to maintain these roads, the job done will be a waste and the money gone down the drain. I would request Sir that the appropriate ministry be asked to include in the Estimates, re-instatement of road labourers.

Thirdly, I noticed that not only in Nanka and Agulu that we have gulley, we have erosion. There is a very big erosion that has rendered so many people homeless at Amichi and Ekwulumili. I didn't know about that until recently when I made a tour. So Sir, action should be taken to save the lives of the teeming thousands of people in these areas. With this Sir, I move that the Question be put.

Mr Speaker: Order !

Congrats, Green Eagles

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I want to ask the hon. Members here present to jointly congratulate the National football team, the Green Eagles, for walloping their Algerian counterparts last Saturday. In fact the Eagles have done the Nation proud because like the report has it, this is the first of its kind since twenty-three years of the competition. And for this we owe them a ship load of thanks to be hyperbolic.

Again I must congratulate equally the Brazilian coach for his brilliant performance in getting the boys to the standard that made them display the first-class type of soccer last Saturday. In fact what I saw of the Eagles has never been seen by me since they started being and this was evidence of good handling by the coach and I should equally call on the various governments to, not only recruit qualified coaches but equally send people to go to embark on such type of techniques so that they can come back home to impart that on to our sons.

And I must not end up my speech without thanking the Rangers boys through whose inspiration the success was able to be recorded.

To end my speech, I should say that since we reward talents, with regard to these boys, that the government should consider giving them a sort of incentive so as to urge others...

(Laughter).

Mr Udeani: So as to encourage those who have been fearing the game of football so that more fellows will be trying to excel. With that, I beg to support and move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: Let us have one more speaker. The hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): On a point of Order. The hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) is not in his seat.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) should please speak from his Nnewi constituency seat.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South) Thank you Mr Speaker.

(*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! We must have some order. I hope the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) will not jump the seats next time. You may speak.

Activities of this State Government need more Publicity

Akunne Sam Okeke: Thank you Sir. Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment after being embarrassed by my colleague from Nnewi. Mr Speaker Sir, I have two points to make. One is the publicization of the services of this State government. I have to, before I go on, congratulate Mr Speaker, for the able way he had interview with the news media but I feel that is not enough because that has only been heard by the people of Anambra State. As you travel outside the State you have people from this Anambra State saying that this State is not doing this, they are not doing that, not knowing that Anambra State is the only government that is satisfying the needs of the people.

Several hon Members: Say it loud !

Akunne Sam Okeke: And so I am asking that the god that be, be asked to print the services the government of this State made

and circulate to the people both within and outside Anambra State so that people will be able to know that we are really doing something.

Another thing Sir, I have to join my colleague, the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) in asking that this question of road labourers be made an urgent issue because the rain is setting in and after grading the roads if enough labourers are not put on the roads to maintain them, erosion will spoil the work that has been done. So Mr Speaker, I have also to say . . .

Mr F. B. Unigwe: You said two points.

Akunne Sam Okeke: In fact I do not know what I have done to my colleague. Mr Speaker let me stop so far because I have been embarrassed. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! I know the popular demand is that the Question be put.

Several hon Members: Yes !

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: I wish to crave your indulgence to inform you that tomorrow at 9 o'clock, all the committee chairmen would have a chat with a representative from the Star Printing Publishing Company Limited in my office. All committee chairmen should please try to come early so that we can hold the discussion.

Second announcement is that the Committee on Economic Development will meet tomorrow at 1 o'clock in room 102. This really could have come on the Calendar of tomorrow.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday 27th March, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1 p. m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 27th March, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Failure of the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youths and Culture to appear in the House to give oral answers to questions

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): Mr Speaker Sir, may I beg leave of the Speaker to ask why the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youths and Culture did not turn up here on the 25th of March, 1980 to answer the question put to her, and in asking this question I have to point out that this is a very deplorable attitude. There is no reason why a commissioner should not come to answer a question asked him or her, and she did not even care to write a letter to clarify the situation. I asked the question and no letter was written to me; I do not know why she did not come.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say that this attitude is quite unbecoming.

Thank you.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the hon. Member for Ikwo South (*Mr Iburu*) on the point raised. This is the case of the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture failing to appear before this honourable House to answer a question, and she did write to this House because there was a letter read to us by the Deputy Speaker that she would not attend at 10 a.m. but at 1 o' clock, and I stand to say that the hon. Commissioner has not the right whatsoever to dictate to this House when she will put up appearance. The business of this House, the legislature, is very important, and I cannot think of a commissioner, and a lawyer for that matter, writing to a Judge of the High Court dictating when she will put an appearance. I think this matter is very serious.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr. C. O. Emehelu*): Mr Speaker Sir, I think this matter should be treated with all the seriousness it deserves. I quite appreciate the fact that we are operating

a new system, but we should learn and learn fast. The legislature is a separate and distinct arm of government, distinct from both the Judiciary and the Executive. By the provisions of the constitution, this House has the right to invite any public officer here to answer questions. It is not a privilege.

It looks to me that some members of some other arms of government in this State think it is a favour done to the House to come and answer questions put up by invitation. I do not think this is the intention of this constitution.

It is true that we have for a very long time forgotten, been used to parliamentary system of government in which the Executive was leading the legislature and forming part of the legislature. The sole purpose or the main aim of the constitution, which we operate as of now, is separation of powers. In which case, if my understanding is correct, the legislature is distinct and equal to any other arm of government. The sooner the entire public and public officers realize this, I think things will augur well for this country. It is true that we are learning, but I think we should learn fast.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I think the case before us now is a very serious one. I do not know whether it is as a result of ignorance of the presidential system of government or a matter of 'I couldn't care less attitude' that has prompted the commissioner not to appear when she is required to appear. I think we should bring up a Motion to direct the Executive to organize seminars for these commissioners on the presidential system of government.

(*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members: Hear! hear!

Minority Leader: The sum total of the attitude is nothing but an indication of complete ignorance of the system.

With regard to the lady commissioner in question, I am suggesting that we give her one more chance; we direct her to appear here, failing which, we send our Sergeant-at-Arms to bring her here.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: That is all right. The Minority Leader has suggested that we give the hon. Commissioner a second chance to appear before the House. Is that the view of the House?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the hon. Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture be written a letter inviting her to come and answer the Question earlier sent to her, before this House on the appointed time.

MOTION

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to request for leave of the House, through you, to enable me introduce this my long awaited Bill as regards the protocol of the Government of Anambra State.

Question put and the House divided by roll call.

Ayes: 44

Noes: 14

Not Voting: 27

Ayes: 44

Agballah, O. P.
 Akunne, J. O.
 Chinwuba, R. A.
 Chukwuka, C. E.
 Ede, S. N. O.
 Egwuonwu, M. N.
 Ekwealor, B. A.
 Emehelu, C. O.
 Eneje, J.
 Ezeugwu, M. I.
 Iburu, N. A.
 Idoko, B. O.
 Igwe, F. E.
 Igwe, M. O.
 Ikeh, B. O.
 Itanyi, E. A.
 Mbah, B. O.
 Mbaso, L. A.
 Morah, O. C.
 Ngene, D. O.
 Njoku, L.
 Nnaji, C. O.
 Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
 Nwafor, G. C.

Nwambeke, P.
 Nwobodo, N. O.
 Obah, M. C.
 Odo, A.
 Ogbodo, S. J.
 Ojemeni, S. O.
 Okeke, B. C. N.
 Okonkwo, L.
 Okoye, F. N.
 Okoye, G. R.
 Okpaga, A. E.
 Omeje, E. P. I.
 Omeke, A.
 Opata, C. U.
 Osita, R. A.
 Ozoekwem, S. N.
 Udeorah, S. J.
 Ugoh, O. M.
 Ugwuokpe, W.
 Umunna, F. O.
Noes 14
 Agbo, J. N.
 Didigu, S. O.
 Enendu, G. A.
 Ezenwa, A. N.
 Igboka, G. N.
 Azegba, F.
 Egbe, P. J. N.
 Eze, P. I.
 Ezenwaka, T. N.
 Nworah, D. C.
 Nwofor, F. C.
 Okeke, C. E.
 Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
 Onyido, S. I.

Not Voting

Agbo, E. A.
 Alor, S. N.
 Anyabuikwe, D. C.
 Chukwuka, G. B. C.
 Ekuma, N.
 Emodi, F. C. (Madam)
 Ikeoha, D. C.
 Macduhu, E. J.

Nnaeto, A. O.
 Nwafor, A. N.
 Obeta, S.
 Obiekwe, I.
 Obuna, A. A.
 Odife, S. E.
 Ogbaga, A. U.
 Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
 Ogbuka, C. J.
 Ojukwu, M. C. O.
 Okafor, S. N.
 Okeke, A. O. C. S.
 Okoye, V. C.
 Onyefuru, G. N. C.
 Ottah, A. O.
 Udeani, H. C.
 Umeaba, W.
 Unabia, P. U.
 Unigwe, F. B.

₦200.00 million. The financial involvement is therefore most forbidden. (*Laughter*). Since the Oji-River Power Station was constructed by the Federal Government, its reactivation falls squarely on the shoulders of that Government. That is to say, the Oji-River Power Station must be taken over by the Federal Government *cum onere*. In other words he who takes the benefit must also take the burden. This State Government is advised to steer clear.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the importance of the Oji-River Power Station to the good and industrious people of Anambra State; and by reason of the fact that the Government of the Federation shall direct its policy towards ensuring that the economic system is not operated in such a manner that savours of discrimination; it is hereby strongly recommended that a legislative delegation of this honourable House be sent to Lagos to argue the case for the reactivation of Oji-River Power Station before the Federal Minister of Mines and Power having as its facts for so doing; the consensus of opinion expressed by hon. Members when the Motion moved by the hon. Member for Isi-Uzo Central (*Mr Emmanuel A. Agbo*) to the effect that *this House urges the Executive to reactivate Oji-River Power Station not only to supplement electric power from the Kainji Dam, but also to generate power to supply electricity to every local government headquarters and suburban towns*, was debated on the Floor of the House on Thursday, the 24th January, 1980.

Question accordingly agreed to.

PRESENTATION OF BILL

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE BILL

A Bill for a law to declare the Order of Precedence and to provide for matters connected thereto; presented by the Majority Leader (*Mr Itanyi*), and read the first time.

REPORTS FROM THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON MOTIONS

Chairman, Judiciary Committee (*Mr R. A. Chinwuba*): This is the report of the Judiciary Committee on Reactivation of Oji-River Power House:

INTRODUCTION

It may be pertinent to note that the Oji-River power house was one of the major Federal projects which were badly damaged during the last civil war. Its non reactivation ten years after the cessation of hostilities, inspite of its transcendent importance to the social and economic life of the people of Anambra State, appears to create the impression that the wounds of the last civil war would take quite some time to heal.

One of the areas where the Federal Government exercises control over the States is in the sphere of finance. Investigation has revealed that the reactivation of the Oji-River power Station would cost something in the region of

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the Report on the Table.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members will agree with me that that report needs serious consideration, and I crave the indulgence of the House to announce that this report will be considered on a date to be appointed by the Business Committee so that Members can also have time to study it. In the absence of any opposition, shall we then have the next report.

Chairman, Judiciary Committee: Mr Speaker Sir, this is the report of the Judiciary Committee on payment of rent subsidy. The Motion which was moved by the hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*), reads as follows:

That this House urges the Federal Government to introduce the payment of rent subsidy to all junior workers in both public and private sectors to enable them survive the soaring cost of living and meet some of their needs.

There can be no doubt that the *raison d'être* for this Motion is a conscious search for bettering the living conditions of our workers. From the contributions of hon. Members on this topic it became crystal certain that hon. Members placed the welfare of the junior workers of this State uppermost in their minds; having fully appreciated the scale of their difficulties. As could be seen, on a calm view of this Motion its scope seems too wide; little wonder that it agitated the legal mind of the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) who suggested a slight amendment to the Motion which was approved. The Motion in its final form therefore reads as follows:

That this House urges the State Government to introduce the payment of rent subsidy to all junior workers in both public and private sectors to enable them survive the soaring cost of living and meet some of their needs

In this State at the moment rent subsidy is paid to civil servants between level 08 to level 17 and above. From level 08 to 09 the rate is ₦44.00 per month; from level 10 to 15 the rate is ₦50.00 per month; and above that level the rate is ₦60.00 per month. The majority of the workers are in the category that this benefit has been denied. And so in terms of both number and volume the financial resources of the State Government has not suffered serious incursion.

Experience has, however, shown that what an average junior worker requires is not necessarily an increase in his pay packet, but that the little salary he received has some economic value. Payment of rent subsidy instead of stemming off inflation would rather increase it. Both the Federal and State governments appear to appreciate this wind of change in the thinking of an average Nigerian worker because both have embarked upon building houses for workers as a matter of top priority.

RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the foregoing and taking into consideration the financial constraints of this

State, the Judiciary Committee feels unable to recommend the payment of rent subsidy to the junior workers of this State.

Instead, the committee is of the considered opinion that this House urges the State government to embark upon a massive housing scheme for workers, and to assist in pleading with the commercial banks to liberalize the granting of housing loans to the junior workers of this State to enable them provide shelter for themselves.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the report on the table.

Mr Speaker: I suppose the House can deliberate on this particular report. Okay, shall we have views.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I am praying this honourable House for a recommittal of this particular Motion for technical reasons. This report took care of the economic aspect without taking into consideration the legal aspect, which is the main thing required. The legal aspect is that this idea of payment of rent subsidy to certain categories of workers, leaving others, emanated from the Federal Government.

The Establishment Circular was above that of the State; it came down from the Federal Government to the State. Therefore, I think that the most important thing is to consider whether the State has the right to modify that particular circular and if the State has the right, then this House will be placed in a better position to make concrete recommendation. But the report here is more or less after the economic aspect of it. For this reason, I am praying this honourable House that this Motion be recommitted for thorough study of this legal aspect before we know whether the State has the right to implement a part of it or to deviate from the Federal circular. Thank you.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I have listened to what the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) said about this report. I do not think that it was proper on his own part, as he did not give the committee an idea that he was going to speak against it as a Member of the Judiciary Committee. It is left to the hon. Members who are not Members of the Judiciary Committee to

[MR IKEH]
raise this issue. He was in the committee when we took a decision and made the recommendation, therefore it is improper on his own side to raise this issue and speak against it.
(Laughter).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I am not in support of the recommendation of the committee. I feel that it tends to worsen the plight of the junior civil servants. In the first place, they said that probably, if the junior civil servants were paid rent subsidy, it would have an inflationary trend. I do not know how they considered the inflation which had been brought into the economy as a result of payment of rent subsidy to senior civil servants. Why was it that they did not consider it necessary to knock off the rent subsidy given to the senior civil servants? And also Sir, they did not consider it necessary to really compute what it would cost the government if the rent subsidy was paid to junior civil servants. I would have very much loved to see a figure, that would have really helped us to see if the government can absorb that. In view of that Sir, I am very much in support of the payment of rent subsidy to junior civil servants. In fact, even if it is so burdensome to the government, they should knock off the payment of rent subsidy to senior civil servants and then concentrate on junior civil servants.

I do not also accept the comments of the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*). He is of the opinion that the circular which approved the payment of rent subsidy to senior civil servants and not to junior civil servants, came from Lagos and that it has legal implication; I do not think so. It has no legal force; it is an ordinary establishment circular and any State that feels buoyant enough to pay rent subsidy to junior civil servants can go ahead without reference to Lagos.

But assuming that it is really essential, then this State could take the step by placing it as an item to be discussed by the National Council on Establishments.

The National Council on Establishments I think, which holds together all the various States, is a Federal concern. So, even if this State feels very strongly about it, we can

carry it and get a ratification. So Sir, I am not in favour of this Motion being recommitted. I would very much urge this House that we should pass it against the recommendation of the committee. The junior civil servants deserve the payment of rent subsidy in fact much more than the senior civil servants. Thank you Sir.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to urge this House to reject in all its entirety, the report from the Judiciary Committee on the following facts.

First, the report seems to be an economic report; it is not a legal report that should emanate from the Judiciary Committee. It seems to me that the Judiciary Committee has probably usurped the functions of the Economic Planning Committee of this House. And I would only ask that the Judiciary Committee should have looked at the legal implications of this House paying rent subsidy to the junior workers on grade levels 01 to 07.

Two, if we consider the economic burden in which the State government will be involved, I think the right thing to do is to ask the Economic Planning Committee of this House to look at the financial involvement. Honestly speaking, I do not even think that it is necessary to ask the Economic Planning Committee to start looking into this issue. The truth is that if there are any set of workers who require this rent subsidy, it is the majority of the workers who are on grade levels 01 to 07.

If there is any set of people we have to knock off their own, if it becomes so necessary and we consider the economic burden so serious and so bad that the State government cannot bear it, we have to knock off paying rent subsidy to senior workers on grade level 08 and above as mentioned in this report and concentrate on payment of rent subsidy to classes of workers on salary grade levels 01 to 07. We have to recognize, hon. Members, that a civil servant or a junior worker on salary grade level 06, goes to the same Ogbete market to buy with the man on grade level 17. And there is no mark on the man on grade level 17 to show that he is on level 17 so that he should buy a cup of garri for one naira instead of three kobo or one kobo. So it is really not necessary to flag the issue because if there are really people

who are suffering in this State or all over the Federation, it is the junior, I mean the low income group of workers.

It is a fact that the Federal government and the State governments are already involved in building massive houses for workers, but hon. Members, we know very well that in most cases government actions are always earmarked and never, in most cases, implemented.

In this regard, while all other contingency plans have been made by the Federal and State governments to provide houses for the junior workers, it is imperative that this House should immediately pass a Motion, in fact, should introduce it as a Bill not even as a Motion again, prescribing a certain amount of money that have to be paid to junior workers as rent subsidy to people on salary grade levels 01 to 07 with immediate effect.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to resume my seat.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I am happy to be called upon to make my comments on the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee. I do not think that this is a recommendation at all. There is criminal sentiment in the recommendation. It cannot be otherwise, because it says "payment of rent subsidy, instead of stemming up inflation would rather increase it". This is the concept of the highly-placed workers as against the junior workers and it is the small pay packet of the junior workers that will cause inflation. And as has been pointed out by others, they have not got a different market. In fact, it is these highly paid workers that buy at government rates or subsidized rates. They go with coupons and the poor man with his paltry salary will go to the market to face the inflated prices of articles.

I am really supporting the hon. Member who spoke last that this recommendation should be rejected completely and thrown back to the Economic and Planning Committee. If this is the law that they are going to enact for us, we better drop that committee completely. So I say again, this is done with criminal intent. I do not see why . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. It is Order

No. 26 of the Standing Orders. The hon. Member who has the Floor is imputing improper motives.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should please mind his language.

Mr Ojukwu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have no intention to impute improper motives. So, I have to be brief. This recommendation should be rejected and given to the proper committee for review. Thank you.

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo P. Agballah*): Thank you Mr Speaker. It is all a pity that such an outstanding committee of the House should present this type of recommendation. I am on the side of those who are urging the House to throw out the recommendation completely.

To start with, the committee has said that rent subsidy should not be paid to junior workers. The committee goes on to say that the government should be urged to embark on a massive housing scheme. The question is, when a massive housing scheme is embarked upon and completed, who takes up the houses?

I am sorry, in the consideration of the whole issue, the committee forgot all about the junior workers whom we were talking about. Otherwise, they would have put in their recommendation that the houses should be built only for junior workers. They failed to say that, and to leave the matter so ambiguous, I think, the best we have got to do is to forget it. It is a mistake in the first place to send an economic matter to a legal committee. So, we would not blame them so much because they handled an issue which they were not so conversant with.

So, what I am saying is that this House should not take a position on the side of people who are oppressing the junior worker. I do not see why, when something is being discussed for junior workers, people will begin to talk of inflation here and there. If the inflation comes, let us live with it and do justice to people who are oppressed. The junior workers are heavily oppressed and it is about time we did something to redeem them.

So, Mr Speaker, I am urging the House to throw away the recommendation and send the whole matter back to an appropriate committee.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I would first of all say that I am baffled to notice that this Motion was sent to the Judiciary Committee because I have not seen much legal enunciation they will give us from the contents of the Motion. I will also refuse to accept some sentimental approach to the issue such as that we should pass the Motion immediately and give to junior workers the rent subsidy they demand. This is because I think it will be premature to do so before the matter is thoroughly looked into. It is very important that we find out the number of junior workers who will benefit from this.

It is also necessary that we find out what quantum of our resources that will be deployed to this rent subsidy, so that we do not eventually discover that it will be more than the budget of the State and we still go on to say "give them rent subsidy".

I am also saying that some arguments proffered by hon. Members have two sides. If we say that the junior and senior workers buy from the same market, this is correct. But a counter argument could be that what the junior worker looks for in the market may not necessarily be what the senior worker looks for.

Several hon. Members: No ! No ! They ought to look for the same thing !

Mr Ogbuagu: Mr Speaker, I need your protection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ogbuagu: So, every point has two sides to it.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): On a point of Order. I am sorry I am not ordering, but the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) is improperly dressed.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker, I am standing up Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should not take orders from any other person. However, he is properly dressed; he looks like a real parliamentarian.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Mr Speaker Sir, point of Order again. The hon.

Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) is improperly dressed.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Let us hear the hon. Member for Njikoka North West (*Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu*).

Mr Ogbuagu: Thank you Mr Speaker. To draw this point home, I will also like hon. Members to note that the Head of State's recommendation on salary for the junior workers is yet being debated and from the context, those who read it must have seen that the minimum wage being suggested by the Head of State is now ₦100 as against ₦60 that they were earning. I would like hon. Members to try as much as possible to eschew measures that will create inflation. This matter I am suggesting should really go through the scrutiny of the Economic Development and Planning Committee so that all economic aspects will be considered before we think of passing the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. I have to guide the House. Whenever we have a Motion that is referred to a committee and then they are bringing their report, I think it is unnecessary for hon. Members to re-experience the debate on the Motion. I remember vividly I did refer this Motion to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning, and then Judiciary.

Rev. A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I just want to make an observation that we are not re-debating the issue. We are debating on the report of the Judiciary Committee. With this observation, I will go on to say that inasmuch as I have all respects for the learned Barrister, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee (*Mr Chinwuba*), I very much feel that we should reject this recommendation.

Honourable Members, I want you to see that it is high time we revised the trend of things in this society. Let me start with the people who are using the inflation tag to hang this matter. If there had been no inflation when the big men earning between grade levels 08 and 17 have been receiving the rent subsidy, why should we now remember inflation when it becomes a matter of giving people earning between grade levels 01 and 07 rent subsidy ? They are too many because many hands make

work light and without those many hands we would not have survived our economic onslaught in this society.

I want you to observe with me that it is true that monkey is working and baboon is busy eating. I very much would want us to have a Bill that would stop payment of rent subsidy to those earning between grade levels 09 to 17. This is the trend that the government is already following in respect of vehicle allowances. I wonder why we should quarter people who already have the money and then leave those who haven't the money. The problem with us is that we fail to probe to the heart of the matter of our society.

We talk of bribery, we talk of absenteeism and truancy and we refuse to find out why those people behave as they do. You pay somebody ₦65 and you want him to get a house at Enugu. Why shouldn't that person try to make up by taking bribe or by trying to have another sort of work like the teachers. Most of them are traders, most of them are seamstresses and most of them are contractors. They just jump into the classroom and jump out. And you are blaming them. It is simply because you have not recognized the true situation. I want you to see how unjust and immoral it is for a man who receives about one thousand naira a month to be given another ₦60 for rent subsidy and you ask the other man to receive ₦65 and go to blazes and live in the gutter.

Please, without flogging this matter, we will drop this recommendation and send back the Motion to another committee and if need be, we would want that committee to recommend that a Bill be prepared asking the government to drop payment of rent subsidy to those earning between grade levels 09 and 17 and replace it with rent subsidy for those between grade levels 01 and 08. Thank you.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I think the view I will take with regard to the recommendation of this committee is not that we reject the report completely as the hon. contributor has said. It is true this Motion was also referred to the Economic Development and Planning Committee. It is my humble view that we suspend the discussion on this report until we have got a

detailed report from the other committee, so that we will be able to proffer balanced views on this matter.

I may take this opportunity to sound a very serious note of warning to hon. Members of this House. You will be appreciative of the fact that whatever we say here carries much weight and it wouldn't be appropriate for us to refer to people from grade levels 08 upwards as baboons. After all, they are the heads that bear the brunt of the work; they hold very responsible positions. They are entitled to their hire. But what we are saying is that the junior ones should also be taken care of.

It is my most humble view that while considering the report of the two committees when they come before this House, we have also to take into consideration the economic situation of our State. When this matter was being debated, it was the popular wish that rent subsidy should be paid to junior workers, but we would not pass a Motion which will make this honourable House look as a group of irresponsible people. Before ever we take any serious decision, we have to consider the pros and cons. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. If the resources of this State were unlimited, I would here and now move that these junior workers from level 01 to 07 be paid ₦50.00 rent subsidy every month, but if we do that it will run into millions of naira.

So what I am saying in effect is that we should suspend discussion of this report because it is a sort of piecemeal report. We haven't got the complete report. When we get the report from the Economic Development and Planning Committee, we will be in a better position to proffer considered opinion and I would most humbly suggest to the Members of that committee that if they haven't completed their work or even if they have; so far it has not been presented, they will try to give us an idea, for example this is the number of junior workers in this category and if rent subsidy at ₦10.00 per month should be approved for them, this is what it will cost the State government so that we should be able to give considered decision on this matter.

Mr Speaker Sir, this is my humble opinion.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important

[MR MBASO]
debate. Sir, the report as written by the Judiciary Committee is splendid in itself. We shall not urge this honourable House to throw away the report just because it came from the committee that is not the most appropriate one. We have to note that Mr Speaker reserves the right to send any matter to any committee of the House whatsoever, so far as that committee is legally constituted in this House. Also Sir, we know that to that person who more is given more is also required because those people in the higher grade level also pay greater taxes than those in the lower levels. We know also that if rent subsidy is going to be authorized or to be paid, it will be *pro rata*, everyone has to be paid according to his own status. Therefore I am in support of the group of people asking that it be made general, that there will be no discrimination in the grant or payment of rent subsidy. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander.

Coming to the point raised by my learned friend, the hon. Member for Aguata West (Mr Okekeizuagwu), the report is yet packed. I am in full support that we defer conclusion of this debate until we must have received the report from the other committee to whom Mr Speaker assigned the job of also making inquiries and deliberations before we condemn the report. Since we have got only one side of the report without the other side, it would be improper for us to rush to conclusions, and since we cannot rush to conclusions on a piece of information or piece of advice or recommendation got from one side, any attempt to rush into resolutions would be absurd and what is absurd is bad and what is bad is dangerous and we have to avoid that.

Coming to the point about the Federal Government circular that was raised by the former contributors to this particular debate, I would say that since the Federal Government did not exclude or include junior workers in the circular, there is no reason why the State Government cannot take any effective measure to take care of the people in this category. It is the duty of the government to protect everybody within the ambit of the operational arms of the government. It is the government that will know who suffers most in its reign. It is the Government that will know how best to apply some measures of social engineering to get all the people happy at least in a way,

and since this is so, I am urging that when we must have got the two sides of the report, we would insist that all workers within the State both junior and senior will be paid rent subsidy depending on how much one gets and it will be on *pro rata*.

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this. I don't even want to belabour the issue by talking on points raised by other contributors. I would like to say that almost all the political parties indicated their intention to run an egalitarian society and particularly I would like to stress that this committee going to review issues must bear in mind the programme of the party, at least the party in power here. In this regard, I would say the report under consideration did not really remember the egalitarian policy of the Nigerian People's Party and if it did, in fact it could have been wrong to accept rent subsidy for the senior civil servants and reject same for the junior civil servants.

In my view which of course I made known through the radio at the time I was not allowed to talk here on the issue, I stressed that a national rent subsidy be made for all the workers, both senior and junior. National in the sense that it is not printed in the newspaper and the money is sent to each ministry's account and each ministry will start staff quarters; junior staff quarters—two rooms each. We must borrow a leaf from the Oyo State Government which budgeted about ₦6,000 for each building of four rooms to be shared by two junior servants and if for instance, when we were considering the supplementary budget, it is remembered that about three million naira went to rent subsidy and I say that if two million were used in building junior staff quarters at the rate of six thousand with local materials, you will find that each ministry will get a share of, out of about two million divided by six thousand, will get about three hundred buildings.

By this we will be reducing gradually the rent problem. In fact, I condemn the idea of paying the rent subsidy, that is, giving cash because I know the landlords will simply rejoice, increase their rents over night and then collect the money back into their coffers and both the junior and senior workers will continue to suffer. We must face the problem

and take the bull by the horn by starting a programme that will permanently remove the problem of rent. If we continue with the measure as I suggested, budgetting a specific amount of money to be used in building junior staff quarters just as you have P & T staff quarters, railway staff quarters etc., then we will be realistically pursuing a programme that will remove what is agitating our minds. But if we continue paying rent subsidy which we know is not going to the workers' coffers, we will simply be enriching the already wealthy class and this society will be a capitalist society, very far from an egalitarian society.

If any committee is ready to give us any report, it will think seriously on how to attack the problem permanently not half measures that will increase inflation. The workers have to suffer in the meantime, that is, forgo the rent subsidy. The government will borrow money from the Savings and Loan Society and start the real buildings. I bet that if 300 houses are built every three months, by the end of 3 years all the junior workers will be housed, and this will erase the question and the problem of paying rent subsidy. By this the government will gain, the workers will gain and the problem will be permanently solved. Thank you.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me take part in this debate. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Judiciary Committee for a job well done. I do not believe that they actually went out of track.

Mr Speaker Sir, paying rent subsidy will not solve our problems. I agree entirely with the last contributor. Now we have to go to the root cause of shortage of accommodation. Today in Enugu there is no shortage of accommodation. There is accommodation everywhere. The problem is that the landlords who own these buildings concentrate on building duplexes. They forget that there are junior workers who cannot afford to rent these big houses. If you drive round the town you see so many of them vacant. They simply cause artificial scarcity. Now these landlords, the way I look at them, are shylocks. They simply look for big money where they will collect ₦8,000 per annum and they forget the junior workers who really need accommodation. I

know that some of them are here, yes, they are here. (*Laughter*).

So Mr Speaker Sir, I am praying this House to look into this matter because we will be wasting our time enacting laws or passing Motions that will not help in solving our problems permanently.

So, I suggest that if rent subsidy is to be paid at all, it should be paid to all. But to my mind, I say it should not be paid to anybody. Let us embark on building houses for junior workers—single and double rooms. Let the government descend on the landlords. Let us pass a Bill here in the House to make the landlords register all their houses with the local councils . . .

An hon. Member: *O di egwu!*

Mr Onyefuru: And these houses will be looked after or rented out by the councils on government stipulated rates and then the owners will in turn collect their money from the caretaker, now the council. Then these landlords will be properly taxed. As at this moment, they collect their money without paying any tax.

It is equally on record that these landlords are the men who receive the rent subsidy, those on higher echelon. They receive the rent subsidy and build houses but deny these poor junior workers a place to lay their heads.

In civilized countries, unlike in Nigeria, you find that there is no shortage of accommodation because they make provision for all the citizens, not necessarily civil servants. There are those in our society who are not civil servants; there are even labourers, do we not expect them to live in a place? Therefore we should embark on a programme to provide low income houses for the low income group in the society. So we should do a detailed study of the problem before we ever decide to pass any Motion or Bill on rent subsidy.

Therefore I am informing this House that this problem is no small matter. There is much to it than meets the eye. Let us try for once and solve this problem of inflation caused by ourselves. Sometime ago, the government passed the Rent Edict. Those who drafted this Edict are the people who flout this same Edict. So I am praying this House, Mr Speaker, that whichever committee will handle this

[MR ONYEFURU]

matter from now should not hurry over it. If it means going to study situations in other States or in other countries let them do that so that we can come out with one piece of job well done. Our duty in this State is to care for all, both the rich and the poor. The end of exploitation must come in this State. And so Sir, with this I thank you.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Thank you Mr Speaker. When this Motion was first introduced, I argued against it because I didn't realize that levels 08 to 17 or whatever it is were being paid rent subsidy. Now that I have realized this, I think I have to change my mind. But what I think we should do in the prevailing circumstances is to, not only refer this matter . . .

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. The hon. Member speaking is improperly dressed. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member should wear his jacket and continue his debate.

Mr Alor: Thank you Mr Speaker for your protection. I am being embarrassed by everybody here. (*Laughter*). Sorry about that. As I was saying, I think the problem of this rent subsidy is everybody's problem really and I think the solution lies on providing accommodation for all classes of workers . . .

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. I think the hon. Member who has the Floor is still improperly dressed. He should either appear in suit or the national dress.

The Deputy Speaker: The point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Alor: Thank you again Mr Speaker for your continued protection. I think I am being harassed by everybody. So as I was saying—I better conclude quickly before somebody raises another point of Order—what I think would happen now if Mr Speaker agrees, is to refer this matter not only to the Economic Planning Committee but also to the Finance Committee. When they send in their reports, we will probably be in a better position to assess how much it is going to cost the government and when we know this, perhaps we might find that this money could be used in building houses for the low income group and

that will be better than giving it out to them because they will eventually transfer it to the landlords and they will come back to square one and we wouldn't have solved the problem at all.

So Mr Speaker Sir, I would very much suggest that the Report of the Judiciary Committee be suspended and that the matter be also transferred to the Finance Committee for their deliberation and report to this House along with that of the Economic Planning Committee. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I would like to contribute mine in a different way. Nobody in Enugu here can be called a landlord except the citizens namely: Amechi Awkunanaw or Ngwo Uno. We did not come with houses to Enugu; but the problem of housing accommodation is a common problem which the government or the ministries are responsible for. I remember 1940. By 1941, 42; (*Interruptions*). Lend me your ears, when Coal Corporation was established, they had quarters for their workers. P. and T. had quarters for their workers, the Railways have quarters for their workers, even government departments have quarters for their workers etc., etc. The trouble now in the township is that everybody wants to live in a flat. But not all of us want to live in a flat. Go to my constituency, Agu Aboh, you will see one room which would not cost more than ₦300 to build.

If we want to solve the problem of accommodation in Enugu here, and in other townships, we ought to consider awarding contracts for the building of two rooms, three rooms, one room apartments that is called quarters, like police barracks, soldier barracks, warder barracks, for the workers.

When you talk of landlords, of course landlords build on their tastes and they need tenants, to return their bank loans. In fact if government could put up small buildings as it is supposed to do for the workers, the problem of workers would have been half solved. In our homes, we have servants and we provide houses for the servants. We don't provide twenty bedrooms for the servants. But the trouble in Nigeria is one thing. We all want to live at the same level—both the messenger, the chief clerk, the chief executive, we want to live in the same class of accommodation, this one will live in two

rooms, the other one will live in two rooms. If I may suggest through the Speaker, if this House could reason very well, we don't need to give anybody money. Let us build houses according to departments. Finance should borrow the money—this is the money from the bank, build small houses according to the class or classes of people you employ. In my own department, I employ conductors, they have their quarters, they are not worried about the payment of rents. I mean, building is an investment. If you borrow the money, commit the money and pay the rent. Not only paying the house rent, you pay the cash rent. If you don't know, ask the bank. So if people cry about landlord and landlords; landlords are not the cause. The cause is, you build only one house, and you employ two hundred men. Where do you want them to live?

But we are the government and so let us pass a law that every ministry should provide accommodation according to the number and class of people they employ. If you employ an European, you have to give him a quarter. We should provide quarters so that house rent will just drop the moment we have sufficient quarters for the workers. Once workers have their own houses, they don't pay for it, we borrow the money and build it, it will remain permanent. I remember the one at Siding, it is still there. If you just go out another man will be employed and he will live in that house. Coal Corporation still hold their quarters, Railway Corporation hold their own—nobody worries them. A railway man never asks where am I to live. His quarter is there—No. 17 Post Office Road—they have their one room, two room houses.

But the trouble now is, if you build one room for anybody he will say that it is not sufficient . . . (*Interruptions*). Sorry, Sorry, I am not quarelling with anybody, I am only protecting this House, so that we make something concrete to stop people answering shylock and all that. The best thing to do is for everyone to provide for himself. Let government build houses. Not building a house of ₦60,000 or ₦100,000 and you pretend you are building it for workers. So Housing Corporation cannot solve the problem. What will solve the problem is to build the houses according to the classes. House rent of ₦200, ₦3,000, ₦2,000 is too much for a small worker. How would he save

the money, to pay. So government should build the house and give to its workers. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. In contributing my own idea to the recommendations of the committee, Mr Speaker, I have to say that I am very much in sympathy with the members of Judiciary Committee; but they have been flogged enough, because once the Motion was referred to two committees, it would have been good as some hon. Members said earlier that this matter be debated and then postponed for us to hear the recommendation from the other committee. In fact, we know very well that this set of workers we are discussing their issue constitute the majority in the State and it is very very dangerous to trade or to play with their affairs.

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): On a point of Order Mr Speaker Sir. An hon. Member is reading a newspaper.

The Deputy Speaker: No hon. Member should do something that will distract the attention of the others. The hon. Member for Nnewi South may continue with his contribution.

Akunne Sam Okeke: Thank you Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say is that this set of workers i.e., the junior workers constitute the majority in the civil service of the State. Much as I do not lose sight of the senior civil servants, that they are the people who man the people who man the affairs of the civil service in the State, I would also say that it is this set of junior civil servants that work out the money with which most of these people are paid and if we lose sight of these people, we are trying to ruin ourselves. I am saying Sir that we have to look at this Motion passionately, bearing in mind that if these junior workers are not properly treated they will sabotage some of the efforts of the State government by not being serious over their work.

I am therefore suggesting that we postpone further debate on the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee and wait to see what the other Committee has recommended but all the same I wouldn't like hon. Members to continue to lay much emphasis on the members of the Judiciary Committee. I am happy personally that I don't belong to this committee, because if much emphasis is laid on the members of



[AKUNNE SAM OKEKE]

the committee, perhaps this set of workers would someday mob them and Mr Speaker, I am saying that the question of landlords and all worth notes does not come in here. I very much see the point raised by the hon. Member for Enugu West (*Mr Okeke*) in providing small buildings for this set of workers.

But the problem is land. Where do you get enough land to put up these buildings. The only thing is if we are able to pay them this subsidy if approved, it will help them to go into small places and get any number of rooms they may require, instead of asking the departments or ministries to begin to build houses for them. It will be too burdensome. So Mr Speaker, without going further into the details of this matter I would suggest that we stop debating on this issue until we get the report of the other committee.

Mr M. I. Ezeugwu (Nsukka Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to thank the hon. Members who spoke in favour and those who spoke against the Motion. In the first place, when I moved this Motion, I felt it was not going to be a Motion which would be referred to anywhere, but in any case, I have to accept it because it is one of the parliamentary procedures.

Now, it is really unfortunate, however, to find out that at this juncture, there are still people who are sitting on this Motion. But by and by I . . .

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Point of Order. The hon. Member who is speaking appears to be personal on the debate on the rent subsidy.

Several hon. Members: Order number what?

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Allow him to make his point.

Mr Macduhu: Mr Speaker Sir, I am saying that the hon. Member who has the Floor has been so personal about the Motion, because he earlier presented the Motion. I think since the Motion was referred to the Judiciary Committee and the Judiciary Committee has made a recommendation, it is left entirely for this honourable House to determine whether we shall accept the recommendation of the committee or not. But it appears to me that the hon. Member who has the Floor is trying as if

to say that he is the co-ordinator, he has been pointing some accusing fingers on other hon. Members who oppose the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee. And at the same time thanking some hon. Members who favour the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee.

The Deputy Speaker: I wish to remind you that that is his property because he is the Mover of the Motion. So, he should work very hard to see that the Motion goes through.

Honourable Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) should please continue.

Mr Ezeugwu: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for a good job done. Now, as I was saying; I said that . . .

Interruption as a result of power failure.

Sitting suspended at 11.42 a.m. because of power failure.

Sitting Resumed: 11.50 a.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) summarize his points.

Mr Ezeugwu: I think this time I have to make it a bit brief before the National Electric Power Authority decides to cut in again.

Now, I am particularly grateful to the Judiciary Committee for its recommendation. From the recommendation, the committee was able to find out that people on salary grade levels 08 to 17 are enjoying this rent subsidy. But when it comes to people on salary grade levels 1 to 6, they say it will increase inflation. The way I look at this report is like this: if you carry your peugeot 404 car or any brand of peugeot to a volvo specialist, what you expect is more damage to your car. And this is how I look at this report from the Judiciary Committee.

I am saying that we better wait and receive the report from the correct committee which is the Economic Committee. I think it is the appropriate committee to make recommendation on this particular issue and not the Judiciary Committee.

Now, I am still of the opinion and I continue to maintain that we should bridge the gap between the senior and junior workers. The gap that exists right away is too much and we

should do something to bridge it. If we don't do that, I think it will be very disastrous. The interest of the majority in this case will not be protected. So, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members and I continue to remain indebted to them as long as they take the interest of the community which we are here to serve in their hearts.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Thank you Mr Speaker. The point I want to make is to remind this honourable House of the slogan during the great Russian revolution: "To each according to his ability; to each according to his need". The point is that there are many categories of workers and each worker must live according to his means. We are talking of those earning from salary grade levels 08 to 17; they have been in the service for a long time and they have been holding the reins of the government both in the military and the civilian regimes. So, they should live according to their means and the type of work they do. And it is my considered view that we should continue to pay them rent subsidy, but not neglecting the lower workers.

Again, if we say we are making sacrifice, that this people must forgo their rent subsidy, then you yourselves are asking for rent subsidy and better pay. We must have to make sacrifice. Remember that when we are pointing an accusing finger on one person, the other fingers point at us. We must consider any point in all its ramifications when it comes into this House. I quite believe that a junior worker may sometimes reach his career expectation. Most of these senior workers have reached their career expectations and so they should be paid according to the work they do. So, I am in support that they should receive rent subsidy. There is no need of tampering with their rent subsidy.

Again, we must consider that if these workers who have been in the service for thirty or forty years were in the private sector—their counterparts in the private sector are building mansions, making money, doing this and that. But they still continue with the service irrespective of whether they are paid well or not. So we must praise them.

Then for the junior workers, I feel that this report—we must receive the report from the Economic Committee in order to consider the

report together because it is lopsided to consider only this one. We should get all the available data, the numerical strength of different grades of workers from salary grade levels 01 to 07, then we estimate the amount it will cost the government to pay them either ₦10 or ₦20 as rent subsidy for one year. Then we consider what it will cost the government and then determine whether this House will pass the Motion that they should be paid rent subsidy or whether the government should be asked to embark on building houses for them. It is not only a point of passing a Motion, but if we know that the arm of government responsible for executing the Motion or carrying out whatever we have decided here will carry it out, then we pass a Bill on that, if we know that it is within the limit of the financial resources of the government. So, it is not only passing the Motion.

Mr Speaker, it is my considered view that we give up the debate on this lopsided Motion pending the time we receive detailed report from the Economic Development Committee.

Thank you very much.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I stand to say that since this Motion which is referred to more than one committee, not only the Judiciary Committee but in view of the fact that only the Judiciary Committee has submitted its report, I do not know whether the reason for our continuing to deliberate on the report of the Judiciary Committee is simply to revive it when the other committee must have brought its own report. Going the same thing over and over again is as a result of our not having any other thing to talk about, today. If that is the aim of our continuing to while away time on this, I should rather suggest that we adjourn formally to enable us come back tomorrow to get into more meaningful thing. Otherwise, I should say that we leave this until the Committee on Economic Development and Planning has been able to bring its own report to this House so that if anybody would want to go at any length telling us about who should benefit from rent subsidy and what should be done in order to make it likeable by all in the State, that person can do it. I consider all that we are doing now a sheer waste of our time. So I should say that we give a thought to this and do other things or where we do not have any other thing, we adjourn.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! I do not think that it is a waste of time. It is not so because no experiment is a failure.

I also want to make few remarks. This Motion was referred to the Judiciary Committee because we wanted to know what other States in the Federation are thinking. We also wanted to know whether there is already an existing law. It was not a mistake because it was stressed that day, that they have to look at it from the legal point of view. I will also refer to the Committee on Economic Development to advise us with data, and I would wish that the Chairman of this committee say when he would report to the House.

Chairman Economic Development Committee (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. A few weeks ago, the National Economic Council met and I am still expecting some material from our own Ministry of Economic Development here which I consider will be used for these purposes.

I crave the indulgence of the House to give me about a week more to see whether this report will come.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

And there being no other Business the Deputy Speaker adjourned sitting without Question put till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Sitting adjourned accordingly at 12 noon.

[MR EKWEALOR]
report because it is completely objective and is a very good exposition of the legal position. Also it is a good report because the committee has carefully refused to make a policy recommendation on the face of the report.

From the analysis therefore, I would say that it is possible to decide one way or the other. It is possible to decide to pass the Motion or to throw it away. What remains therefore, is the question of commonsense, reasonableness and expedience. The customary courts were established by warrant. By warrant therefore, the Governor has power to revoke the establishment of the customary courts. This appears to be the summary of the legal advice on this report. The submission on the report which says that the Governor has right to revoke the appointment, does not agree with the logic of this report. What agrees with the logic of the report and what follows from it is that the Governor has right to establish customary courts by warrants and therefore, he has right to revoke the establishment of customary courts by warrants, not the appointment of members.

The appointment of customary court members was legally made by a competent authority—the Interim Judicial Service Commission. Since the Governor did not appoint these members and since these members were appointed by a legally constituted authority that was competent, the Governor cannot safely revoke these appointments. In fact, section 256 1 (b) of the constitution makes provision as to how judiciary officers can be removed. I refer particularly to subsection 1 (b) with your permission I quote.

(b) in any case, other than those to which paragraph (a) of this subsection applies, that is, the case of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Chief Judge of High Court and the rest of them. All other judicial officers can be removed by the President or as the case may be by the Governor acting on the recommendation of the Federal Judicial Service Commission or the State Judicial Service Commission

I submit . . .

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Will the hon. Member for Anambra North (*Mr Ekwealor*) please read down the section.

Mr Ekwealor:

... the Governor acting on the recommendation of the Federal Judicial Service Commission or the State Judicial Service Commission that the judicial officer be so removed for his inability to discharge the functions of his office or appointment (whether arising from infirmity of mind or of body) or for misconduct or contravention of the Code of Conduct."

I submit that these customary court members having been appointed by the Interim Judicial Service Commission, are judicial officers in accordance with this constitution and cannot be removed other than by the provision of this constitution.

Mr Speaker Sir, it would appear to me that the only reason anybody can still think in terms of passing the Motion after reading the report is because the Governor has the right, under the constitution, to revoke the warrant establishing the customary court. In this connection, I would wish to remind hon. Members of the wise saying that all that is legal is not expedient.

It is my humble opinion that at this point in time, it is not expedient for His Excellency, the Governor, to use his last constitutional power on this issue. (*Laughter*).

It would be indiscreet and uncharitable for this honourable House to coase him into doing this and these Customary Court Members are citizens of this State. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker Sir, in any case, I think it is clear to all of us that His Excellency will revoke the establishment of the customary court only to re-establish them by another warrant. Such an action will simply evoke the number of questions that can never be satisfactorily answered : Question as to why, speculations as to intent and innumerable interpretations as to motive.

Several hon. Members: Fire !

Mr Ekwealor: Mr Speaker Sir, all these things and the attendant commotion in this

State can and should be avoided. I oppose the passing of the Motion, in the spirit of the report, because the report would like us to oppose it. And I advise hon. Members to unanimously oppose it.

Mr Speaker Sir, Thank you. (*Laughter*).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I would have spoken in the line of the last contributor but the difference would be in the application. I have always emphasized that we should aim at priorities. What should engage our minds now is not the customary court. The members of the customary court were appointed by a committee headed by the Chief Judge of the State. Ample opportunity was given for those who wished to apply. It was advertised. Many people applied. They were screened and the best were chosen. (*Laughter*). The best among those who applied—assuming you did not see the publication and never applied until those who applied and were taken were sworn in, then you realized that there was something like customay court.

From the list of the existing customary courts in the State, it would appear that those were the old customary courts that had existed earlier but were reactivated. No new customary courts were created. Some were even merged. The report of the committee is suggesting that the creation of customary courts should be on Judicial Division basis instead of local government area basis. This is wrong.

The only fault I have found with the creation is that those who created the customary courts did not take into consideration the staffing. Since the creation last June, customary court judges have been taking their salaries even without working, because there are no staff to be posted to the court areas. Only very few were opened. No staff, no buildings. What I mean by no buildings is the non-reactivation of the customary court buildings damaged during the unfortunate war.

By asking His Excellency to revoke by warrant the appointment or the customary court itself, will mean throwing thousands of people out of job—those whose hopes have been long ago raised. Some of them I know are retired superior Police Officers. (*Laughter*). Some are retired judicial officers such as registrars and interpreters.

Nothing better could have been done except appointing these men of honour to head the customary courts in the local government areas. I will only ask that the authority that be, be requested to post registrars to these courts instead of allowing the judges to take salaries without working for them. In any case, I would have said that I am opposing the report, but the report did not say anything about sacking the existing judges. Rather, it suggested the recreation of customary courts on Judicial Division basis. So, . . .

(*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) who has the Floor should please round up.

Mr Unigwe: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The report says the Governor may; I would ask that he may not. (*Laughter!*) Rather, to post registrars to these courts and help the magistrates in the divisions to clear the long standing cases in the courts. Since the establishment of these customary courts, in certain areas where they are functioning now, magistrates there are relieved. I have heard some of them say that the customary courts have helped them to do their job efficiently, and justice discharged on time.

Mr Speaker Sir, I do not want to take much time. I am only asking and emphasizing that the Customary Courts . . .

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, it appears that the hon. Member who has the Floor has been reading his speech from a prepared text. I think it is against the regulation, that is the present Standing Orders we are using. Section 26 of the Standing Orders stipulates that Members should not read their speeches from prepared texts.

Mr Speaker: I am satisfied that the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) is only making references. The point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Unigwe: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. The hon. Member who made the point of Order is improperly dressed.

(*Laughter*).

He is wearing a sports shirt. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: No dialogues. Address Mr Speaker.

Mr Unigwe: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In conclusion, the committee has done a marvellous job by leaving some loopholes for the Governor to or not to, and I will pray that he does not.

With this Sir, I beg to support.
(Laughter).

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker Sir, my observation is with reference to section 277 of the constitution of Nigeria. I am referring particularly to page ninety-one thereof; the last paragraph on definition, which reads as follows:—

“House of Assembly” means the House of Assembly of a State “judicial office” means the office of the Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court or the President or Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of a High Court, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, or President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State;

Here lies my emphasis—“The President or the Judge of a customary court of Appeal,” not ordinary customary court. And a reference to a judicial officer is a reference to the holder of any such office.

Mr Speaker Sir, my observation relates to the statement made by the hon. Member for Anambra North (*Mr Ekwealor*), who referred to the customary courts judges as judicial officers, and also referred us to the relevant provision of the constitution as to their removal. I observed, Sir, that these customary court judges are not judicial officers as envisaged in the constitution. Therefore, their removal or non-removal does not seem to come within the provision of the constitution. So, we have to look at a different angle for our submissions here, and not to treat them as judicial officers.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: That observation is upheld Ordinary Customary Court Judges are not judicial officers, reference the interpretation in the constitution.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to resent the sentiment expressed by the last two speakers. Why I say this is that they appear to lose sight of the reasons which the hon. Members of this House had when we debated this Motion. The reasons there appear to me a call for review of the

appointments of these customary court Judges. What the Motion is seeking is not that all the members should be sacked, but that there should be a second look on the method of the appointment of these people.

One will agree with me that anybody who is saying that the best have been selected is talking nothing but jazz. I know that in my constituency, somebody who is now the President of the Customary Court, I have said this before comes, from Awgu Local Government Area, and everybody knows that my Local Government Area is Ishielu.

An hon. Member: Shu-ga-ba !
(Laughter).

Mr Eze: If there is any reason for imposing this man on the people whose customs he does not know, the reason should be looked for either in the realm of bribery and corruption or political lineage. I know also that in other constituencies in Ishielu, holders of the West African School Certificate vied with somebody who possesses only the First School Leaving Certificate; who is holding the office now? The man without the First School Leaving Certificate. There is no justification and there is no reason this should be the case, and they come from the same customary area.

During my last tour of my constituency, almost every place I went, this imposition of somebody from another local government area on the people to administer their custom, was mentioned to me. I think if the same thing happens in some other places the people will agitate, and since we have to represent the people and take into consideration whatever bothers them, the customary courts issue is something that is burning in the minds of the people right now. So, I am saying that we should recommend to the Governor to cause the review of the appointment of these people.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to congratulate the Judiciary Committee members on a work well done. I am convinced that most of the hon. Members of this House know quite well that the appointment of customary court members was not well organized. It is necessary that when we

say custom, it means that the natives who are actually performing the customary duties in their areas will be the people of the choice of those areas. It is also said that those who are really partisan politicians should not take part in the appointment of customary court members.

I will take this opportunity again to inform this house that up till today in my area, the President of Customary Court members is still the chairman of a political party. I am saying that if it is left like that for some time, I may call it a time-bomb. Actually my people have not revolted; they are waiting for this report.

(Laughter).

It is therefore necessary that hon. Members should consider this report with utmost care. We cannot jump up to say we do not support it, we do not support; let them be there, because it does not concern us. If it concerns us, we will actually know the involvement.

Most of the members as I have said earlier, about six members—three are complete illiterates. Tell me how an illiterate can preside in a law court over a person.

Mr Speaker Sir, I urge the Members of this House to support reviewing the appointment of these members as a matter of urgency. We are not saying that the customary courts should not exist. We are saying that the appointment was watery. Nobody is opposing customary courts in the State. We are opposing the appointment of the members.

Thank you Sir.

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute. Really, I am supporting the idea of reviewing the appointment of customary court members. The reason being that a lot of things happened in certain areas to the extent that some of the members appointed judges cannot actually be guaranteed. We are all aware that recently some people were appointed as teachers—auxilliary teachers, but only one month or so, this was actually stopped and a review is going on. Some may be re-appointed. But the bad ones are likely to be dropped. I do not agree with the contribution by one hon. Member, that as long as his brother or a relation is there, everything is all right everywhere. I really want to stress that the appointments of the customary

court judges in some areas were very discriminatory. There was no political party then, but some were appointed and incidentally they preferred being in politics. If they do so, it all demands that the appointments will be revoked.

In many areas, the selection of chiefs were so controversial that it generated much heat and blood and some of these chiefs who find themselves as customary court judges are really preparing ground to imprison as many opposers as one can imagine. And if this happens, I know there will be a riot in this State. And some areas, in particular a place like Nkanu, the appointment was based on discrimination and certain people from certain families were not appointed even though they were more qualified. There was a case of a retired customary court clerk who had worked for over twenty years, but somebody selected in that community was an ordinary village farmer, not a farmer of repute and then the clerk who had worked as clerk of the court under the colonial regime till the beginning of hostilities in Nigeria, was dropped. We cannot say that the best were really appointed in many areas.

Again, we are not saying as the Mover of the Motion has already indicated, that we ask the Governor to revoke or abolish by warrant, the existence of customary courts or to go and interfere with the duties of the Judicial Service Commission, but I know he has the power to ask them to review where there are glaring irregularities in the appointment of these customary court members. If there will be justice in these courts, it all demands that every step will be taken to make sure that this justice is given a chance.

Furthermore, I am appealing that hon. Members should remove selfish ends or interests. There is no political party that will say that the members are all from their camp. None! I do not think that the review of the appointment of the judges and those that are likely to take up should be the members of a political party or political parties. In fact, when that will happen, I am even advising that all measures should be taken to see that those who are interested in certain political parties are removed from such appointments in order to sustain the confidence reposed on these customary courts.

[MR MBAH]

If we fall into the temptation of pacifying political supporters with these appointments, we will only be creating another precedent and I am saying like somebody hinted, we will see riots in so many local government areas, including my own, Nkanu. In fact, people have been waiting because these customary court judges are not functioning. By the time they start to function, one finds the judges who have been appointed begin to maltreat certain segments of the society. Then there will be revolt and this House will be called upon to revoke or rather mandate the Governor to revoke these appointments. With this, I thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! We will allow two more speakers, I crave the indulgence of the House. This is a Motion we debated fully and referred to committee. Therefore, if we hear two more speakers, we should be able to take a decision.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I have to start from the point raised by the last contributor. It is inexpedient and imprudent for any Member of this honourable House to give us a threat that there will be a riot anywhere. That is detested. I am assuring this honourable House that in my own constituency, there will be no riot. In fact, if there are one or two or three customary court judges that are found inefficient or for one reason or the other the people of any given community decide that that particular customary court judge is not needed, exceptions can never be the rule and if there are few exceptions in certain areas, that cannot be sufficient reason for us to urge the Governor to start reviewing this particular part of the establishment.

In fact, Mr Speaker Sir, the customary court judges as appointed, have not been tested. There are no reports against them yet, there are no reports of either maladministration or bribery or corruption or anything so analogous. And I cannot see Sir, how we can start to fish in troubled water. It would amount to witch hunting. If probably one falls out with one customary court judge or probably one wanted to influence a certain customary court judge and failed, that person would come to this honourable House and urge hon. Members

to initiate a move which will be inimical to the interests of not only the particular person affected but also to the generality of the people. So Sir, the report in itself says may, and may is persuasive. It shows really that the committee is not fully convinced that there is need now for this review. I quite appreciate the point or the interpretation that review does not mean expulsion or scrapping the establishment or removing everybody there, but this is not so urgent now that we have to embark on it.

Another point raised by some contributors, was that we will not allow the customary court judges to be affected by political inclination, political leanings and considerations. Well enough, the army was not a political party. Therefore, when the army appointed them, the army had no consideration for whatever political party to which any one of the judges would belong. How are we now sure that if there is a review and some new customary court judges are appointed that they will do better than the present ones? How are we sure also Sir, that if new ones are appointed that there may not be some members of this honourable House who will be aggrieved or disaffected because their nominees are not recommended or probably approved or taken? It is my humble submission Mr Speaker, that we would let the sleeping dog lie as at now. There is no urgency for us to urge the Governor whose office has already been so much saddled with many problems to start . . .

Several hon. Members: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Mbaso: . . . looking at such a little thing now. So Mr Speaker, I beg to say that we let the sleeping dog lie.

Mr Speaker: I thought we said two more speakers.

Several hon. Members: Yes !

Mr Speaker: Then let us hear the Majority Leader.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. In fact it is very, very unfortunate that we have forgotten what we said during the introduction of this Motion by the hon. Member for Igbo-Eze North (*Mr Obeta*). Fortunately, we were all elected constitutionally and we owe a duty to our

respective constituencies. I don't see how it is possible for one who hasn't anything to do with a man—you didn't employ a man to do work for you and expect him to do it effectively. Please I am sounding a very big warning Mr Speaker. The so-called customary court judges weren't at all screened when they were elected. (*Interruptions*). Excuse me! So Mr Speaker, if we can go through what we debated we can remember what we contributed during the initial introduction of this very Motion. It was unanimously agreed that the Governor should revoke the appointment of customary court judges. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker Sir, if you can protect me as you have allowed me take the Floor, I stand to thank the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) and his committee for a job very well done. There is one thing in a political set up, mostly on the judicial side which is the customary court, but I should pray that the Governor revokes this very thing any time from now and appoint those whom we think have no political interests in other to give our people what they need. With these few remarks, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg that the question be now put.

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

Main Question put and the House divided by Roll call.

Ayes: 48, Noes: 20, Not Voting: 18.

Ayes: 48

Agbo, E. A.
 Agbo, J. N.
 Akunne, J. O.
 Anyabuike, D. C.
 Azegba, F.
 Chinwuba, R. A.
 Chukwuka, C. E.
 Didigu, S. O.
 Egbe, P. J. N.
 Egwuonwu, M. N.
 Ekuma, N.
 Emehelu, C. O.
 Eneje, J.
 Eze, P. I.
 Ezenwaka, T. N.
 Iburu, N. A.
 Idoko, B. C.
 Igboka, G. N.

Ayes — continued

Igwe, F. E.
 Ikeoha, D. C.
 Itanyi, E. A.
 Macduhu, E. J.
 Mbah, B. O.
 Ngene, D. O.
 Ezenwa, A. N.
 Nnaji, C. O.
 Nwafor, A. N.
 Nwobodo, N. O.
 Obeta, S.
 Obiekwe, I.
 Odo, A.
 Ogbaga, A. U.
 Ogbodo, S. J.
 Ojemeni, S. O.
 Ojukwu, M. C. O.
 Okafor, S. N.
 Okeke, C. E.
 Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
 Okoye, F. N.
 Okoye, V. C.
 Okpaga, A. E.
 Omeke, A.
 Onyido, S. I.
 Osita, R. A.
 Ottah, A. O.
 Udeorah, S. J.
 Ugwuokpe, W.
 Unabia, P. U.

Noes: 20

Agballah, O. P.
 Chukwuka, G. B. C.
 Ede, S. N. O.
 Ekwealor, B. A.
 Enendu, G. A.
 Igwe, M. O.
 Mbaso, L. A.
 Nnaeto, A. O.
 Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
 Nwafor, G. C.
 Nwambeke, P.
 Nwofor, F. C.
 Nworah, D. C.
 Obah, M. C.
 Obuna, A. A.
 Okoye, G. R.
 Opata, C. U.
 Ozoekwem, S. N.
 Umeaba, W.
 Unigwe, F. B.

[MR SPEAKER]

Roll call—*continued**Not Voting:* 18

Alor, S. N.

Emodi, F. C.

Ezeugwu, M. I.

Okeke, A. O. C. S.

Okeke, B. C. N.

Okonkwo, L.

Omeje, E. P. I.

Onyefuru, G. N. C.

Molah, O. C.

Njoku, L.

Udeani, H. C.

Ugoh, O. M.

Umunna, F. O.

Mbah, B. O.

Ikeh, B. O.

Odife, S. E.

Ogbuagu, F. M. O.

Ogbuka, C. J.

• *Question accordingly agreed to*

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members will remember that I asked the members of the delegation that went to the United States of America to send in their reports today and I would wish that the hon. Members send copies of their reports to the Members of the House. We can then take on discussions on that report after we have read it, on another date rather than having the Members read out the report here in the House when we have not even had a look at them. Would that be the opinion of the House?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the members of the delegation to the United States of America send copies of their reports to hon. Members of the House to read and discussions on it to be taken on another date.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Introduction of Municipal Bus Services at Enugu and Onitsha

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to introduce the Motion standing in my name and which reads thus:

That this House urges the Executive to establish a Transport Corporation to be

charged expressly with the immediate responsibility of introducing and managing of Municipal Bus Services in Enugu and Onitsha.

Mr Speaker, this Motion is not supposed to come up this time because we are all now tired and weak. I would have liked to give this Motion a very good time that it requires because it affects almost all of us.

*(Interruptions).***Mr Speaker:** Order! Order!

Mr Okeke: If you will allow me, Mr Speaker, I am asking for an order to defer it so that...

Mr Speaker: All right. Is that supported?**Several hon. Members:** Yes.*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That the Motion for the introduction of Municipal Bus Services at Enugu and Onitsha be deferred to another date.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn until Monday, 31st March, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Everybody can't be a Chief

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and also to draw the attention of the Members of this honourable House to the new development and the number of chieftaincy institutions in Anambra State. On 16th March, 1980, His Excellency was installed the Chief of Nkanu and hon. Members were invited to the occasion. I think it was there that we joined our colleagues of the N.P.P. in sending congratulations to him for the honour done him by his people for having achieved the post of Governor of the State. He therefore deserves being made a Chief.

But now, I notice that there is a drift. We are going back to the old era, everybody is putting on the cap of a chief. Anybody who is prominent is made a chief. Anybody who is a contractor or a big man is made a chief, even women!

So, Mr Speaker, it is necessary that we draw attention to this because we are the law makers of this State, the rulers of this State. We hold the powers of this State and in accordance with section 7 of the constitution,

it is our duty to ensure that Anambra State has good government.

I wish also to urge our hon. Members not to indulge in that deplorable game of everybody becoming a chief overnight. It is not fair. We are supposed to give purposeful leadership to our people. We are supposed to organize them to purposeful action, not to answer chiefs.

Also, it appears that the Commissioners—a report was made yesterday that they should be made to know their duties. Most of them are now struggling to be made chiefs and most of them have been in office for just six months. Not all of them can show any concrete achievement since their appointments and yet they want to be made chiefs. I think this House should sit up and do its duty.

The funniest side of it is that women are now chiefs. I am not against women being made chiefs. I am not against women who have achieved success or who have contributed to the success of the community being made chiefs. But we must frown at petty contractors, middle women, agents...

An hon. Member: Swindlers!

Mr Nwofor: Wives of hon. Members, wives of Commissioners and wives of what-have-you. The most annoying thing is that they are called upon to chairman occasions. I think we here have a duty to ensure that the government is a serious one, governing men is a serious business and must be viewed and treated as such.

I sounded a note of warning that this session of the Assembly will deal with anybody who attempts to ridicule the House by trying to bring his wife to be made chief without any purpose or achievement on her part at all. I would prepare a Bill that only people who achieve eminence in their various fields of calling should be made chiefs in their communities.

An hon. Member: You will get national honour.

Mr Nwofor: It should not be people who have not achieved anything; not commissioned agents; not petty women contractors—suppliers of everything.

So Mr Speaker Sir, you owe it as a duty to this State to make sure that the feelings of this House are brought to the official attention of the

members of the Executive, that we are no longer in a position to tolerate any drift in the affairs of this State and that anybody who is charged with any public responsibility must live up to it. I think I am speaking the mind of this honourable House.

Several hon. Members: Yes! Fire!

Mr Nwofor: With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to resume my seat.

Please Honour Their Invitation

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so Sir, I would want to refer hon. Members to a special invitation card from the Cancer Society of Nigeria and which was slotted into every Member's pigeon hole a couple of days ago. The occasion is at 5 p.m. today 28th March, 1980 at the Hotel Presidential.

Also, Sir, there was another letter of appeal slotted into our pigeon holes and it came from the same Cancer Society. For quite some time now, it has been observed that the society has been trying to run some advertisement in the radio. It is part of our responsibility to help this society as much as we can. The society is comparatively new in the country and from what it has been advertising, it does a lot to help a good number of people who have this cancer illness. I would very much appeal to all hon. Members to honour that invitation.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

It is not True

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu-Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Thank you very much Mr Speaker Sir. May I refuse, reject and attack the observation made by one hon. Member in respect of chieftaincy titles in Anambra State.

Chieftaincy titles are bestowed on individuals in appreciation of their contributions to the society or to the area in question. This House would be tampering with the fundamental human right if we sit down here to dictate to towns, areas or communities whom they will confer chieftaincy titles on. May I disagree with the view expressed by the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*).

Having said so Sir, may I call on the Ministry of Trade and Co-operatives to think of coming to Agbani to establish a trade office. The reasons for this are numerous.

[MR OGBU-NWOBODO]

Firstly, Agbani is pretty near to the head-quarter of this State, being less than twenty-six kilometres away.

Secondly, the road leading to Agbani is one of the best in the State .

Thirdly, the town grows commercially and there is absolute need to collect useful data on the prices of commodities which are plentiful in the town. Besides, there are so many business tycoons in the area who can easily form the usual Chamber of Commerce and if a small town like Awgu could have a trade office, certainly there is need... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I think it is unfair to refer to another hon. Member's constituency as being small. The hon. Member for Nkanu Central (*Mr Ogbu-Nwobodo*) should please round off.

Mr Ogbu-Nwobodo: I really... (*Interruptions*). I seek your protection, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Order! You will be protected. You have my protection. But I think it is improper to have made that statement. It is unfair to hon. Members from Awgu.

Mr Ogbu-Nwobodo: May I then withdraw that Sir. I was actually trying to argue before I was interrupted, that Agbani has got all the potentials to have a trade office established there. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Question, That the House do now adjourn till Monday, 31st March, 1980 at 10 a.m., put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till Monday, 31st March, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.40 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday, 31st March, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I would like to hold a short meeting with the Chairmen of all committees immediately after today's session in my office.

PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Mr Speaker: I crave the indulgence of the House to postpone this item; we will take it on after the second one.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE
BILL, 1980

A Bill for a law to declare the order of precedence to provide for matters connected thereto.
Order for Second Reading read.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. It is with good intent that I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill standing in my name and it reads thus:

A Bill for a law to declare the order of precedence to provide for matters connected thereto.

With this Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second that this Bill be read a second time. Sir, it is not a controversial Bill, except that it requires a very serious amendment in the Schedule because this morning and last night, a lot of hon. Members were embarrassed by the Executive during the public function. It is imperative that this honourable House should sit down and hold its place in the scheme of things. This law, Mr Speaker Sir, should be rushed.

I suggest Sir, that hon. Members are called honourable because they contested the election and won election to this highest legislative

body in Anambra State. During the civilian regime, Ministers of States were called honourable Ministers because they were members of the legislative Houses, and they contested the election and they were appointed ministers from among the Members of the House. But here today, it is not the same. Ministers are handpicked by His Excellency the Governor...

An hon. Member: Commissioners.

Mr Nwofor: Sorry! Commissioners in the State are handpicked by the Governor to be his eyes and ears in the ministries. I have to refer you Sir to the discussion and to the speech made on the Floor of this House by the Senator from the United States, telling us that the Commissioners have no place in the constitution as such, that is they stay in the ministries to be the eyes of the Governor because the Governor cannot be in all the ministries at the same time. Therefore, it is necessary for us to educate our people to know that we are in a new dispensation.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I would like to correct the impression before you are misunderstood. The Senator from the United States did not say that Commissioners have no place in the constitution. Definitely in our constitution Commissioners are mentioned but what you are trying to say, I can imagine, is that in the order of precedence, they are down below.

Mr Nwofor: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir for that correction. It is accepted. What I am saying Sir, is that in the order of precedence, hon. Members must, and should take precedence over State Commissioners, over any Commissioner, whatever is his rank in the Executive. That is what I am saying and when this Bill goes to the committee, I will say that after the Judges of High Court, the next people that come should be the hon. Members of all categories. We don't want to associate with these Chairmen of Committees because theirs is a sessional affair and we are informed that chairmen should be changed every session and therefore chairmen should not have position in the order of precedence. All of us contested the election as hon. Members and not as Chairmen of Committees.

An hon. Member: Horrible.

Mr Nwofor: So Mr Speaker Sir, at the appropriate time, I will raise the amendment and I will also suggest that since Commissioners are not Members of the legislature, they should not be called hon. Commissioners, they should be called Commissioners.

Several hon. Members: Hear! hear!

Mr Nwofor: I am happy to report that Members of this House are now ready to take their position in the scheme of things and we shall not mind whatever the Executive may brand us; we must tell our people that the only hope to avoid corruption, to avoid dictatorship, to avoid embezzlement of public funds should be to recognize the place and the position and the functions of the legislature. And it is our duty as pioneer legislators in Anambra State to educate our people. So, Mr Speaker Sir, I support this Bill and would urge you to ensure that this Bill is passed within the next few hours.

And with these few remarks, I beg to second.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to give a sort of information. The order of precedence, I suppose, should come after the hon. Members of this House might have been able to listen to the delegation that went to study the system so that they will be abreast of the facts as it obtains there before they should be disposed.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! We thank you for the information. I am sure hon. Members have received copies of the report and some have read it. What probably he wants to say is that after we would have discussed it, but again that would come in the committee stage.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. Without wasting the time of this House, I think what is involved here is a matter of public enlightenment. It is on that score I give my whole-hearted support to this Bill because it seeks not only to establish some kind of order in the scheme of things but also to inform and educate the public. It is true that we are trying out a new system and we happen to be the guinea pigs of experimentation in this new system. But then, I believe sincerely that we have a duty to our people who sent us here to enlighten and

educate them on the implications of this new system.

Our people have been used to the parliamentary cabinet system in which ministers of various grades were also elected members of the House and were therefore *de facto* leaders of the House. I don't see the Commissioner or the Minister in the present dispensation, performing the same role. The distinction is there and it is very clear. As a matter of fact, one of the basic tenets of this new constitution we are operating now is the separation of powers between the various arms of Government; each is equal to the other and as a matter of fact the legislature, in my considered opinion forms the fountain of all the legislation.

It is the basis of all laws made, either at the State or at the Federal level. You have various sections of the constitution supporting this. I will not belabour the point but it is very necessary and I am making a special appeal to the members of the information media to take this opportunity and in fact inform and educate the people.

What we are suffering from now is a kind of hangover from the parliamentary cabinet system soon after which we had the Military regime or Military interregnum that lasted for thirteen to fourteen years during which interregnum Commissioners so appointed wielded all sorts of powers. Even civil servants were *de facto* leaders of the country and of their various departments. But this situation has now changed. The situation has changed with the introduction and adoption of the new constitution, and I want our people to really understand the implications of this constitution and in particular the principle of separation of powers.

The Executive is a whole distinct arm, completely different from the legislature. And it is just like what somebody asked me sometime ago, whether I thought I was superior to a Commissioner? Well in all modesty I did not want to get into any confrontation with him, All I did in return was to take up a pair of scissors and asked him, which one he thought was more important than the other? He would not answer. This is not the point to question. But the point I am trying to make is that at worst the legislature is equal to any other arm of government, but then at best you will find, as I said earlier, that the

legislature constitutes the fountain of all the laws of all the legislation made in this House. I leave you to draw your conclusion.

So it is our duty to inform the public. So Mr Speaker I think this Bill does not require much ado and I join the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) in urging that it receives speedy action for the purposes of approval. When the stage comes for amendment I have an amendment to propose. Thank you.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this short but very important Bill. By way of preamble, I must say that even though it is not stated in the Bill the principal objective which this Bill wishes to establish is to ensure that there is law and order in public functions. Under normal circumstances if things were what they seem, this Bill would not have been necessary. But every community or every group of people is generally treated according to their level of development, their level of understanding and their peculiar circumstances. I think it is the peculiar circumstances in which we find ourselves in Anambra State that necessitated the introduction of this Bill and also taking into consideration our experiences since 2nd October, 1979.

I would have joined the group that said that this Bill should be passed with utmost despatch. But it is my most humble opinion that there are a lot of shortcomings in this Bill. First of all this Bill stipulates—in every law which stipulates a sort of obligation which somebody has to carry out, which dictates something one has to do, for that law to be complete it has to provide for a penalty and it is fundamentally lacking in this Bill. There is no stipulation for penalty and I think it is a very serious shortcoming in this Bill. Without it, this Bill is incomplete. So this is one of the aspects of it that needs very serious consideration. It is one of the factors that I am sure will delay the timeous passing of this Bill.

Secondly as some hon. Members have said, when this Bill goes to committee it should be seriously looked at. I would not be a party to any form of discrimination among all hon. Members. You will all agree with me that we all here represent the entire Anambra State and every hon. Member here has a constituency. I think it will be a sort of wasting words if we go to compare an hon. Member with a Commis-

sioner. I think there is no level of comparison, and there is no basis because you have a constituency to whom you are accountable, the Commissioner has no constituency, he is accountable to his master; it is very simple, the person who asked him please look after this for me.

But you we are the keepers of the consciences of the people of Anambra State and that is why it is very very important that in any issue that comes before this honourable House, I have said this I have repeated it—that we have to consider that issue dispassionately not looking at anybody's face. Once you are convinced that this will be in the interest and welfare of the people of Anambra State we will, with all pleasure, do that thing not minding whose ox is gored.

So it is my most humble view that this Bill needs a second look at, so that we correct some of the shortcomings. First of all, the main objective of the Bill is not stated. Here it says explanatory note which is not the object. The object of the Bill will be specified and also the penalty that will follow anybody infringing the provisions of this Bill will also be provided.

With these very few comments Mr Speaker I beg to take my sit. Thank you.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to express my views on the Second Reading of this Bill. In fact this Bill solves most of the problems we have in this House of Assembly and the earlier this Bill is debated and corrected and passed the better for us in this House. I will associate my views Sir, with that of the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) because we have a lot of corrections to be made in the way, the order is put in this paper and so I have to say that we are quarrelling over so many things in this House but this Bill when corrected and passed, will solve most of the problems we have.

I am therefore saying, without flogging this matter, that this Bill be passed so that when it goes into the committee, the committee will present it for us to debate it and make necessary corrections so that it will be in the best interest of the legislators of this House. So, Mr Speaker Sir, I feel that there

[AKUNNE SAM. OKEKE]

is no need for us to go so long in this issue because most of our problems lie on the passing of this Bill.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of this Bill.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill, but it is very proper on the Floor of this House to make special remarks backing my submission with the constitution. There is no organization that functions without fund. And since fund is mainly the yardstick with which we measure an administration, it becomes necessary that those who have the last word on all the appropriations must be placed higher than those in the Administration. The essence of this is to make sure that people do not embezzle money.

We have just come out of fifteen years of military tyranny, and the people who wanted civilian regime are now forgetting the principles which they advocated. They want us to go back to the old regime psychologically, trying to undermine those who are representing their constituencies, who have been given the mandate, who went through the crucibles to be elected. Somebody whom, under section 173, we confirmed his appointment will take precedence over us. I think this is wrong. And I want hon. Members to forget their personality. We are saying that we are the first generation after fifteen years who came into this House, and we must keep everything in order. Things must go in their scale of preferences, in their order and nothing short of it.

We are not against any person. I could become a Commissioner tomorrow, I don't mind. But once a legislator comes to the public he must be given first identity. He is the first person amongst equals, otherwise he couldn't have been elected. If he is a man with double integrity, questionable integrity, a man with no conscience, his people will not allow him to represent them.

Therefore we should insist. Commissioners are not appointed by the Governor. They are only nominated by the Governor. We confirm the appointment by law and section 1—Supremacy of the Constitution, sub-section 3 stipulates—

If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

Isn't it? Therefore, I don't want people to lobby; any person coming here to lobby, to undermine us, if you accept it curse will be on those people who accept such lobby. I will not be a party to it, and with this I sit down.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I feel Sir, that those who are saying that this Bill should be rushed should not do so because whichever committee this Bill might be committed to must draw their terms of reference for contributions by hon. Members on the Floor of the House. So in my opinion this Bill should not be rushed.

I have looked sir, at the 'interpretation' clause of this Bill and I have not seen where the word *honourable* is interpreted. This is a very material omission. I have done a bit of research on this Bill and my first observation, Sir, is that the word *honourable* was for the first time applied to officials of courtesy title in the year 1450. From my own research, Sir, I discovered that the word *honourable* as applied in America which system we are now operating is never attached to any Commissioner. In America the word *honourable* is given to only members of both Houses of Congress and State Legislature. So we have to do something about it, in this State.

My other observation, Sir, is that clause 6 of the Bill appears to vest the Governor with legislative power. It says, *the items in the schedule to this Law may by order published in the gazette be amended by the Governor*. Be amended by the Governor. This is giving the Executive the power to amend the Bill. This, to my opinion, is improper.

So with this Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Bill with the following remarks. It should be noted that the intention of this Bill is not to undermine any section or anybody. It is to bring out the truth and nothing but the truth. We, in this House, have in the past suffered untold humiliations starting from the first day till now. Most of us have vowed never to attend any public functions organized by

the other arm of the government only to go there to be humiliated even before our wives. It could be taken if you are invited alone to a function you can get out with any insult. But when you have your wife with you and you receive the insult never expected I think it is one of the sins crying to heaven for vengeance.

Sir, like the hon. Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the hon. Member for Anambra North-East has spoken, anything worth doing at all is worth doing well. There must be an interpretation of the word honourable because it is being misused. Some people would like to answer honourable when they are not honourable. When we resolve into committee to consider this Bill item by item we have some work to do because as somebody has already said we all contested elections to come here as hon. Members. The other arms are our own making. Sir, I wouldn't want to waste the time of the House until we get into committee.

I beg to support.

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to the Second Reading of this Bill. In fact, the passing of this Bill or the reading of this Bill calls for patience and careful consideration. The point is that we are members of the legislature today. By 1983 another group of people might be Members of the legislature. So we are clearing the ground for those people. The points contained in the Bill are not personal because our stay here is a passing phase. You can be here and in the next three years you decide to quit the stage and go to live your private life, but whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

So, Mr Speaker, as the hon. Member for Enugu North (*Mr Emehelu*) has hinted, I think what is worrying us here in Anambra State, is that we are trying to mix the relics of the parliamentary system with the relics of the military system. The ghosts of those systems are still working hard on us, and it is high time we had nipped it in the bud, because it is this legislature that will try to kill the system. If we want to operate the presidential system, we operate it: if we want to operate the Westminster system, we operate it, but we cannot mix the two.

So in the first instance, I am against this word "honourable" being attached to the

Commissioners. That must stop. It must go because when one merits a thing, one is given that thing. If one does not merit it, one does not accept it. That is one.

Secondly, this Bill will try to righten certain wrongs that had been done in this State because once this Bill is passed, it is a law and the law must be obeyed by whatever section of Anambra State.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that this Bill must be given careful consideration. We have a group of lawyers here who will study it and give it the retouches it requires so as to make it false-proof.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Bill. Thank you.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, it is said that orderliness is a divine law, and this is true when we remember the drama of the beginning.

When the world began, there was disorder. (*Laughter and Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order.

Rev. Nwafor: And because there was disorder, everything went haywire, and God, the chief architect, came out and created order by creating the first Bill of orderliness, saying—'let the sun play its own part; let the moon play her own part; let the stars play their own part', and He arranged them in order. This is what this Bill is out to do. (*Applause*) The sun, the moon and the stars should know where they belong to. Thus, the legislators, the executive members, the advisers all what have you, should have their own place and know where they belong to.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am not happy with what this Bill sets out to do; it has started wrong and this is why I will agree with others that we need time to use our learned men of the House to put this Bill in order. I do not know why number 13, 14 and 15 of the schedule should come in the order they have come. In fact, this defeats the very aim of this very Bill.

I join all the other hon. Members in saying that we are not against anybody. I could become a Commissioner tomorrow, but then I should wait till my time comes. Any Commissioner could become a member of the legislature.

[REV. NWAFOR]
tomorrow. He should wait till his time comes, and when the time comes for us to look at the order, that is during the committee stage, we will work on the order as we find now in numbers 13 to 15.

I am also in support that if we are adopting American system, it should be American system hundred per cent. Those of you, hon. Members, who had been to American and have seen the legislators at work there, know fully well that they do not attach the word "honourable" to the Executive members. But here, people are clinging fast on being addressed, "honourable," and I ask what does this word "honourable" imply?—a man of unimpeachable integrity. Who can stand to say he is honourable among the members of the Executives? (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Fire!

Rev. Nwafor: There is one analogy I want to use. In the Gospel, it recalls that an argument arose between the disciples on who should be the first, and Jesus looked at them and brought an infant, put before them and said, "he who must be a leader must be as serviceable as a servant, as a little kid". Secondly, he took a towel and said, "he who must be the leader, must first of all be a servant," and started washing the feet of the disciples.

I am asking, without prejudice, who today is washing the feet of the members of the constituencies, is it the Executive members or the legislators?

Several hon. Members: Legislators!

Rev. Nwafor: Then they should be the leader. (*Laughter*). And so when this Bill will start setting the order of precedence, without prejudice, definitely the legislators should come first.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the Bill, and in doing so, I am saying that we are the first set of legislators who are starting this presidential system, and as such, we have got to be very careful in what we are doing. When we are clearing a path for others to walk along, we have got to be very careful in doing it, and in a Bill like this, which is like

clearing a path along which people who are following us have got to walk, we should not hurry in doing it. We have got to go bit by bit and slowly too. By this, I ask that this Bill be withdrawn and be sent back to the panel of our legal luminaries who will go through it and redraft it before bringing it back for us to scrutinize it.

With this few advice, I support the Bill with amendment.

Mr L. Okonkwo (Awka North): Mr Speaker Sir, first of all, I have to appreciate the opportunity given to me to contribute to this Second Reading of the Bill. If one looks at this Bill so quickly, one may think that it is a Bill meant to solve a problem of public crisis which we have been facing since October last year. But when one looks at the details of the Bill, then one may appreciate that the executive is panicking about this Bill.

I do not see the importance of article 6 of this Bill which the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinuba*), has rightly pointed out. It shows a sort of irony on the entire objective of this Bill. It is trying to pass a Bill and then giving the executive a sort of blank cheque to abrogate the Bill or the law once it is made. In fact, this may be an opportunity for us to sound a note of warning that any law made by this honourable House should not be allowed to be abrogated by the executive by mere proclamation. It must be abrogated through due process of law passed by this honourable House.

Secondly, this Bill shows also the direction of the thinking of the executive. They have actually brought the line of action or the line of attitude they want to exhibit in their relationship with us. Now, they continue to proclaim that they are maintaining low profile, but the idea of this is to show high profile, a mere arrogance, so that one can see that there is a crisis area from number 14. They are trying to knock heads among the members of the House, while at the same time creating the first section of this schedule. So that when one addresses them one says "His Excellency", then "the Deputy", down to the time when one has said "the Chief Judge".

Then they bring in some other functionaries operating in their political parties, including functionaries that did not actually operate within the entire scope of this House. So tha

if one is suggesting an amendment here, then probably a short thinking person may say that he is trying to eliminate me and then trying to put himself. What I am saying here is that we hon. Members belong to the same group, that is the legislature and we would like to be grouped as such. So, the word that connects all of us is the word "honourable". Once this word "honourable" is well interpreted within the scope of this Bill and is applied to all of us, I think we should be all right.

Again, this Bill is also a Bill that wants to undermine the entire prestige of the constituency we represent. Yes, it is trying to show the constituencies and where their hon. Members belong in the scheme of profile, and this type of thing can have some psychological effect. Therefore, I would have suggested that we throw away this Bill. But to solve subsequent crisis that can be created to the advantage of the executive in public places, we should pass it with radical amendments in order to bring up certain things to where they belong. There is no gain-saying about this. It is no Bill to create ill-feeling between the executive and the legislature, the hon. Members and the Commissioners, but it is trying to give legal interpretation to the reality of the situation in which we find ourselves.

This is presidential system. As the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*) mentioned, that before there was a crisis, that is when God created man, there was a crisis, there was disorder, but the government is meant to bring about order and originally, the government was the law-maker and the executive was just mandated to carry out the law made by the law-maker. Somebody you mandate to carry out the law you have made is not superior. Therefore, Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that we have given time to this and the time we give is the time to do proper screening and then do a lot of line-up to reflect the system we are operating. And also to reflect the reality of our positions in the public. Thank you.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I am glad you have given me the chance to speak; but I must confess that the previous speakers have almost covered all the relevant grounds, particularly the last speaker ...

An hon. Member: Then sit down!

Mr Ugoh: Excuse me. I have heard an hon. Member saying I should sit down, but I hope he is not dishonourable by asking me to do so. The last speaker has actually stolen my conscience. I am not in any way accusing him of robbery; but I mean he was apt in what he said, because, Mr Speaker Sir, what we are setting out to do is not necessarily a matter between us and the executive alone. I am even seeing us going a little farther than this. This is so because even as between the chiefs, businessmen and other classes of people, we are trickling a wave of hierarchy or order of preference or order of reference, in order to avoid friction; we are trying to minimize that subtle jealousy, that subtle friction which at times, if not controlled, may plunge us into a war which we don't want to wage. So, people who may look at this Bill as not being important, or infact some members of the public will tend to see the Bill as not being important; but when one sits down and reflects properly, one will see what we are trying to forestall. That is why I am supporting those who are asking this honourable House to hasten more slowly with regard to this particular Bill.

I also support wholeheartedly the person who said we are going to give the Bill a radical review, if possible, send it back for redrafting. The job of making laws is our own. We shall do it discreetly without injuring anybody or without fear or favour. Therefore, when we come to the details of this Bill Sir, I shall humbly submit that in the interpretation clause, we shall be exhaustive. Even those who parade themselves here and there as honourable this and honourable that, we shall give our own interpretation of what the law says with regard to the word "honourable."

At times, it may be necessary for people to know that before anybody can come into this House, the person must have paid his tax as and when due. (*Laughter*). This is one thing. This law of tax was made in 1967. Many people did not know it was lying there until this election came up and I tell you, three quarters of all those who wanted to contest this election did not, because they did not pay their taxes. They were evading payment of tax one way or the other and some of those who are not qualified to come into this House are now parading themselves as above those who are humble servants of the State. Some of them,

[MR UGOH]

even those whose appointments were confirmed by us may not be fit and proper to take their seats here, according to the law.

They may not.

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): But you rubber-stamped their appointments.

Mr Ugoh: However, we wanted to start off in a smooth way, but that should not be misunderstood. Anyway, what I am trying to say, Sir, is that the Bill requires a lot of radical and meticulous overhauling in order to bring out more facts that we may like to look into in future. It is not mere regulations between us and the executives. It goes beyond that. So, when time comes and soon it will come, we shall rise and ask, and you know that we hold the key to the consciences of our constituencies. This is true and any Bill that does not reflect the realities of the day, we shall reject it and even if presented with two-thirds majority, we shall safeguard it.

So, a body that is so charged with this onerous task of serving the common people, a body so charged must also be given an ample opportunity to bring out the spirit of the task imposed on that body. And here is the body that can make and unmake. The parliament it is said, can make; in fact, can do everything, even making a man to be a woman. (*Laughter*). Hence in our legislations we have never seen "womandate", it is only "mandate", because the law says "mandate" or "manslaughter", not "womanslaughter". (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I guess the hon. Member for Onitsha North West (*Madam Emodi*) is not taking kindly to that.

Mr Ugoh: So, in conclusion, I am trying to re-echo Mr Speaker, the views of previous speakers. They were apt, they were proper, they were indeed vocal and I am asking, and in fact I am anxious, that the time comes that we shall go into merits and demerits of the Bill with radical changes.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand to support the Second Reading of this Bill and in doing that, I have in mind of saying that we are not in any way at war with any arm of the government. We are just trying to discharge our civic responsibilities by doing what we are supposed to do as legislators. And therefore, if that is what we

are doing, like I know all of us are aware we are doing it, it is our utmost intention to ensure that every bit of thing affecting the system we are now operating must have to follow their normal course.

There is no question of allowing ourselves to be coarsed into dancing to anybody's tune. We are not making this law in order to suit us for the number of years we are going to put in, but that it should be in existence to be read by people who would come after us. I think if we are able to finish every bit of thing the way it should, those who would come after us would say that the first legislators of this honourable House did their home work very well and the credit will go to us.

So, I am saying that what we do is that a number of things here require serious retouching, since we know we have three arms of government and each is autonomous and like the American Senator partly pointed out, all are equal. I should regard any attempt to rob us of that equality by anybody as being malicious and not being fair to us at all not minding whether we were terribly poor before we came in; our constituencies decided that we should play big now.

I am saying that what happens is that when the arrangement in the order of precedence like we have it here comes, minus a few that should mix up with the executives, I have in mind that wherever there is public gathering, there should be specific seats reserved for the hon. Members and should be left for them; the executives should therefore mind their own section while the judiciary minds its own section. If there is any aspect where we can mix up, then the need for that will come. But from what I have seen in the past gatherings we had, the separations had always been there, if I am not mistaking. I thought it would be a mixture to show actually that atmosphere of cordiality existing in the three arms but unfortunately, it is negative and by the time this Bill is passed, everybody knows where he properly belongs.

I would say equally in support of what the hon. Member for Enugu North (*Mr Emehelu*) said, we should appeal to the entire electorate of this State, that is the enactment should be carried by the news media so that they know we are not here fighting for our own selfish ends, but to do what we are required to do by the constitution. We are not in any way jeopar-

dizing anybody anywhere, neither are we at war with anybody. So that is one thing we would want people to get clear so that they don't go before people they might be lobbying for something and begin to antagonize us with people with whom we have no bones to speak to at all.

So without wasting much of our time, by the time we come to a committee stage, whoever has amendments like we know, the Bill abounding in omissions, we have to make that. So, Mr Speaker, I beg to support and move that the Question be now put.

Question put and unanimously agreed to. Bill read a Second time and committed to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr Speaker: In committing this Bill to the Judiciary Committee, I do remind that the committee should make it possible for other hon. Members of this House to testify before it, and also that the committee should take appropriate steps to invite the members of the public who are interested in the Bill to testify also, so that when the Bill reports to this House, it would have been thoroughly scrutinized and overhauled. We can now take up the item referred to earlier.

PRESENTATION OF PAPER

1980 Anambra State Estimate

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, with reference to Section 113 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I beg to lay on the Table of the House, the following documents:

1. Anambra State of Nigeria: Draft Capital Receipts and Expenditure Estimates 1980;
2. Anambra State of Nigeria 1980: Draft Recurrent Estimates. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: That done, I think the Motion for adjournment has to be proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader: (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise again to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow, 1st April 1980, at 10 a.m. In moving the Motion for adjournment, in fact, it is unfortunate that I requested for the Second Reading of my humble Bill, and I think time shall come by

the next debate on it, when I will tell the public exactly what I mean by asking that the Bill be read the Second time. I have no malice on anybody.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Motion for adjournment taken, any support?

Several hon. Members: Yes!

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to what I may refer to as "misappropriation of preference."

As early as 5th November, 1979, I submitted some Questions through the Clerk of this House to the Commissioners for oral answers. I had at least six Questions. From then to this time, only about two Questions have been orally answered.

It appears to me that there is a subtle manoeuvre, either by this House or from outside this House to bring suspicion to bear on the integrity of this House. Sometime last week a Commissioner was invited here for oral Questions; a scrap of paper was sent at the nick of time to inform this House that the Commissioner had no time to be here at 10 o'clock, but should come here when the House would stand adjourned at 1 o'clock. I think it is in the same sense that my Questions have been lying there in the cold fridge. My Questions have not been intended for the fridge. I am, therefore, calling for a stop to this deplorable attitude through the Speaker because a lot of damage is being done to my image in my constituency. The executive owes no allegiance to anybody. I owe allegiance to my constituency, and so they cannot be tossing people about here.

I crave the indulgence of this House through Mr Speaker that the commissioner be summoned to answer these Questions. It is most unfair that I pose these Questions and they would be left lying down there for almost four to six months now.

Secondly, I would add that in our attempt to take our proper place, we must also try to prune certain excesses, like the way some people are addressed. If somebody is a chief, he is a chief and not an honourable chief. To

[MR OJUKWU]
say honourable Chief J. A. C. Okeke does not arise. It is Chief hon. J. A. C. Okeke, full stop, because it is J. A. C. Okeke that has been known as honourable and not Chief; not hon. Prince so, so, so, but Prince hon. so, so, so. (*Laughter*). We have to start from ourselves, so that . . . (*Laughter*).

Yes, we have to start really from ourselves before we make others understand that the word "honourable" has significance. It should be defined because the word has significance, and it applies to you as far as this House is concerned; outside the House, it does not apply. With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker: I would like to correct that statement that the executive owes no allegiance to anybody. The executive as an arm of the government owes allegiance to the people, and the executive as an arm of the government also owes allegiance to the Governor.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East); Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, Sir, I have this little appeal to make. This appeal is on behalf of the students in the rural areas. Attention is being given to the post-primary institutions in the townships to the detriment of those in the rural areas. During the recess, I had the opportunity of visiting certain post-primary schools in my constituency. It is unbelievable that two schools that will be fielding candidates for the W.A.S.C. examination next year have not a single science equipment; not a single one, and they are supposed to field candidates for science examination next year.

Students eat on the bare floor; not a single seat in the refectory.

Several hon. Members: Where ?

Mr Unigwe: I have seven secondary schools in my constituency. Students eat on the bare floor in the refectory; no seats at all; you can imagine. This is against hygiene. These secondary schools are built by communities out of money they have been collecting since after the war, and they are tired of launchings; they should be assisted.

Finally, I would appeal, Sir, that these communities be helped. They have been able

to build science blocks without equipment. They cannot supply equipment themselves. I have two schools in my mind that will be taking W.A.S.C. next year. They are, Girls Secondary School, Amichi and that of Unubi. In most cases, there are no science masters. If you post these young men to the rural areas, they will never put in appearance because there is no water, no good roads and no light. There is no electricity; nothing whatsoever. They prefer coming to the townships where they can go to disco and other places.

Mr Speaker Sir, I want this message to reach the Ministry of Education. These people should be assisted. Communities that have been able to build secondary schools should be assisted. The people are tired of further launching.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): Thank you Mr Speaker. A few months ago Mr Speaker, there was a Motion in this House passed unanimously for the creation of one or two more States out of the existing Anambra State. It appears that since the passage of that Motion, there is no organized forum, or organized body in Anambra State responsible for the implementation of that Motion. It would appear that if we allow this Motion to float like this, it may die a natural death.

Mr Speaker, I would use this opportunity to crave the indulgence of this House, as representatives of public opinion, and representatives of the people, to influence a body which will be non-political to take care of the speedy implementation of this Motion. This is necessary because the creation of states has much to be done to get it accomplished.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would also use this opportunity to ask for the abolition or abrogation of certain aspects of the constitution which make it imperative that the creation of States must be passed by the nineteen States of the Federation. This is quite unnecessary. If a Motion is passed in the State House of Assembly on whether a State will be created, and also by the National Assembly, that State should be automatically constituted.

With this Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I would like to crave the indulgence of the House to refer the hon. Member for Ezeagu North (*Mr Nwafor*) to section 8 of the constitution on the creation of States. It does not require the nineteen States to pass a Motion before a State is created. You may find further details in that section.

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment I use this opportunity to ask what became of a Motion tabled in this House a couple of months ago. A Motion on Open Spaces was unanimously passed in this very House and was referred to a certain committee—Lands and Survey Committee, but up till today I never heard anything of the committee's report. If there is anything being lobbied about it, the Chairman of the committee should tell this honourable House because committees are the main functionaries of the administration of the Assembly as far as the presidential system of government is concerned. Committees should not delay the business of the House. Whenever a Motion is referred to that very committee, it will keep its business aside only to tell the House 'receiving attention', 'receiving attention'. I am calling the attention of the Chairman of that very committee to tell us why this Motion referred to his committee has not been properly reported before this House.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion for adjournment. Mr Speaker Sir, it is deplorable to note that the government only pays attention to schools in the urban areas. We have been hearing really that tornado in the past two weeks destroyed several schools in the State. Only the schools within the urban areas were said to have been assisted.

In my own local government area, there are seven schools that were blown down by the tornado which may be more than what the local government council can do to replace or assist the schools to re-build or reconstruct them. I am urging the Ministry of Education through all its agencies and authorities they have at their disposal, to assist without further delay, all the schools in the rural areas outside the urban areas that were blown down by the tornado of the past two weeks.

Further Sir, we had a report that the Ozubulu-Atani road has been completed but going through there we discovered that it is only twelve kilometres of the road that was reconstructed or completed. Another part of it was said to be Ozubulu spur. I do not know whether it is because of that nomenclature that it is not either tarred or worked upon. I saw some gutters being made there, but there was no sand, no tarring, no bitumen; I don't even know whether the gutters there serve as barricades intended to prevent the people from that part of the world from coming to the urban areas or getting to the outside road.

So Sir, it is also my humble suggestion that the Ministry of Works be made to complete that job which they call Ozubulu spur so that it will look nice and people from that area can make use of the road. They pay their taxes and they pay their rates.

Also Sir, it is my humble suggestion that whenever we have certain matters aching or plaguing our minds either pertaining to the parliament or matters with some individual or social under-tones, that most of these things be discussed in camera and not be made public property as they may tend to be explosive and then invite some dialogue and other things so analogous.

In conclusion Sir, I ask that the Question be now put.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so I would like to tell this honourable House what happened to hon. Members of this honourable House of Assembly yesterday during the party organized to receive the Nigerian Green Eagles at the Government Lodge.

An hon. Member has already during our discussions this morning tried to raise the issue, but I asked the hon. Mr Speaker to allow me time during the Motion for adjournment so that I can alert hon. Members of our experience yesterday.

First, when we were coming there—we were duly invited, I was coming there in company of the hon. Member for Enugu South (*Mr Obuna*) and the hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*). As soon as we got there, we went to sit where we saw some Commissioners

[MR CHUKWUKA]

sitting. We were shouted at: "come out Mister, your seat is not there!" The man who did it is the Governor's Personal Assistant, Mr Uche Udedibia.

Then I came out. I went again to where Prince Okonkwo was staying to go and sit down. He shouted on me again, "your seat is not there". Then politely I asked him, "where should we sit Members of the House of Assembly?" He said, "go up there." I started going up there with the hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*) and the hon. Member for Enugu South (*Mr Obuna*) in the company of my darling wife (*Laughter*) . . .

So as 'Zebrudaya Okoloigwe' must put it, *in the very before of my wife, (Laughter)* I wanted to occupy a seat and he came and motioned me to move out and said I shouldn't sit down there. Then the hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*) asked him where should we then sit? He said, "no provision for you." Then I said I should have to sit down there that I was with my wife. I sat down. He commanded me to get up or he dealt with me. I said I shouldn't get up. He said that what is open to us as always, right now is to continue to walk out, that there is nothing any other hon. Member can do except to stage the normal walk-out. I am telling the hon. Members, this thing was done by Mr Udedibia.

So I want to say it on the Floor of the House so that this hon. House will see the gravity of this catalogue of insults which I believe is organized. So I decided to see what would happen. I failed to get up. I sat there decided, in sturdied silence not to say a word to him because it could amount to confrontation or quarelling. I wanted to behave like an hon. Member and I did it. But I held my ground by sitting there and to the greatest surprise of everybody, there was nobody being allocated that seat. Some other people who might be quite . . . I don't describe the public I don't know who they are, but in all estimation if we are to assess them, they will not take seats before us, they came there and nobody challenged them.

So, Mr Speaker I am saying that this type of insult must stop. And it must . . .

Several hon. Members: Uche must go! Udedibia must go, war with Udedibia.

Mr Chukwuka: The worst is not that he did not give us any seat, but to tell us that the best we can do is to stage a walk out. At first I felt like walking out but on second thoughts I didn't do it. I did it because of certain things.

First, I knew that if I walked out again, it must be succumbing to their whims of trying to annoy us out, therefore I decided to sit down there and damn the consequences.

Secondly, I have proper interest for sports particularly football. I had wanted to see what was happening there.

Thirdly, my wife was there and also some people who represented various constituencies who may observe actually that hon. Members had no authority whatsoever. So I decided that it would be better for somebody to come up there and drag me out rather than myself walking out on Uche Udedibia who is not even the Governor or a Commissioner.

So Mr Speaker, I am saying that this incidence of yesterday, the fact that the personal assistant to the Governor should mete out this type of treatment to hon. Members underlines the sort of continued disrespect being given to hon. Members everywhere. That also accounts for the fact that we were not given any access to see the Governor because everywhere had been crowded with this group of irresponsible personal officers/assistants who do not even know the value of an hon. Member to allow us to see the Governor. These type of anomalies on Saturday could not have been there if we were given access to see the Governor.

At least I know it is a calculated attempt now, this campaign to run down Premier Brewery drinkers. They say they will not drink premier beer again. They were thinking that the government of which we are part is a party to this type of rough-handling of everything. If we had any access to the Governor we would have been able to tell him what is happening in the communities. I don't know whether he will know but if we were there, we would be able to explain to him. But this Anambra State is diminishing today because elected Members representatives of every constituencies have no access to the Governor to tell him what is happening in the State. So Mr Speaker, I say this is our own time,

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a time to put in black and white what we actually feel about the position and the attitude of the executive towards the legislature. Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to speak.

Mr Speaker: Order! We are still on Motion for adjournment.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am very happy to remind hon. Members that today is the 31st day of March, 1980 and you will all bear with me out that about two or three months ago, we approved a Supplementary Budget of almost ₦60 million and in that budget, it is very pertinent to note that one of the items which we placed so much premium on was the re-conditioning of roads in this State. It is my very humble observation that on Saturday the 29th of March, 1980 I took a personal tour of the often mentioned Oba-Nnewi-Igboukwu-Ekwulobia-Umunze road to see what has been done on that road, since we approved a reasonable sum of money at least to make that road passable for the citizens.

To my greatest disappointment, nothing practically has been done on that road especially on the section from Nnewi, Nnobi, Igboukwu, Ekwulobia, Umunze. Nothing has happened. Right now that road is no longer motorable. Nobody takes that road and I have to say that it is very very painful. The citizens of this State who inhabit that part of the State are now in very great agony. We had hoped that by now that road would have been graded and some measure of laterite spread on it, at least to make it possible for people to move at least to make it passable, but up till now nothing has been done. I wish to use this forum to bring it to the notice of this honourable House that that road is not alone in the neglect. I wish to use this opportunity also to draw the attention of the Commissioner for Works to the deplorable condition of that road.

It will be very pertinent to note that a handsome sum of two hundred thousand naira was approved for the maintenance of that road but up till now, at only two points you have two small culverts. Nothing has been done; so it will be very painful when

Appropriation Bills are brought before this honourable House, we pass the Bills, approve the money, and nothing is done.

It is our responsibility to see that those projects in respect of which we approved huge sums of money are thoroughly executed. As I earlier said, we are the keepers of the consciences of the people of this State and we would be failing in our duties if we sit down here and pass Bills or approve money to be used in some specific projects and those projects are not executed and we do not investigate. So, I am calling on this honourable House that we set up a sort of investigation committee to be headed by the Chairman of Works Committee—for him to go round and inspect those roads which featured in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill that we approved, so that we get up-to-date reports of how the money we approved for those specific projects were utilized up to this point.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

May I with the permission of other hon. Members, now move that the question be put.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Order! Please, I crave the indulgence of the House to announce that the Committee on Health will meet immediately after this meeting and also wish to remind that the Chairmen of committees would meet in my office when the House rises now.

I crave the indulgence once more, it is likely I would inform verbally that His Excellency, the Governor, would be addressing the House tomorrow, at 11 o'clock. The House would meet at ten, hopefully His Excellency would be addressing the House at eleven.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Tuesday, 1st April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 1st April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Senator Ani

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I am glad to report that we have in our midst this morning, a distinguished Senator from this State in the person of Hon. Senator Ani.

Shall we please acknowledge his presence with applause. (*Prolonged Applause*).

REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Reactivation of Oji-River Power House

Chairman, Public Utilities Committee
(*Mr S. O. Didigu*): Mr Speaker Sir, the report of the Public Utilities Committee on the Reactivation of the Oji-River Power Station is not yet ready and therefore cannot be presented to this honourable House this morning. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Several hon. Members: Why ?

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! I am sure the hon. Chairman of Public Utilities Committee can feel the pulse of Members. It might be necessary for him to give them some explanation.

Mr Didigu: Mr Speaker Sir, this report is ready but is in the cyclostyling stage. The committee will sit today to give a final approval to the cyclostyled report before it is presented to this honourable House in a day or two. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! In future, all committees whose reports are expected in the House should inform the Speaker a day before that report is due to be read, if it will not be possible for the committee to present its report, so that it does not appear on the Calendar.

Honourable Members, in view of the fact that this report which you would have deli-

berated on this morning is not ready, I wish to ask the opinion of the House if the House is ready now to take the report on this same matter as presented by the Judiciary Committee or defer it to a later date ?

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker. In view of the fact that the other committee that is expected to give this report this morning is unable to do so for the reasons which have been given before this honourable House, I feel that it will still be one-sided if we start any deliberation on the report. I am of the opinion, and I suggest still, that we defer that to another date. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Report accordingly deferred.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, in the next five minutes we will be expecting the arrival of His Excellency, the Governor. I therefore crave the indulgence of the House that the House sits at ease until the arrival of His Excellency.

Sitting suspended: 10.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 12.15 p.m.

THE GOVERNOR OF ANAMBRA STATE

MR JIM NWOBODO

At 12.15 p.m. the Governor of Anambra State of Nigeria entered the Chamber, accompanied by the Deputy Governor, the Chief Judge and the Judges of the High Court of Anambra State, and were led in by Mr Speaker in a procession.

Mr Speaker: Your Excellency, hon. Members, His Excellency the Governor will now address the House.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

Mr Speaker, the hon. Members of the House, it is with great pleasure that I present to this august House the Draft Budget Estimates for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1980. And I do this on two premises—

(1) *in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 113 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;*

(2) in recognition of the fiscal powers of this Assembly in keeping with the Nigerian Constitution. This budget is not flamboyant. It is realistic and result oriented.

As hon. Members are aware, there has been a decision at the national level to bring our financial year in line with the calendar year. This change has necessitated the curtailing of the time span of this budget from the normal twelve months to nine months.

It was in October last year, soon on my assumption of office, that I brought before this honourable House a Supplementary Budget of ₦59.8 million. That budget had a deficit of ₦12.6 million.

I am happy to announce that an amount of ₦15.9 million being arrears of State Share of Federal Government Revenue (1979-80) has been realized and this money will be utilized in meeting the deficit of ₦12.6 million in the Supplementary Capital Budget of 1979-80.

The balance of ₦3 million will then be used in servicing old debts arising from contracts awarded by the previous administration.

I am also pleased to inform you that the major programmes in these proposals are being implemented. The structural changes envisaged in the administrative machinery of government have been effected.

Although the past six months were largely a period of orientation, policy formation and re-ordering of priorities, concrete steps were taken to implement the budgetted capital programmes:

PERFORMANCE

AGRICULTURE

Notably, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production installed a 33,000 egg-capacity hatchery at Nkwelle Farm. Producing day-old chicks for distribution to farmers. A loan of ₦2.6 million was secured from the Nigerian Agricultural Development Bank for our Supervised Agricultural Credit Scheme.

The ministry gave financial support to the Horticultural Society of Nigeria for the organization of their 6th Annual Conference held in 1979.

A committee of three has been set up within the ministry to select suitable sites for the

establishment of community farms in the State. Three sites which form parts of existing farm settlements and co-operative farms at Igbariam, Eha Amufu and Isieke have already been selected as the nucleus around which respective community farms will be established.

We have obtained funds totalling about ₦3 million for lending to farmers through the Supervised Agricultural Credit Scheme. This scheme which was launched over two years ago has not given any loan to farmers. But the disbursement of this ₦3 million will enable over 300 farmers engage in poultry, rice, maize, cassava and oil palm production to obtain credit for the first time in Anambra State.

The World Bank Rice Project and the ADARICE have harvested the rainy season crop all yielding over 10,000 tonnes of rice which are awaiting milling. They also planted the dry season crop with a target of over 1,500 hectares.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Foundation works—Preparatory developmental processes on stage by stage basis were commissioned. Feasibility studies were carried out as follows:

- (a) Glass Industry;
- (b) Sanitary Ware Factory;
- (c) Ceramic Wall and Floor Tiles.

We have held very useful discussions with various groups but contractual obligations would ensue after Executive Council approval.

2. We have also developed the concept of leading Sector Economic Philosophy or Project by Project Budgetting. This philosophy would ensure that our capital programmes would ensure that investment capital should only be used in Project Sectors with definite investment criteria. The approach ensures that money is not uneconomically spread over many projects.

3. We have formulated a doctrinal approach for the development of the rural areas based on local government area. The mineral and raw material resources of each zone will be investigated for exploitation.

4. In other areas, light industries will be established.

We have set in motion processes for streamlining the operational efficiency of companies under our control. Thus, we have effected the operational separation of Presidential Hotel Limited and Paramount Hotel. Reorganization is proceeding in sequence.

5. As a result of our intensified efforts on loan recovery, a sum of ₦33,268.00 (Thirty-three thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight Naira) was recovered from October to December 31, 1979 under the scheme of fund for small-scale industrialists.
6. Efforts are on to restore the glory of Hotel Presidential, Enugu. Contract for the provision of a new Central Air-conditioning unit has been awarded. A giant stand-by power generating set has been installed, while efforts are being made to refurbish some vital areas.
7. Sites have been acquired for the construction of Paramount Hotels at Nsukka and Awka. The two projects are now at the selective tendering stage and construction will commence any time from now.
8. Contracts for the provision of infrastructures, light, water, have been awarded at the Nike Holiday Resort. The restaurant has been completed while work on some of the chalets is nearing completion.
9. For the first time, Government had decided to play a more active role in the sector of small-scale industries. Government has directed that government offices and parastatals should, where available, patronize the products of small-scale industrialists.
10. The Premier Brewery distributorship system has been cancelled with a view to revamping the system and eliminating the fraudulent system where an individual alone holds over twenty-five distributorships under fictitious names. The same system is being worked out for the distributorship of cement.
11. The Nigersteel Company is being reorganized and it is hoped that the

company will be able to pay its staff from money realized from sales of their products.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The fate of the destitutes in Anambra State is being given an official concern by my government.

TRADE AND CO-OPERATIVE

Small-scale industries in the state are receiving government assistance, and Wholesale Co-operative Shops are being planned to be built.

INFORMATION

The Information complex now in the Governor's Office is being reorganized with a view to ensuring efficiency.

WORKS

The Ministry has bought equipment at a total cost of over ₦.8 million, which is ₦800,000. The plants and equipment have been distributed to the various Area Engineers' offices and the different locations where they are already deployed and where much work is already going on the roads.

As of now, the Ministry is directly involved in the rehabilitation of the following roads:—

- (a) Onitsha-Enugu road, especially the Afu-Igwe-Ogidi-Onitsha sector
- (b) Nnewi-Oduma road
- (c) Nnewi-Ekwulobia-Umunze road.

The Ministry has also undertaken the drainage and reconstruction of the Otumoye creek in Onitsha working together with the local government while contracts have been awarded for the rehabilitation of the following Federal roads: Ukpo-Otuocho road; Oba-Nnewi road; Nkalagu-Ikem road and Oji-River-Awgu road. I am happy to announce that most of these roads are receiving serious attention by the reputable contractors to whom these contracts were awarded. Other roads covered by the rehabilitation programme are Awogu-Ugweme road, Umuogem-Umunze road, Umulumgbe-Affa-Nkume road and Ogugu-Maku road. I am also happy to announce that the asphalt concrete underlaying of the Miliken Hill has been completed and on record time. (Prolonged Applause).

Inside Enugu Local Government Area, work has been progressing on the widening and asphaltic concrete overlay of major arterial roads of Enugu Urban Area, namely, Okpara Avenue-Garden

Avenue—Abakaliki Road, and work is commencing now on Ogui Road.

I have already announced the cancellation of the Ogbete Market contract with a view to taking a more positive step which can hasten the completion of the construction work. This will help decongest the Miliken Hill and also normalize the economic tone of the State. I am informed that the work on Ogbete Market contract will be completed by the end of this month. (Applause).

Pursuant to the determination of the government to improve water supply services throughout the State, the following is summary of achievements of the ministry up to date:—
Enugu Water Scheme.

(i) Investigation and classification of Distribution System of Enugu Urban Area into zones according to level of supply for purposes of planned improvements.

(ii) Improvement of water supply to University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus.

(iii) Improvement of supply to Independence Layout and former I. M. T.

(iv) Extension of water supply by rationing to parts of Achara Layout, Awkunanaw and Emene and to Boys High School, Nike.

(v) Provision of standpipe as temporary supply to ANAMCO (the Mercedes Benz Assembly Plant) at Emene.

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Abakaliki and Nsukka Urban

Relocation of water mains for reconstruction of Urban Roads.

Onitsha Zone

(i) Implementation of Onitsha water supply crash programme by direct labour.

(ii) Installation and commissioning of 350KVA generating set for Iyi Enu hospital.

(iii) Restoration of two boreholes for water supply to Ogidi Town, Iyi Enu hospital.

Aguata Zone

Restoration and Improvement of water supply by installation of 350KVA generating set and a 26,000 ghp pump.

Nnewi Zone

Restoration of Ihiala water supply by installation of additional pumpset and electrification of stage I pumping station.

Udi Zone

Construction, installation and commissioning of Egede water scheme. Restoration of Amokwe scheme by installation of a new 156 KVA generating set.

Water Supply to Schools

Action has commenced on supply of water to 30 post-primary schools throughout the State.

Infact some schools have had their generating plants completed.

WORLD BANK MISSION

Several consultancies were undertaken in respect of the Water Corporation's management and operations, culminating in the World Bank Appraisal Mission in December, 1979, pursuant to World Bank Loan for Greater Onitsha Water Scheme was carried.

On-going Contracts for New Urban Water Schemes

Work has continued, though at a much reduced pace, on the on-going contracts for new Enugu Urban Water Scheme based on Ajalli Source. In this connection, it is regretted that the outbreak of fire at the Water Corporation's steel pipe dump at 9th Mile Corner; resulting in the damage of 160 lengths by 12 mm of 900 mm bitumen coated steel pipes.

EDUCATION

One of the early measures taken by my government was the setting up of a committee to study the structure of education in Anambra State and make recommendations for improvement. The committee has submitted its report. The guideline it has recommended are being examined with a view to improving the educational system of Anambra State. The White Paper on this report will be published this month. (Applause). Besides, more than 10,600 teachers in the State have been promoted since my assumption of office while outstanding leave allowances amounting to about ₦3 million have been paid to teachers. (Applause). To facilitate the functions of our educational institutions, a total of forty-two buses have been purchased at a cost of ₦320,000 for a number of secondary schools in the State. The buses have already been distributed. The first State to lead in educational and technological development in Nigeria is Anambra State. (Applause).

4. In other areas, light industries will be established.

We have set in motion processes for streamlining the operational efficiency of companies under our control. Thus, we have effected the operational separation of Presidential Hotel Limited and Paramount Hotel. Reorganization is proceeding in sequence.

5. As a result of our intensified efforts on loan recovery, a sum of ₦33,268.00 (Thirty-three thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight Naira) was recovered from October to December 31, 1979 under the scheme of fund for small-scale industrialists.
6. Efforts are on to restore the glory of Hotel Presidential, Enugu. Contract for the provision of a new Central Air-conditioning unit has been awarded. A giant stand-by power generating set has been installed, while efforts are being made to refurbish some vital areas.
7. Sites have been acquired for the construction of Paramount Hotels at Nsukka and Awka. The two projects are now at the selective tendering stage and construction will commence any time from now.
8. Contracts for the provision of infrastructures, light, water, have been awarded at the Nike Holiday Resort. The restaurant has been completed while work on some of the chalets is nearing completion.
9. For the first time, Government had decided to play a more active role in the sector of small-scale industries. Government has directed that government offices and parastatals should, where available, patronize the products of small-scale industrialists.
10. The Premier Brewery distributorship system has been cancelled with a view to revamping the system and eliminating the fraudulent system where an individual alone holds over twenty-five distributorships under fictitious names. The same system is being worked out for the distributorship of cement.
11. The Nigersteel Company is being re-organized and it is hoped that the

company will be able to pay its staff from money realized from sales of their products.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The fate of the destitutes in Anambra State is being given an official concern by my government.

TRADE AND CO-OPERATIVE

Small-scale industries in the state are receiving government assistance, and Wholesale Co-operative Shops are being planned to be built.

INFORMATION

The Information complex now in the Governor's Office is being reorganized with a view to ensuring efficiency.

WORKS

The Ministry has bought equipment at a total cost of over ₦.8 million, which is ₦800,000. The plants and equipment have been distributed to the various Area Engineers' offices and the different locations where they are already deployed and where much work is already going on the roads.

As of now, the Ministry is directly involved in the rehabilitation of the following roads:—

- (a) Onitsha-Enugu road, especially the Afo-Igwe-Ogidi-Onitsha sector
- (b) Nenwe-Oduma road
- (c) Nnewi-Ekwulobia-Umunze road.

The Ministry has also undertaken the drainage and reconstruction of the Otumoye creek in Onitsha working together with the local government while contracts have been awarded for the rehabilitation of the following Federal roads: Ukpo-Otuocho road; Oba-Nnewi road; Nkagalu-Ikem road and Oji-River-Awgu road. I am happy to announce that most of these roads are receiving serious attention by the reputable contractors to whom these contracts were awarded. Other roads covered by the rehabilitation programme are Awgu-Ugweme road, Umuogem-Umunze road, Umulumbe-Affa-Nkume road and Ogugu-Maku road. I am also happy to announce that the asphalt concrete underlaying of the Miliken Hill has been completed and on record time. (Prolonged Applause).

Inside Enugu Local Government Area, work has been progressing on the widening and asphaltic concrete overlay of major arterial roads of Enugu Urban Area, namely, Okpara Avenue-Garden

Avenue—Abakaliki Road, and work is commencing now on Ogui Road.

I have already announced the cancellation of the Ogbete Market contract with a view to taking a more positive step which can hasten the completion of the construction work. This will help decongest the Miliken Hill and also normalize the economic tone of the State. I am informed that the work on Ogbete Market contract will be completed by the end of this month. (Applause).

Pursuant to the determination of the government to improve water supply services throughout the State, the following is summary of achievements of the ministry up to date:—

Enugu Water Scheme.

(i) Investigation and classification of Distribution System of Enugu Urban Area into zones according to level of supply for purposes of planned improvements.

(ii) Improvement of water supply to University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus.

(iii) Improvement of supply to Independence Layout and former I. M. T.

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The University of Technology, which will have a campus at Awoka for a start, will definitely take off in October this year. (Applause).

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The State Health Management Board has so far achieved the following between October and December, 1979:

- (1) *Opening of Nsukka General Hospital, October, 1979;*
- (2) *Take over of Amaku Community Hospital, November, 1979;*
- (3) *Nursing man-power supply to two Maternities in Ezeagu Local Government Area in November, 1979;*
- (4) *Oraeri Health Centre run by the State Health Management Board, December, 1979;*
- (5) *First Aid drugs and equipment by the co-operation of the Health Office and the Ouitsha Local Government was established under the "School Health Clinic";*
- (6) *₦8,000 was presented for the purchase of vehicles for Schools Health Clinic in December, 1979;*
- (7) *Conference on Hospital administration for State Health Management Board Nursing staff to up-date their knowledge on Hospital administration, took place in Abakaliki within the period under review.*
- (8) *Expanded immunization programme aimed at protecting children and mothers against T.B., whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and adults especially farmers was carried out.*

SPORTS

In the area of Sports, definite achievements have been made. The Anambra State contingent that participated in the school sports that came off after my election into office secured the second place all over Nigeria—which stood out as one of the best records of the State in sports in recent times.

The Rangers International Football Club with which I have been firmly associated reached the final stage of the WAFU Cup competition, but unfortunately, lost to Senegal. And recently the African Cup of Nations which was won by this country had a lot of contribution from members of Anambra State Rangers International Football Club. (Applause). It is on record that

Anambra was the first State that had the honour of hosting the cup.

The Ministry of Local Government since October 1, 1979, has set in motion a machinery for overhauling the present local government system to fall in line with the presidential system of Government now in operation in the country. In doing this, certain provisions of the Local Government Edict, 1976 have been amended by the Anambra State House of Assembly thus enabling the Anambra State Governor to dissolve the Local Government Councils which had fully run through a 3-year term of office. Management committees have been set up in all the local government areas to maintain a link with the people. The Management Committees will be in office for a period not more than six months.

Again, I hope that if there are problems about elections as being experienced by other States of the Federation this honourable House will enact a new law to extend the date if need be.

(Applause).

CIVIL SERVICE

I am determined to make the machinery of the civil service in Anambra State result-oriented. That is why I set up a committee to study the problems of the State civil service and recommend ways of solving them. The report of the committee has just been submitted. And we are currently studying it. I am therefore appealing to all civil servants to continue to work hard on assurance that my government will always reward hard work and dedication.

BUDGET

Generally, our revenue expectations have been realized. During the period, October, 1979 to March, 1980, we received a total of ₦92.7 million as a statutory share of Federal Government Revenue of which ₦37 million was in respect of the Supplementary Allocation for the same period. Our internal revenue sources yielded about ₦15 million. The Supplementary Receipt of ₦37 million was reserved entirely for the implementation of the Supplementary Budget Capital Expenditure Programme of ₦29.3 million.

RECURRENT BUDGET

We have for the current financial year budgetted for a total Recurrent Revenue of ₦226.9 million and for a total Recurrent Expenditure of ₦186.8

million. We expect, therefore, a budget surplus of approximately ₦40 million which will be transferred to the Capital Development Fund and applied to the financing of our Capital Expenditure Programme for the year.

The Recurrent Revenue is made up as follow:—

	Million N
Internal Revenue	28.88
State Share of Federal Govern- ment Revenue, 1980	130.68
Arrears from 1979-80 Reve- nue Allocation	15.95
Universal Primary Education Grants	34.33
Grants to Local Governments	17.12
Total	N 226.96

As I had said earlier, I have to point out that the ₦15.9 million is a hangover of 1979-80 allocation. If this amount is deducted, the total Revenue for the year will be ₦211.06 million. It seems to me that we succeeded that year in getting our due share of Federal Government Revenue for the first time.

The main components of the estimated Expenditure of ₦186.8 million are:

	Million N
Personal Emoluments	55.9
Ancillary Charges	8.3
Other Charges	116.5
Special Expenditure	6.0
Total	N 186.7

The relative increase in the Recurrent Expenditure is understandably due to the structural changes in the administrative machinery of government and the personnel to conform to the Executive Presidential System of Government. This honourable legislature has had its own share of the Recurrent Expenditure, and I wish to say also that most of your demands have been met contrary to the views held by some of you. (Applause). This notwithstanding, a conscious effort will be made to control expenditure through judicious spending.

CAPITAL BUDGET

We have budgetted for a Capital Expenditure Programme of ₦134.64 million to be financed from the following sources:

	Million N
Recurrent Budget Surplus	40.0
Internal Grants	9.2
Development Loan Stock	17.6
World Bank Loan	4.7
Development Charge	0.4
Totalling	N 71.9

There is, therefore, a resource gap; call it deficit of ₦62.7 million proposed to be financed through external and internal borrowing.

Since the substantial proportion of the Capital Receipts will accrue from the projected budget surplus and loans, the implementation of the Capital Programme will be constrained by the rate at which the anticipated surplus is realized and the loans raised. It then follows that ministries and departments should concentrate at the early stages of the financial year on the implementation of the projects committed in the 1979-80 Supplementary Budget and for which the appropriated funds had been reserved.

SECTORIAL DISTRIBUTION

The sectoral distribution of the budgetted Capital Expenditure of ₦134.64 million is as follows:—

	Million N
Crops	8.25
Livestock and Veterinary	2.21
Forestry .. .. .	.95
Fisheries .. .. .	.15
Manufacturing and Crafts	9.36
Energy and Power	1.50
Commerce and Finance	4.45
Land Transport	26.12
Education	19.70
Health	5.88
Information and Social Welfare	6.88
Water Supply	9.60
Sewerage and Drainage	2.97
Housing	1.00
This will be increased to ₦3.00 million.	
Town and Country Planning	14.72

Co-operative and Community Development	1.97
General Administration (including servicing of old debts of Capital Nature)	18.88

Finally, House of Assembly, provision for a commencement of building staff or to provide accommodation, ₦2.00 million.

You did not react. (Applause and laughter). Well, the ₦2 million is for the commencement within nine months of the houses for hon. Members. (Applause).

The allocation of Capital Expenditure brings out clearly the emphasis which the government places on the development of infrastructure. Land Transport Sector and Town and Country Planning together claim ₦40.84 million or 30.6 per cent. of the total Capital Expenditure outlay.

Here, the emphasis is on road construction, including urban roads. Education comes second with ₦19.70 million or 14.6 per cent. This of course, does not include the allocation or the substantial financial provision which has been made for the new University of Science and Technology, Enugu, as well as for the Institute of Management and Technology (I.M.T.), Enugu. As I said before, the two campuses at Enugu and Awka will be started simultaneously. Primary production—crops, livestock and veterinary, forestry and fisheries, get ₦11.6 million or 8.5 per cent.; water supply which has ₦9.60 million or 7.1 per cent. will be seriously augmented by contractor-finance arrangement; and manufacturing and crafts ₦9.36 million or 6.9 per cent.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET

SPORTS

Every effort will be made within this financial year to complete the Stadium in Enugu. Sports men and women in Anambra State will receive a boost. Particularly the Rangers International to whom I have made many promises will have these promises fulfilled during this financial year.

WORKS

Road construction will be tackled with vigour and all existing road contracts awarded by the former Administration will be determined with a view to awarding them to new and more competent contractors. (Applause).

HEALTH

Sanitary Inspectors or Health Superintendents as a phenomenon in our health scheme will be re-introduced (Applause). This is in accordance with popular request and environmental sanitation vigorously pursued as has been shown already.

INFORMATION

The construction of a State-owned Television will be pursued and nothing will stop us from going on with the programme. (Applause).

EDUCATION

Teachers will no longer be owed. (Applause). Their allowances must be paid on time. Especially the post-primary teachers whose arrears have not been paid will now be paid during this financial year.

CIVIL SERVANT

Civil servants will receive car advances and we have already made provision in the budget for the recommended rent supplement and transport allowances. (Applause). Basic allowance will be paid pending the outcome of the agreement to be reached nationally.

Adequate provisions have been made for faster promotions of all categories of civil servants in order to revitalize their functions. I must say that the provisions made for promotions in the civil service will far out-weigh what has ever happened in this State. (Applause).

HOUSING

In addition to whatever the Federal Government is going to build in the State, Government will commence the building of houses particularly for the low income earners. (Applause). And at this first stage no houses will be built for the senior cadre.

(Applause).

STUDENTS

Almost all students of Anambra State origin will be given vacation jobs. (Applause). Government has decided to award selective bursaries to students of Anambra origin because it is impossible for government to award an all out bursary to all the students—we will grind to a halt. And a provision of ₦2 million has been made for this. (Applause). In addition, government will continue to award

scholarships to deserving students. I must say on this that emphasis will be placed on indigent students. (Applause). I, on the bursary, have to say that we will continue to award bursaries on progressively considered basis while studies will continue to go on on those students who will be involved.

COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

A Council of Chiefs will be inaugurated in Anambra State during this financial year (Applause) and members of the Council of Chiefs will be paid. They will be paid. (Applause). In addition, all other Chiefs not included in the Council of Chiefs will be kept very busy. (Laughter).

I said that they will be kept very busy and they will also be paid. Details of this arrangement will be announced during the inauguration of the Council of Chiefs.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House, I am happy that you have softened. I now commend this budget to this august Assembly for its deliberation, this Draft Budget for your deliberation. In doing so, I must express appreciation to the hon. Members for the co-operation which I have so far received from this House since the beginning of my present administration. (Applause).

I hope that the consideration of this budget by this House will take place in a similar atmosphere of co-operation and maturity. I am pleased to inform you that the usual rush and reckless spending at the end of a financial year has not happened this time. (Applause). All budgeted programmes have been carried over to this financial year and a kobo-to-kobo account of all expenditure incurred will be given in due course.

(Hear ! Hear !)

Having achieved this much, my government is resolved to take longer strides and I am sure that with the support of the beloved and enterprising people of this State a lot more successes will be registered as we progress in our task of State craft. In the process, we will not ignore any factor that helps to make life more meaningful in an organized human community.

In the new fiscal year, my government has decided to include sports, urban and rural cleanliness in areas of top priority. Of course all these

come under works, mainly urban roads, rural roads, water supply and education.

My pledge of humble and effective service to the people of this State is total and complete. In the spirit of this pledge, I will pull all available wires and strings to redeem this pledge while counting on the co-operation of this august Assembly and the usual support of the entire people of Anambra State. The concern of my government is to ensure the good of every one. I believe we will all succeed. Thank you Mr Speaker and hon. Members. (Prolonged Applause).

Mr Speaker: Your Excellency, hon. Members, I wish to thank Your Excellency for this excellent Budget Speech, presently the 1980 Estimate for the year. I can assure Your Excellency that this House will give due consideration to all the points raised so as to arrive at decisions that will be beneficial to the greatest number of the people of this State. Opportunity will be given to members of the three arms of Government and in fact the general public to give testimony at the various committee meetings to enable the House arrive at decisions that will be acceptable to all of us. Thank you Your Excellency. (Prolonged Applause).

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 2nd April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Congratulations Your Excellency

Mr O. M. Ugeh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second this Motion and in doing so I very heartily congratulate His Excellency for the job so far done and the manner he has treated us this morning. I hope that with that same spirit of oneness and conviviality we shall continue and shall arrive at a judicious and well-meaning decision, as the Speaker has said, which will usher in smooth and orderly government and happiness of the people. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 2nd April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 2nd April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: There will be a short meeting of all the Chairmen of Committees, including the Minority Leader, in the Speaker's office immediately after this meeting.

REPORTS FROM STANDING
COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Lifting of Ban on Pool Betting

Chairman Judiciary Committee (Mr R. A. Chinwuba): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to prefix this report by making two observations.

Firstly, the opinion of members of the Judiciary Committee was equally divided on this issue and Oderr No. 39 (6) of the Standing Orders had been called in aid.

The second point, Sir, is that in order to appreciate the import of this report, the Judiciary Committee applied one of the equitable doctrines which enables Courts of Law to arrive at a just and fair decision. In simple English, it means that it will be useless enacting any law which would be breached as soon as the ink was dry on the paper on which it was written.

Mr Speaker Sir, may I now read the report.:

The Motion of lifting of ban on pools betting was one of the first businesses which came to the Floor of the State House of Assembly soon after it commenced sitting. The Motion was moved by hon. B. C. N. Okeke and seconded by hon. F. B. Unigwe.

The significance of the Motion was manifested by the number of speakers who spoke in favour of lifting of the ban and those who vehemently opposed the Motion.

In order to do justice to this Motion the matter was on 12th November, 1979, referred to the Judiciary Committee for an

OPINION AND ADVICE by the hon. Speaker of the House. It may be observed in passing, that this Motion has so provoked great debate both inside and outside the precincts of this honourable House that it formed the subject matter of an editorial comment in the *Daily Star* issue of Tuesday 11th December, 1979. The editor concluded thus: "As pools betting thrives on illusion of hope for a better tomorrow without working hard for it or saving up, and the windfall which has slim chances of materializing, one pertinent question agitating the mind of every responsible Nigerian now is whether the government, at this stage of our national development should encourage pools betting rather than taking a line of action that would encourage saving and thrift".

In strict Law, pools betting is a form of gambling which the law frowns at as it encourages "get-rich-quick" without the corresponding "having to work hard for it". A pools staker may invariably bet away all his money to the detriment of himself, family and community. He may amass wealth overnight thereby negating the principle of dignity of labour. It has moreover been discovered that too many working hours have been wasted by employees addicted to pools betting to the injury of their employers. It is pointless mentioning that marriages have broken down irretrievably due to the incidents resulting from pools betting.

From the above, it would appear that pools betting is a vice which this legislature should continue to BAN. Be that as it may, we are operating a Written Constitution and we are duty bound to give effect to the express provisions of the Constitution. Little wonder that it has aptly been said that the FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS provisions entrenched in our Constitution are fruitful sources of litigation.

The Constitution accordingly protects the rights of a person to believe in pools betting. Section 35 of the Constitution provides as follows: . .

"Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with

others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

A pools staker believes that he can expend his hard earned income by investing it in pools betting. That is his belief. Whether it is right or wrong is not the business of this honourable House to judge. The Constitution confers on him the right to such belief which he can manifest by practice. In our view however, a pools staker cannot take proper shelter under this section of the Constitution.

The pools industry through registration of pools companies and Pool Betting Taxes, are a source of revenue for the State Government. The pools industry cannot be said to be contrary to the country's economic and social objectives and so does not infringe any provisions of the Constitution. Indeed the pools industry can be said to constitute an "Economic Activity" which secured adequate means of livelihood" for a high proportion of our people. The State therefore has a duty to protect the right of any citizen who chooses to engage in pools betting. See sections 16 (1) and 17 (3) (g) of the Constitution.

As a matter of fact, the revenue accruing from pools betting on inquiry shows this figure:

	1976-77	1977-78
	₦	₦
Licences ..	50,685	66,929
Tax	137,023	117,877

But the truth remains that the proprietors of the business are resident outside the State, and as such the State gains little economically.

Pools betting enlivens the society in the sense that a man can live on expectation or anticipation. (*Laughter*).

It is also common knowledge that pools industry provides employment for thousands of Nigerians most of whom would otherwise have been engaged in certain vices such as armed robbery and stealing.

These seemingly advantages of retaining pools betting may capture the imagination of the unwary and gladden the hearts of the

lazy groups in our society.

The people of Anambra State are reputed for their industry and self determination. The Legislative Assembly is not a House of morals. It is established by law to enact laws for order, peace and good government of this State. His Excellency the former Head of State, General Obasanjo in his speech in the 1979-80 Budget said "Some time ago, the Federal Military Government set up a panel to look into gambling and its social, cultural and economic ramifications. The report of that panel has now been submitted and considered by the Supreme Military Council. It is recognized that gambling especially the casino and pools betting, can generate some revenue for government, but government is convinced that these two forms of gambling should be banned because of their undesirable social impact on the community and the fact that the repatriation of the proceeds of casino type of gambling leads to a net outflow of foreign exchange from the country".

Our committee cannot agree more with this observation. However, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, and in particular to the maxim that equity does nothing in vain, the Judiciary Committee hereby recommends that the ban on pools betting be lifted in Anambra State.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the report on the Table. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Shall we call on the Finance Committee?

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lifting of Ban on Pool Betting

Chairman Finance Committee (Chief A. O. Ottah): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to give the report from the Finance Committee: *A report from the Finance Committee on the Motion calling for the lifting of the ban on pools betting.* The Motion on the subject matter was referred to the Finance Committee for detailed study and report.

In the course of its deliberation on this Motion the committee received some petitions and memoranda from the public. The members also visited the Board of Internal Revenue and received a letter dealing on this subject from the State Board of Internal Revenue with a covering letter from the Ministry of Finance.

[CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE]

After thorough examination of the facts, letters, petitions and memoranda received, we submit this report based on the following headings:—

- (a) Socio/Economic implications
- (b) Moral aspect
- (c) Economic aspect
- (d) Political aspect.

- (a) *Socio/Economic Implications:* We discovered from the petitions and letters received that those who are against pools betting talked of the impoverishment of many homes and that it also wrecked many marriages. This group also contended that many workers who got addicted to pools betting hardly did their work. We also observed from the group which argued for the re-introduction of pools betting that the allegations were exaggerated. The so-called "wreckage of families" often cited as a social cost is at best a fantastic speculative claim. They maintained . . .

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order please! Order in the House.

Chairman Finance Committee: They maintained that there was no way of making any realistic statistical analysis of those who . . .

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker Sir, though we may crack jokes in this House we may not use certain words that will reflect badly on us when outsiders hear them, because they are going to boomerang on us.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order is upheld. Use of abusive language or indecent language in this honourable House is proscribed.

Chairman Finance Committee: Thank you, Mr Speaker. They maintained that there was no way of making any realistic statistical analysis of those who benefited from or got wrecked by pools betting. Rather they attributed

the causes of the wreckage of families to:

- (i) Chronic and rising unemployment,
- (ii) Low income earnings,
- (iii) Lack of skill and illiteracy,
- (iv) Rising cost of living,
- (v) Death through accidents, drunkenness, carelessness, violence and robbery.

With reference to workers, this group said that it was unfortunate that lazy officials blamed pools betting for all the ills of society in place of their inefficiency. This group argued that the allegation about workers valuable hours spent on pools betting is false. They maintained that a fall in the productive man hours cannot be attributable to any one factor.

(b) *Morals Aspect:*—We observed that the majority of those who talked against pools betting under this heading did so mostly on religious grounds. The group which argued for the re-introduction of pools betting argued that the moral of the average Nigerian has not improved since the ban on pools betting. They maintained that it is commonplace to see oral contraceptives being sold to school children; that abortion is on the increase. Moral instructions and religious studies have disappeared from the school curriculum. No one, they said, can seriously claim that crimes have been reduced or have been cured since pools betting was seemingly scrapped. They maintained that anyone under the age of twenty-one years is prohibited from pools staking and that the adults who, therefore, stake are not coerced. They pleaded that if pools betting is looked upon as an "evil business" the same consequences are not allowed to flourish. They contended that pools betting is universally acclaimed and that Anambra State should not be an exception and that moreover pools betting like religion, is a matter of conscience.

(c) *Economic Aspect:*—In this aspect we observed that those against pools betting and those in favour of pools betting agreed that there is great economic advantage in pools betting—

- (i) as a source of employment; and

(ii) as a source of revenue.

It was also agreed that if the pools tax system was adopted, the government would benefit a lot by increased revenue. This system is such that the promoters shall be required by law to pay a fixed tax per week.

We also observed that pools betting provided employment for almost 4,000 people in Anambra State. The pools betting business was also in item one of the exclusive list reserved for Nigerians in the 1972 Business Promotions Decree.

(d) *Political Aspect.*—We discovered from those that made representations to us that the Nigerian Peoples Party (N.P.P.) which is the party in power in Anambra State categorically promised to lift the ban on pools betting as soon as it won the elections.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

(Prolonged Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The Chairman of the Finance Committee may please continue.

Chairman Finance Committee: During his electioneering campaigns, the Leader of the Party made the promise to lift the ban on pools betting. We also discovered that many States in the country have lifted the ban on pools betting. Even in our sister State, the Imo State Assembly has lifted the ban to honour the political pledge to the people.

Findings of the Committee:

The members of the committee, after very careful and objective consideration of and deliberation on the petitions and memoranda from both private individuals, establishments, government/public sectors, made the following findings:—

- (a) That there is nothing which is basically wrong with pools betting industry in a free economy which we operate since an individual is free to spend his money in any way he feels, provided he does so within the confines of the law.
- (b) That there is no statistical and empirical evidence to show that pools betting alone is responsible for the wreckage of homes and marriages, low productivity of workers in offices and the downward

trends in morals in our society. These evils are also attributable to other forms of sports or funs e.g. travelling, drinking, dancing, sight seeing, etc. when they are overdone.

- (c) That the pools betting industry is of great economic importance to the people of Anambra State in that the industry offers employment opportunities to thousands of citizens of this State and, in addition, yields much revenue to the State Government.
- (d) That it is politically expedient that the ban on pools betting be lifted in this State since the government of this State is controlled by the Nigerian Peoples Party (N.P.P.) which made the lifting of ban on pools betting as one of its election promises.

Recommendations:

- (1) The committee finally recommends that it is economically wise and politically expedient that the ban on pools betting industry be lifted provided that adequate steps are taken by this honourable House to check abuses and also the revenue that will come into the coffers of the government.
- (2) The committee strongly feels that the situation will be properly taken care of by a result oriented Bill being initiated to that effect.
- (3) The committee also feels that in lifting the ban on pools bettings necessary steps should be taken in a Bill to make it compulsory for pools betting business in Anambra State to be wholly and solely carried out by Nigerians. (Applause).

Several hon. Members: Chief! Chief! Chief the honourable!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Will hon. Members please allow the Chairman of the Finance Committee (*Chief Ottah*) to finish?

Chairman Finance Committee: Mr Speaker Sir, it is my humble wish to place this report on the table of this honourable House for approval.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I stand to move that the

[MAJORITY LEADRE]

reports from both the Judiciary Committee and the Finance Committee be accepted, and pray that we go home with them and go through them until such a time that it will be convenient for the House to deliberate on them.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise here to second the acceptance of the reports from the two standing committees—Judiciary and Finance Committees—but I am of the opinion that we should deliberate on them now.

Question, That the reports of the two Standing Committees, Judiciary and Finance, be accepted by this honourable House, put and agreed to. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! We have accepted the reports of the two committees, and we will now study the reports, and based on the reports and views that may be expressed by hon. Members, we will be able to take a decision on the Motion. I wish that that be done on some other date.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the fact that many people both inside this House and outside the House are interested in this particular Motion, I wish that we do not give more chance for lobbying and I move that this Motion be now deliberated upon and decided forthwith.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the view of the hon. Member for Ishielu West (Rev. Prince Nwafor) and in supporting that, I would like to state my particular experience after my contribution when this Motion was brought here. I opposed pool betting very seriously here in the House and the next sitting day...

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! He hasn't quite finished.

Mr Ogbuagu: The next sitting day, there was a group of people waiting for me at the lobby, requesting me to name whatever amount I want, that they are pool promoters and that they want me to stop opposing this Bill.

I feel, like the hon. Member has said, that if we create more room for this type of lobbying and injecting the spirit of corruption, or ever suggesting it to hon. Members of the House to continue, then this Bill will not have a fair treatment. The moment it is known that these reports have been tabled before the House and accepted, then these people will go on to lobby the Members of the House for support. So we go on...

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Just before I guide the House to decide on whether or not we can take on this debate, I want to make a comment on the last speaker's speech. "It takes two to tango", is an old English adage. I think it is a very serious matter for an hon. Member to own before this honourable House, that he was offered bribe and... (Interruptions).

Order! Order!, and he winked at such a suggestion. It is a very serious matter and I would like hon. Members to realize their responsibility to the people of Anambra State. Anybody, whosoever at any time, through an hon. Member, attempts to effect corrupt practices, the hon. Member should feel bold immediately to hand him over to the police. It is a very serious matter.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. It is my humble view that we should go home and study these reports, so that when we come back we will be able to contribute effectively and constructively. It is said that Caesar's wife is above suspicion. Any hon. Member who should be influenced either by act of commission or omission or patronage or any form of promise (Laughter), to change an objective stand which he has got on an issue, is not fit to be in the chambers of of this honourable House.

Mr Speaker Sir, may I most humbly appeal to hon. Members that it is when one resists these forms of approaches and overtures that one will know that one is really qualified to be here. So, we wouldn't because of fear or that some pressure may be mounted—well, I don't know, I may call them "quicken-hearted people", rush certain decisions on the Floor of this honourable House. It is my humble submission that we defer debate on this issue

until after the hon. Members must have studied the two reports. Thereafter we will be in a fit and proper position to make constructive contributions to the debate on the issue. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Please hon. Members, it is important in the new system to inform the House that incidentally, we will be listening to reports from the hon. Members who went to America and that lobbying is part or an integral part of the presidential system. When we say, members of the public should come to the committees to testify or meet hon. Members to air their views and express their own feelings, that is lobbying and that should not be misconstrued. Honourable Members should not see any outsider coming to express his interest in a Motion or Bill before the House, as being ill-motivated because, it is only by so doing that he can communicate to you, his feelings and those of his friends. I just want to lay these points before the House.

Minority Leader (Oghuiboo P. Agballah): Thank you Mr Speaker. In fact, it was on those lines that I wanted to argue. Furthermore, we have been given reports from the committees but if the reports were given to us say a day, or two before this day, one could have expected us to debate them. We have just received the reports; we have not gone through them and therefore it will be rash for us to tackle them immediately and make effective contributions.

Furthermore, we have talked about lobbying. I am surprised if people outside don't lobby Members of the House on matters in which they are interested. Apart from that, if out of eighty-seven people, one man was promised hell and earth; it shouldn't be taken as the normal course of events and any hon. Member who is being corrupted should do the correct thing, he should report to the appropriate quarters. I think we better defer debating the reports until we have considered them all and having said so, I am asking that the question be now put.

Several hon. Members: Na lie! Na lie!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! It is your decision.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

Debate accordingly deferred.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Clearing of Customs Personnel

Chairman, Economic Development and Planning Committee (Mr C. O. Emehele): Sorry, Mr Speaker, I am not with the report here. Give me five minutes to get it.

LANDS, SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Public Lands Allocated to Individuals

Mr Speaker: Have hon. Members got all the reports from both the Committee on Lands, Survey and Town Planning, and the Committee on Economic Development and Planning?

Several hon. Members: Only that of Survey!

Mr Speaker: Only Survey? Okay, we will take on the report from Lands, Survey and Town Planning until hon. Members have got the one on Economic Development and Planning. The Chairman of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Committee (Mr Mbaso), should please go on.

Chairman, Lands, Survey and Town Planning Committee (Mr L. A. Mbaso): A report from the Lands, Survey and Town Planning Committee on the Motion, that all recent allocations of public playgrounds, parks, and or open spaces to individuals as private property be revoked. Mr Speaker, the Motion on the subject matter was referred to the Lands, Survey and Town Planning Committee for detailed investigations, study and report.

The subject matter of the Motion took place in the heart of the military regime by a Military Governor who was armed with the unfettered enabling provisions of Decrees. Research has taken us through so many perplexing procedural inconsistencies that pervaded the allocations of parts of or at times, all the previously mapped out open spaces

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to either schools, groups of people, societies or to private individuals. We have found out that all the open spaces at the Independence Layout, Enugu, are still in tact and that there is no evidence of interference or conversion thereof for purposes other than those for which the allocations were originally made.

Investigations disclose that there are, of course, encroachments on three open spaces in Enugu Township as shown below:

- (a) The open space at Ogui along Carter Street, whereupon the government built a school under the Universal Primary Education Scheme.
- (b) The open space at Uwani, adjacent to Onwudiwe/Ajalli Streets, has been converted to a school premises as a result of the school built thereon by the government to combat accommodation problems in the schools around or near the area under reference.
- (c) At Nnaji Street, an open space has been taken back by the government and given to the Library Board.

The encroachments or conversions as mentioned above have been done a long time ago and perhaps do not contribute to what motivated the tabling of this Motion under study.

At Onitsha, an open space at Fegge has been an object of thought-provoking discussions and criticisms in recent times. The facts as are available to our committee are stated below for analytical and appreciative minds to make use of:

On 28th January and 8th February, 1978, respectively, the management of the Bolingo Hotels Limited, Onitsha, applied to the Ministry of Industry and also to the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning for the allocation to the said Bolingo Hotels, Onitsha, the space of land which is directly opposite the hotel at Fegge for the purpose of providing facilities such as swimming pool, tennis courts, parking space and other recreational facilities to serve the hotel for the comfort of their guests. At that time, it must be noted, the Ministry of Industry had the responsibility for hotels and tourism in the State. The land applied for was originally on lease to the Onitsha Urban County Council as a playground for the Council's Primary School situated at Fegge, adjacent to

and forming part of the said school. But the school and premises reverted to the then East-Central State Government by virtue of the Public Education Edict which took over schools in the State and of course, all school property, assets and liabilities.

It is found out that when the then Commissioner for Industries, Col. Ivenso, discussed the matter with the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning, he was shown that taking all the land as requested would leave the school with no playground. If part of the area requested by the Bolingo Hotels Management is taken, what would remain would not be enough for a school playground.

An alternative suggestion was made to the Commissioner for Industries to the effect that part of the land could be allocated to the Bolingo Hotels as shown below:

- (a) If they would agree to develop part of the land and make it accessible to the school children and for their own use as a playground.
- (b) If they would develop the other half as an ornamental park, tennis court, swimming pool, and other recreational facilities to serve Bolingo Hotels, provided, of course, that it would be at the management's expense.

It is only on their agreement to the above stipulations that a recommendation would be made to the Open Spaces Development Commission for its approval. The Open Spaces Commission would also supervise the said development of the park. It was hoped that by such understanding the Open Spaces Commission would achieve full scale development of the park without any cost to the Commission and yet provide the school children with recreational facilities and the Bolingo Hotels Limited its own deserving recreational facilities or the comfort of their guests.

The honourable Commissioner for Industry showed appreciation for the suggestions and promised to report back to the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning after holding discussions with the Management of the Bolingo Hotels. There was a big stop press action from the Commissioner for Industry in a letter dated 7th March, 1978 addressed to the then Governor (Col. Atom Kpera) as quoted below:

Please recall Your Excellency's letter CLIND/S. 12/11/100 dated 28th February, 1978 conveying approval for a piece/parcel of land at the former NUPE Square, Fegge, Onitsha, formerly leased to a defunct Cinema Corporation and later purported to be transferred to the defunct Central Trading Agency to be reassigned to Bolingo Hotels Limited. This piece of land measures 150 feet by 300 feet. Your Excellency further directed that the piece of land to the west of the one in question and adjoining the Niger Primary School be not tampered with.

2. Following further exploration by me the following have emerged:

(a) The piece of land purported to have been assigned to Central Trading Agency was originally leased to a defunct Cinema Corporation. That lease has since been cancelled and has, in fact, NOT been conveyed to Central Trading Agency or anybody else.

(b) With the magnitude of investment proposed by Bolingo Hotels Limited, a piece of land measuring 150 feet by 300 feet would not be of much use for the envisaged development and so stands the chance of being improperly utilized to nobody's credit.

(c) The Lands Division of the Ministry of Works and Housing also confirmed that the adjoining piece of land currently being used as playground by the Niger Primary School was also earlier leased to the demised Onitsha Urban County Council and that it has not also been reassigned. This land measures 300 feet across by 150 feet long.

3. In the circumstance, Your Excellency is now being prayed to authorize that the area being granted to Bolingo Hotels Limited be increased to 300 feet by 300 feet by slicing off up to an additional 150 feet from the former Onitsha Urban County Council portion, thus enhancing meaningful development by the hotel and still leaving more than a hundred metres stretch of land as playground for the primary school.

On the same date, 7th March, 1978, and with an amazing precipitous haste, the Governor of the then East-Central State, Col. John Atom Kpera, wrote back to the Commissioner for

Industries, giving his approval for the allocation to the Bolingo Hotels. The Governor's letter is quoted below—

I write to confirm, with reference to your letter No. HC/MICT/4/104 of 7th March, 1978, that I have no objection to the piece of land measuring 300 feet by 300 feet being allocated to Bolingo Hotels Limited, Onitsha. As stated in my letter No. CLIND/S.12/111 100 of 28th February, 1978, I believe that the individual effort made by this company should be encouraged by government.

2. This is now for your action.

In effect, the land allocated to the Management of Bolingo Hotels Limited, Onitsha would be shown to be—

(a) A piece of land previously allocated to and incidentally owned by the defunct Central Trading Agency.

(b) Part of the playground of the Primary School situated at Fegge, Onitsha.

The following acts therefore come to light:

(a) The slicing out of part of the school field by the former Governor was an executive act done by an executive Governor (though Military) and with full backing of the law. Whether the act was done wisely or judiciously is a matter for consideration hereafter.

(b) The only open space that has been tampered with in order to benefit an individual is the open space at Fegge, Onitsha.

(c) That instead of the 150 feet by 300 feet asked for by the Hotels Management, the then Commissioner for Industries recommended the allocation of 300 feet by 300 feet and the Governor approved that immediately.

(d) The ownership of the field being used by the school was originally vested in the Onitsha Urban County Council and so, the government by virtue of the Education Edict.

(e) That the then Commissioner for Industries manifested bad faith by failing to comply with the advice from the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning and by failing to intimate same to the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning as promised by him.

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(f) That the Governor allocated the land to Bolingo Hotels without pre-conditions and safeguards.

(g) That the Management of Bolingo Hotels would *not* and could *not* have entered or made any use of the land forming part of the school field without the Governor's approval.

(h) That Bolingo Hotels Management is now capitalizing on the apparent imprudence of the former administration in not providing safeguards during the grant and is developing the area as an exclusive preserve of the hotel.

COMMENTS

1. The Commissioner for Industries colluded with the then Governor of Anambra State to allocate an area recommended for an open space to an hotel owned by a private individual (as laymen understood it), for private use and convenience, instead of for public convenience. They have therefore led Bolingo into its use, development and subsequent expenditure for whatever concessions and considerations we are not sure of or even made to know.

2. The Bolingo Hotels Limited is a body corporate and cannot be regarded as an individual person in a layman's parlance. It is a company and should be regarded as such.

3. All that can come to our human thought and behalf is that for such hasty and rash governmental act to be contemplated and performed, the paradox must have been too great, the stakes perhaps greater and the circumstances surrounding them certainly precious, even though superlatively sensitive that they defy critical analysis. We know that it is everybody's ambition to have a giant's might but we shall not be oblivious of the correlative follow-up that it is tyranny to use that as a giant and we must avoid the temptation to try to do all that we believe we have the power and capability to do.

4. The unqualified and unrestricted allocation really exceeded that normal civic bounds, but we are also cognisant of the obvious fact that democracy is always fettered and jailed during military regimes no matter how benevolent each military administration is professed to be. We know that the worst civilian government is by far better than the best military regime.

5. Since the grant ante-dated the Land Use Decree, the Governor invoked the powers inherent in his office coupled with the provisions of the State Land Law—*Cap.* 122, Laws of Eastern Nigeria, 1963. It later has taken cover under the protective shells of the Decree No. 6 of 1978. The combination there is odious; the effect is scandalous, the circumstances are perplexing and yet the means of solving the problems created are opaque.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the facts available to us show that the said allocation to Bolingo Hotels was made by the Governor or a recognized government in a recognized State (Anambra State), the responsibility for the allocation is that of the allotter and not that of the allottee or grantee.

Whether the allocation was fraudulent as this one under reference was made under dubious circumstances, the liability for that ought not to be ascribed to the Management of the Bolingo Hotels Limited because they could not have entered the land if they were not let into it by a lawful government.

Bolingo Hotel is an international hotel for tourism and has been planned and constructed as such and any interference with the set up would amount to an inexplicable and well-nigh unpardonable waste.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am begging leave of the Members of this House to delete the following from *furthermore* then to *Anambra State*. And then I continue

Any mishandling of this matter would inevitably have some political undertone and we cannot give anybody any impression that the property of individuals cannot be safe or protected in our State. We shall not close our eyes and ears to public opinion and feelings even though public opinions as can be whipped up by the wrong handling of this matter are sometimes based on wrong premises and subjected to the propulsion apparatus of a few but clever actors wielding tremendous subterranean influences.

Therefore Sir, since the Bolingo Hotels Limited has invested heavily on the land officially allocated to them and our government is in a tight financial position, it would be profoundly imprudent on our part to

recommend revocation of the allocation and the consequential payment of adequate compensation which, of course, will be debilitating.

It is our humble recommendation that the Bolingo Hotels Limited be not disturbed on the land.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay this report on the table.

Several hon. Members: No ! No ! No !
(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Order ! Shall I crave the indulgence of the honourable House to introduce a colleague from Imo State, hon. Umunna, who is the Chairman of House Committee in Imo State House of Assembly. You are welcome. (*Prolonged applause*).

Shall we have a Motion on the presentation of papers.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I move that the report from the Lands, Survey and Town Planning Committee be accepted for deliberation.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): I beg to second.

Question, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The report would be taken on at some other date after the Members should have studied the report.

Clearing of Customs Personnel

Chairman Economic Development and Planning Committee (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to deliver this short report on the Motion on Customs Personnel by the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

On Friday, 7th December, 1979, the hon. Chief Whip, [*Mr I. Obiekwe*] moved as follows:

That this House urges the Federal Government to clear the Customs Personnel from all the roads in Anambra State since Anambra State is far away from the gateways of smugglers, and redeploy them in order that their services will check and arrest or stop smuggling and ply back dividends into the coffers of the Federal Government rather

than molesting, disturbing and harassing the petty traders returning from hinterland markets.

Mr Speaker Sir, this Motion was referred to various committees including Economic Development and Planning Committee for study and recommendations. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! This report was distributed on Friday.

Mr Emehelu: The committee has carefully considered the implications of the Motion and arrived at the following observations:—

1. Truly, men of the Customs Preventive Service harass innocent citizens particularly traders, in a bid to countermand contraband goods.

2. Contraband goods find their way somehow into the Nigerian hinterland including Anambra State.

3. Smuggling operations cause the Nigerian Government great loss of revenue to the tune of millions of naira.

(*Interruption by power failure*).

Mr Speaker: The House will be at ease until the light comes back.

Sitting suspended: 11.32 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 12.35.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Shall we complete the report on Customs Personnel being presented by the Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning (*Hon. C. O. Emehelu*).

Chairman, Economic Development and Planning Committee: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Before the unfortunate interruption, I was . . .

(*Interruptions*).

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, having seen that the number of Members present in the Chamber, and knowing fully well that if a quorum is not formed, anything done in the House will be rendered null and void, and it will not be advisable for us to dissipate our energy trying to fish in a water devoid of fish,

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I will very much solicit that the business of the House cannot go on, and if quorum is not formed, I apply that the House do adjourn.

Mr Speaker: I take the view from the raising of the point of Order that the House do check to ensure that we have a quorum.

Mr Mbaso: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I have been informed that we have a total number of thirty-four hon. Members in the Chamber, and that forms a comfortable quorum.

Mr Mbaso: Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the fact that since my point of Order, a lot of things have happened that made the quorum to be formed, I have to withdraw.

Mr Speaker: I do not think there is need for withdrawal. It is a point of Order, and we have checked.

Chairman, Economic Development and Planning Committee: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I was saying that we found that men of the customs, for the reasons already given, therefore, appear justified in moving to the hinterland (including Anambra State) to impound contraband goods. There is no doubt, however, that some bad eggs among them to beyond legitimate operations to the detriment of Nigeria in a bid to enrich themselves overnight.

In spite of the picture painted above, Mr Speaker, we are of the opinion that asking the Federal Government to withdraw these men from the roads in Anambra State is like asking for the withdrawal of all traffic policemen simply because there are some bad eggs in their midst.

We are, therefore, recommending:

(1) That this House draws the attention of the Federal Government to the catalogue of malpractices perpetrated by some of these men under the cloak of performing official duty.

(2) That the Federal Government considers, as a matter of urgency, the lifting of the ban on selected and essential imported goods as one way of reducing the incidence of smuggling and therefore of the malpractices.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay this report on the Table.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I rise to move for the acceptance of the report as this been read by the Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee, who has presented his report to this honourable House.

I beg to move.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second that the report be accepted as read for discussion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: This particular matter was referred to a number of committees, and we have listened to two. The Committee on Information would now read its own report.

Chairman Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee (*Mr F. E. Igwe*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to give a report of the Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee on the "Clearing of the Customs Personnel" from all the roads in Anambra State.

Mr Speaker Sir, the consensus of opinion arising from the debate on this Motion on and after the report of the Judiciary Committee indicate that Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee is not the appropriate committee to deal with this Motion which reads thus:

That this House urges the Federal Government to clear the Customs Personnel from all the roads in Anambra State, since Anambra State is far away from the gateways of smugglers and redeploy them in order that their services will check and arrest or stop smuggling and ply back dividends into the coffers of the Federal Government rather than molesting, disturbing and harassing the petty traders returning from hinterland markets.

As was moved by the Chief Whip (*Hon. I. Obiekwe*), it is, therefore, the opinion of this committee that the Economic Development and Planning, Trade and Co-operative Committee that could prepare a better ground for further action on the Motion.

Anyhow, to give more support to the Motion, the committee looked on the public relations aspect of it, and has this to say after deliberating extensively on the topic:—

That the public is so much embarrassed on the harassment and inconveniences on our roads by the Customs Preventive Services Personnel who are the causes of major accidents on our roads, even at night hours and doubts whether Anambra State had been falsely labelled and declared a smuggling area. The question is, do contraband goods fall from the sky? If the answer is no, then the committee emphatically requests that the Customs Preventive Services Personnel should be removed and redeployed at their proper places of duties where their services will be of greater benefit to the nation and stop harassing innocent petty traders returning from hinterland markets and give way to the road users.

That in view of the disturbances by these officials in Anambra State, the committee is of the opinion that the report of the two Standing Committees of the House, viz, Economic Development and Planning and Trade and Co-operatives be taken to guide the legislature on reaching a reasonable resolution.

The Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee on the part of Public Relations aspect, therefore, recommends as follows:—

RECOMMENDATION

That as Anambra State is only one out of nineteen States of the Federation, in order to avoid the State being misinterpreted as encouraging smugglers, that Anambra State representatives in the Federal House should be requested to take up this matter seriously knowing the hardships and inconveniences economic-wise it is causing this State.

That they should advocate removing all Customs Personnels from all the roads in the Federation to the State borders or even more to the Federal borders, airports, and large town as Lagos.

The essence of this recommendation is to void the possibility of people singling out

Anambra State as not wanting customs officials.

The committee does not share the view of throwing off this all-important matter just because customs and excise duty come under the exclusive legislative list.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the report on the Table.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that this apologetic report from the Committee on Information, Publicity and Public Relations be accepted for discussion on a future date. I beg to move.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to second that the report as read be accepted. Thank you.

Question, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: I will want to call the attention of the Chairman of Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee that the committee should do its work on any Motion or Bill referred to it but if the committee is in doubt as to what it is expected to do, it should clear with the office of the Speaker.

REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We have on the Calendar consideration of reports from legislative delegation to United States of America. If we have to treat this then there will have to be a Motion to suspend the Standing Orders.

Several hon. Members: Adjournment!

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Speaker Sir, it is my humble view looking down, even though constitutionally we have a comfortable quorum for the report which this delegation to the United States is about to give, it is an all-important one and it is one which will interest every hon. Member of this House. Therefore it is my most humble view that an opportunity should be given to as many Members as possible to listen to this report. That many of them are not here is not of their own making because we didn't get any notice as to when the light will be restored.

So in view of that fact, I am most humbly suggesting that this report be deferred till tomorrow when as many Members as possible will be opportuned to be present and listen to the report. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to associate myself with the statement of the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*). The report from the legislative delegation to America is expected to be both educative and a sort of information on the presidential system of government as practised in America and it will be really very unfair if the delegation will have to furnish us with whatever they must have seen or learnt in America since now most of the members who will definitely benefit from such information or report as the hon. Member for Aguata West has categorically said are not present. It is really a pity that we have to delay it but we have been compelled to do so by circumstances beyond our control. Thank you.

Question, put and agreed to.

Report accordingly deferred.

Mr Speaker: The report from the legislative delegation to America should be taken on first thing in the morning tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Thursday, 3rd April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

That Recruitment Exercise may not be Acceptable

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing that, I have in mind saying that I was sort of embarrassed learning some time ago that a number of people were being summoned here for interview when actually we had deliberated on the Legislative Service Commission Bill the body of which is charged with the responsibility of recruitment, discipline and whatever benefit due to the people working here. It seems their primary responsibility has not been properly constituted. I therefore say that I do not know under whose umbrella or authority the recruitment exercise is going on. I would want to emphasize that recruitment not done based on what we have been preaching as the stipulations of the Constitution, widespread or geographical spread, should be frowned at by people not benefitted by such employment and this may give rise to this honourable House having to dissipate energy arguing on what has happened somewhere, sometime and somehow.

I therefore would say that with all humility I am begging the people responsible to ensure that they conform with the stipulations of what we mutually agreed on here that we have a body that should be responsible for this exercise and anything done outside this body, I do not know, is very illegal and may not be acceptable in the end and whatever payment that should be made to such employed fellows should be illegal and will have to be refunded. That is my observation, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

Inspection of On-going Projects by the Works Committee

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. In supporting the Motion for adjournment I would like to draw the attention of this House to the problem that has been raised often and on the Floor of this House, which I have always referred to as one of those things that go during the end of financial year. I would like that this House, particularly the Works Committee should embark on a tour of the State to see the amount of work that has been done and see actually what use has been made or has not been made of the last Supplementary Budget and discover the contractors that are causing disfigurement of the image of this government, because any contractor that has failed to oblige the nation must be given the red card; so that they report effectively on what is going on on the roads particularly, and other projects. I would urge, through the Speaker, that the Works Committee take serious note of this issue. Thank you.

Co-ordination between the Exclusive and Legislative Arms of Government

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, I have but few points to raise. One is to associate my views with what the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) has said. And also to pray the hon. Speaker to make it known to the Executive arm of the Government that those of us who are Members of this House have been saying that each time they will embark on a tour of the constituencies that the Members of the House whose constituencies they are going to tour should be made to know, so that we accompany them and show them round because we wear the shoes and know where it pinches us.

Another thing too, is that we heard over the radio this morning that His Excellency the Governor will soon embark on working tour of parts of the State. I would also like this House to know the programmes for such tour because if he is touring the areas, it is necessary and is expedient that the hon. Member from that area will be informed in order to accompany, direct and show His Excellency what the people need in that particular area.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have also to add that this House view with very serious concern the making of policy statements by the Executive without reference to this honourable House and Members of the legislature.

So Mr Speaker, I have also to point out that it was made clear to the public that a number of

schools will be provided with water tanks and a number of towns will be provided with rural electrification but up till now people continue to ask in the rural areas, which towns are to be provided with this rural electrification? Which school is to be provided with water? We should be in a position to know which schools are to be benefited by this, which towns are to be benefited by this so that we will be able to explain to the people what the government is doing.

So Mr Speaker with these few remarks I beg to support the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday 3rd April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 3rd April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker: Order ! I crave the indulgence of the honourable House—the second item on the Calendar will come before the first one.

REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Reactivation of Oji-River Power House
Chairman Public Utilities Committee

(Engr. S. O. Didigu):

PREAMBLE—Since the end of the civil war Anambra State has grown by leaps and bounds in the establishment of small-scale and medium-sized industries that need electric power for their sustenance. Living house have quodrupled to increase considerably the domestic demand for electricity. All these notwithstanding, power supply has not increased reasonably to cope with demand. Power cuts are common in all urban towns.

With new industries like the Mercedes Benz assembly plant, the NITECO workshops, Berliet workshops, and innumerable others, power demand will be on the increase. Even if there are two or three generating stations in Anambra State, there will not be any dearth of consumers.

ORIGIN: On Thursday January 24th, 1980 a Motion by hon. E. A. Agbo that read as follow: "That this House urges the Executive to reactivate the Oji-River Power Station, not only to supplement electric power from the Kainji Dam, but also to generate power to supply electricity to every local government headquarters and suburban towns" was debated on the Floor of the House and was referred to, among other committees, that of Public Utilities.

The Public Utilities Committee met on Tuesday 29th January, 1980 and after

extensive deliberations on the Motion resolved as follow:—

(i) That a sub-committee comprising of Engr. S. O. Didigu, hon. Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke and hon. F. C. Nwofor be formed to find out:—

(a) whether Oji-River Power Station which is now working, is producing electricity at its full capacity; and if not, what can be done to make it work at full capacity.

(b) whether electric power can be distributed to towns and villages in Anambra State from Oji-River Power Station by any adjustments whatsoever, or must electric power first be transferred to Oshogbo to enter the National Grid for distribution, as the committee was made to understand; and that

(ii) Consequent upon the outcome of these investigations, the sub-committee can decide on the necessity to go to Lagos on delegation to both the National Electric Power Authority and the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power for further discussions.

The sub-committee, bearing in mind that electric power is in the Concurrent Legislative List; *vide* the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979; Second Schedule—Legislative Powers, Part II—Concurrent Legislative List, item F—Electric Power, but cognisant of the fact that Oji-River Power Station is the child of the Federal Government, decided to have initial discussions with the Enugu District Headquarters of the National Electric Power Authority, the Nigerian Coal Corporation and the Oji-River Power Station staff. From the discussions with the personnel of the District Headquarter of N.E.P.A. in Enugu, we gathered that Oji-River had a capacity of thirty megawatts of electricity before the war; but now due to ravages of war, dilapidations and inactivation, the Power Station can only generate electric power under ten megawatts. We also gathered that the greatest problem N.E.P.A. experiences in this State is that of over-loaded distribution transformers. This overload affects Enugu, Onitsha Abakaliki, Nsukka and some other towns resulting in power shedding or the incessant power cuts. There is however, a plan to instal a

Ring Main of 30 (thirty) megawatts (mw) step-down transformers in Enugu to take care of the high voltage of the in-coming power. From these ring mains, power can be further reduced to eleven megawatts at distribution points, and thence to the consumers. The only factor militating against the establishment of this ring main is lack of funds from the Federal Government.

The sub-committee's next 'port of call' was the Nigerian Coal Corporation. We found out from the planning section that a programme is at an advanced stage for using coal from the Enugu mines to fire an electric generating plant capable of generating six hundred to eight hundred megawatts of electricity. This, however, is just a programme that has not been put into practice.

Then the sub-committee visited Oji-River Power Station and found out to its chagrin a catalogue of dis-repair and neglect. In spite of the highly dedicated spirit of duty of the workers at the station, there was no sufficient encouragement from the parent body—the Federal authorities: Ministry of Mines and Power and National Electric Power Authority. It was confirmed here that the station generated about thirty megawatts of power pre-war; but, can hardly now generate ten megawatts. The reason for this is neglect; abject in its totality.

We found out that the station is a coal-fired Thermal Power Station that has provision in its boilers for burning gasses. The working, taken simply is as follows: coal from Enugu coal mines is transported to the station by lorry and/or by the aerial rope way. The coal is then conveyed from a hopper by Gravity Bucket Conveyor to electrically driven coal crushers where its size is reduced before it is fed into the boilers. In the boilers the coal is used to heat water to produce steam. This steam gets into the turbines and turns the blades that cut across high magnetic fields to produce electricity. Water for producing steam and cooling of parts is supplied by Oji-River.

THERMAL FUEL: Coal is the thermal fuel and the pre-war rating of the aerial ropeway is twenty-five tons per hour, and working eight hours daily can stack two hundred tons a day, or six thousand tons per month of thirty days. The quantity that can be supplied by lorries is

a function of the number of tonnage of the lorries employed. The station consumes about three thousand tons per month at a base load of five megawatts in a month of thirty days. The coal from Enugu mines has the highest calorific values (G.C.V. 85,000 BTU/lb) of all types of coal so far found in the Federation; and its ash content (25%) is also the least. The problem at the thermal fuel unit is lack of money to replace and/or repair effectively both the ageing Gravity Bucket Conveyor and spares for the crushers.

BOILERS: There are six boilers in all. They are of water-tube type and of Babcock and Wilcox make. Boilers one to four are small (five and six) are big and rated to produce eight megawatts of steam equivalent per hour. These boilers have been derated to 1.5 and 5.0 megawatts respectively because of age, faulty water-tubes and leaking casings. Re-tubing and re-drumming of these boilers will do the trick.

TURBINES: There are four turbines in all, two of which are of W.H. Allan make and the other two of which were made by C.A. Parsons. While the first two can generate up to five megawatts of electricity pre-war, the last two can develop up to ten megawatts by that time. Now they can only generate three megawatts and five megawatts respectively. This is due partly to the reduction in steam production; but principally due to damages to the turbine blades.

COOLING: Expert tests show that Oji-River with a dry season depth of eight feet, is an economic source of water capable of sustaining a thermal power station of up to one hundred megawatts output. With a little dredging and probably blasting and damming it can sustain a power station of upwards of three hundred megawatts. Its quality is such that minimal treatment is required to prevent corrosions of turbine blades and boiler parts. There are relatively no serious debris (mud) to block pumping systems. Its conductivity is within 10 microhms while its salt contents are low (1.2% of NaCl; 3% of CaSO₄ and 2% of MgSO₄) 1.2% of sodium chloride and 3% and 2% of both the sulphates of calcium and magnesium. These cannot be said of either Ijora or Sapele where N.E.P.A. generates electricity and uses water as coolant.



Above all, there is installed and not yet used, because of non-commissioning, a closed cooling tower system. Built before the war, it has not been commissioned to date, because the station has not been fully reactivated. When this cooling system is put into use, it will considerably enhance the cooling capacity of Oji-River; and being a closed recycling system, there is minimal loss of water as a result. From the foregoing, we decided to go to Lagos and hold discussions with the General Manager and the Administrative Secretary of the National Electric Power Authority, and the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power.

In Lagos, we were able to see the Secretary and the Assistant General Manager of the National Electric Power Authority, and the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power. Each of these officers expressed concern over discussing with the delegation from the State what is precisely a Federal concern. We agreed that these discussions were informal, and had no backing of the Federal authority. They asserted that while it was their duty to give technical advice, it was the prerogative of the Executive to make political decisions. We learned that there is a programme by the Federal Government in its four year development plan to establish a coal-powered electric station. We learned that the entire machinery at the Oji-River Power Station are obsolete and needed replacement. Also it was not economical in this age to establish or reactivate a power station that can generate only thirty megawatts of electric power.

In spite of the fact that four of the mines in Enugu coal mines have been fully automated, production has not reached pre-automation level. This is mainly because of the attitude of the workers, and as a reprisal for standing off over six hundred of them. Plans however are in the offing to reabsorb these displaced workers, and open up more mines where they can work. This means increased coal production for Oji-River Power Station, Nkalagu Cement Factory and the envisaged six hundred megawatts coal-powered station.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) This State should send a high-powered political delegation to the Federal

Government to press for the reactivation of Oji-River Power Station since the National Electric Power Authority had already put the scheme on its four-year plan. Reactivation should be geared towards over a hundred mega-watts production by replacing the existing machinery with new and suitable ones.

- (2) The Federal Ministry of Mines and Power in its efforts to find use for coal had accepted the programme of the Coal Corporation for the establishment of a coal-powered generating Station in Anambra State using the waters of Abonyi River at Ezillo for generation and cooling. This station is expected to generate over six hundred mega-watts. Without prejudice to the full reactivation of Oji-River Power Station, this delegation should press for its establishment. After all, Ughelli and Sapele have generating Power Stations. They are both in Bendel State. There are more than two generating Stations in Lagos State now; and about two more are in the offing. Anambra therefore, is not a precedent.
- (3) The delegation should press for the immediate implementation of the plan of the District Office of N.E.P.A. in Enugu for the thirty mega-watts RING MAIN to off-set the present overloaded distribution transformers in the main towns of Anambra State. This will put an end to load shedding in these towns.

Thank you Mr Speaker. (*Applause*). With the concurrence of Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the Report on the Table of the House.

The Deputy Speaker: We have heard the Report from the Public Utilities Committee. I invite comments.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I think that this job is extensively done and it will be good and proper for us to accept the Report for deliberations when the date comes for it. So Sir, I am moving that we accept this Report, study it and deliberate on it.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu) Mr Speaker, I rise to second the Motion for the acceptance of this Report. The Report itself as I am sure every hon. Member will agree, is very illuminating, very, very revealing and we

require a very, very close study so that when we come to talk, we talk extensively. Thank you.

Question, That the report presented by the Chairman of Public Utilities Committee be accepted put and agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Another issue is whether we should deliberate on the report now or should it be deferred?

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me. I am of the opinion and I urge this honourable House to agree with me that deliberation on this report be deferred to a future date.

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion that discussion on the report be deferred and in doing this we have to bear in mind that already the report from the Judiciary Committee has been reported in this House and it is necessary that both reports should be studied in order to get at the right decision on a date to be fixed. Thank you.

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

Question, That the report be discussed on a future date, put and agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: The next item is the consideration of reports from the legislative delegation to the United States of America. I am suggesting that the House should go into the Committee of the Whole House because that is where we will make full deliberations. Any opposition?

Several hon Members: No.

The Deputy Speaker: Gentlemen of the Press, please leave us.

REPORTS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Chairman: Honourable Members who would give their reports for consideration should lay them on the table and I believe every hon. Member has got the reports. Please lay your reports on the table.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, Sir, there is an observation I want to make here with relation to the Calendar as given to us.

The Calendar we collected yesterday which also embodies the items for handling this morning; the whole thing is different from what we are receiving and treating this morning and that is why a person like myself looking at this Calendar, I got myself prepared in tune with the contents of the Calendar but coming here it varies with what is on the Floor. So, Mr Chairman, I think that this thing should be followed—otherwise for instance I looked at the Calendar and left all that will not be treated this morning, coming here prepared for what I have seen on the Calendar. The essence of advance information in the Calendar is for us to get ourselves prepared for full participation in the work of the House.

The Chairman: Can you give a specific example.

Mr Ugoh: Yes, Sir. The Calendar as published on the 2nd of April gave us what we will do on that very 2nd and also Thursday, 3rd of April, saying, Report from the Public Utilities Committee on the following Motion—Reactivation of Oji-River Power House. That is alright, and the Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980. No mention was made of the tour and the report you are seeking to receive now.

(Interruptions).

The Chairman: It was decided yesterday by this House that owing to shortage of time which resulted from power failure, the consideration should be taken up today.

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): Point of observation Mr Chairman, Sir my observation is this, going through the Calendar and having received so many pieces of reports from the delegates that went to the United State of America, it gave me food for thought that these reports should have been one comprehensive report and not individual reports because these delegates did not receive the mandate of this honourable House.
(Laughter).

Several hon. Members: Who then gave them the mandate?

Mr Odife: Mr Chairman, I beg to make a statement in connection with the reports.

MR ODIFE

So far, the reports we have received are individual reports. I do not find it necessary that on individual capacity this delegation should make their reports to this House, because they did not receive a joint mandate from this very House before they went to the United States of America. Thank you.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Chairman Sir, observation. I like to inform Mr Chairman that bringing this type of report to this committee is not necessary because this committee never sent, nor did the House decide to send anybody to the United States. Before this report will be read to this committee or we have any discussion, we will like to know when the decision to go to America was taken. As far as I know, I was not a party to that decision. We received information, but information is no decision. So, if we are going to go by information in this House, it will be a new set-up or precedent.

So, I humbly submit that this report should not be given to this committee of the whole House.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Chairman Sir, I very much appreciate the views of the hon. Member who has just spoken, but I thought that as the leader of the delegation, the Speaker should be able to give us one comprehensive report. What we have here is not worth a paper. It is all jazz. That somebody was handed a pamphlet in Nebraska or that he will never forget whatever remains the memories of the place he visited is not worthy of a paper to be presented to this House.

I thought that the presenters of these papers should have passed them to the Speaker to vet before laying them on the Table, because whatever we do here will be left for posterity. And I am asking that these papers be sent back and we await a comprehensive report, even if it is an oral report from the Speaker on their visit to the United States. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: I am beginning to agree and appreciate what hon. Members are saying about a one volume comprehensive report of the team's visit to the United States. When I decided with the members of the delegation

that individuals should take up various aspects, I had in mind that from the word go, the individual would concentrate in great detail about the aspect that he was assigned to. But like you have said, or like many other hon. Members have expressed the view, if it is the wish of the House, we can withdraw this report and compile them into one volume report.

Question put and agreed to.

(Interruptions).

The Chairman: Order ! Order ! It is your own decision. The report will be withdrawn and a comprehensive one volume report would be tendered to the House.

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo P. Agballah): Mr Chairman, I think this decision is premature. The question of withdrawing, if it is approved, pre-supposes that we want the report. The House has not made up its mind on whether we are going to receive a report from the holiday-makers in America or whether we are not going to do that. And I think if we take that aspect of the case, the House will be satisfied that it has authorized such a visit but where such is not the case, the question of whether individual report or collective report, would not arise.

What I am saying, Mr Chairman Sir, is that everything about this visit is like a bolt from the blues.

Mr Linus O. Okonkwo (Awka North): On a point of Order. Order number 31 (1) of the Standing Orders. Please a ruling has been made . . . *(Interruptions).*

The Chairman: Order ! Order !

Mr Okonkwo: A ruling has been made and it is irrelevant for somebody to revive the ruling for discussion. So, this is an Order calling the hon. Member speaking to order.

The Chairman: Order ! Order ! The point of Order is upheld. We must be serious.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Mr Chairman, I think with the *ayes* and *noes* we should have . . .

The Chairman: Order! Order! I think that is too late. Let us be mature and serious-minded with the handling of any business of the House. There was a Question put and the *Ayes* and the *Noes* shouted out. And the *Ayes* had it.

There was no objection at the time of the announcement of the result. And we cannot in the middle of another matter go back to that. If anybody wants that challenged, then the person should table a Motion.

Minority Leader: Point of Order, I am taking up the Motion and my point of Order is that . . .

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Mr Chairman, on point of Order!

The Chairman: Order! Order! Order number what?

Chief Whip: On the entire Members. (Laughter) Order No. 35 of the Standing Orders states as follows:

Mr Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and committee respectively and their decision upon any point of Order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion made after notice.

Therefore, if somebody wants to object to a decision, he has to move a substantive motion.

The Chairman: The point of Order, of course, is upheld and while doing that, it is in order to call the whole House to order if the House is straying.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor: (Ishielu West): Mr Chairman Sir, I just want to enlighten the hon. Members. I have no blame for you because you came at the middle of the discussion. In fact, the Motion that warrants the vote of No or Yes is not that of the hon. Member for Anambra Central (Mr Okoye). Rather it should be that of the hon. Member for Oji-River (Mr Onyefuru). It was he who put the Motion that this House does not stand in a position to receive any report, because the issue of going to America was not officially discussed and it would be unfair to discuss it officially since it was not officially proposed. So, when

you came in, may be you did not understand and you put the question, some people got confused and some were saying "No", because they felt it shouldn't be received, and some were saying "Yes", because they were confused. So, what I am saying is that the "Yes" or "No" should be on whether the report should be given or not given.

Minority Leader: On point of explanation, Mr Chairman, if I am allowed . . .

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Point of Order, Mr Chairman!

The Chairman: On point of Order.

Several hon. Members: Order number what?

Mr Ngene: Order Number 25 of the Standing Orders. Even if it is accepted that the hon. Member for Anambra Central (Mr Okoye) moved a Motion, that Motion was never supported. Therefore, it should not have been allowed to stand. (Laughter).

The Chairman: Shall we finish with the point of Order? The hon. Member should read down Order No. 25 please.

Mr Ngene: Order No. 22 of the Standing Orders states:

Debate on any Motion or amendment shall not be entertained unless the Motion or amendment shall have been seconded.

The Chairman: The hon. Member for Nkanu West (Mr Ngene) should please read on Order No. 25 which he had earlier quoted.

Mr Ngene: According to what I have in my own paper, (Laughter) Order No. 22 of the Standing Orders as I have here, states that—

Debate on any Motion or amendment shall not be entertained unless the Motion or amendment shall have been seconded.

This is what I have in my own paper. I am reading from a paper somewhere. . . (Prolonged laughter).

The Chairman: Order! Order! please let us be serious. It is necessary to read to the hon. Member for Nkanu West (Mr Ngene), Order No. 25 which he is quoting. Order No. 25 isn't it or 22?

Mr Ngene: I amended it Sir.

The Chairman: Order No. 22 reads—

The question on any motion or amendment shall not be proposed from the chair in the House unless it shall have been seconded, but in committee a seconder shall not be required.

So, the point of Order is not upheld. We take this seriously—'observation', 'point of order', or after the first point of Order another point of Order. Okay.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman Sir, honourable and respected Members of this House, my observation is that now that it appears that we are sort of divided as regards the issue of accepting this report or not accepting it, or if at all as some questions are being raised as to whether this issue was discussed or not, it is my most humble appeal to this honourable House and the Chairman in particular because this period is very crucial in the existence of this House and in our long search for solidarity. I am most humbly appealing that we defer further discussions on this report and all matters related thereto a sort of committee that will look into it and report back to the House. I wouldn't like a selected committee of elders if you like. I wouldn't like us to have a sort of heated debate or dialogue as you may call it, on this issue. I most humbly and respectfully appeal to hon. Members. Thank you.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Thank you Mr Chairman. Since this is a Committee of the Whole House, I do not think the point which the last speaker made is relevant to the issue

An hon. Member: Which point?

Mr Nnatubeugo: I am addressing Mr Chairman, please. We are only making a comment. We have not gone into dialogue; we have not gone into confusion; we have not disagreed; we are only making our points. I think the appeal is absolutely unnecessary, unwarranted, and it is a sort of cheap popularity which we are not prepared to have in this House.

Chief Whip: Point of Order. Standing Orders No 26 (5) reads as follows:

It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.

The Chairman: O. K. Definitely that point of Order is upheld.

Mr Nnatubeugo: I beg to withdraw that particular thing. (Laughter).

The Chairman: Thank you. Hear! Hear!

Mr Nnatubeugo: But all I am saying is that we have not gone to a stage where I think the House has disagreed. If a point is made and it is one worth taking note of, I am sure Mr Chairman recognizes that the point we are making requires absolute attention. Therefore, what is important as grown up hon. Legislators of this House is to allow a full-fledged debate so that hon. Members could air their views. Well, the importance of allowing sometime the House to flow to its logical end is for us to take correction in future so that whenever such an issue comes out, Mr Chairman and the Leader of the whole House, will take into consideration what should be the feelings of the Members, supposing it is done this way or that way. I think it will give him an opportunity of giving room for collective consultation before arriving at a decision.

So, what I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that except you are ruling that the first Motion must have to stand, I am craving the indulgence of Mr Chairman, and having known very well that the Chairman is a very democratic Chairman—(Laughter), he is prepared to listen to everybody and hear the feelings of everybody; especially even when it is particularly against him. I am also appealing that having known Mr Chairman for so long a time to be a practical man of such a calibre... (Laughter) that he will allow this issue to be seriously deliberated on so that when we arrive at a decision, the decision should not only be justified but will also appear to be justified.

With this submission, Mr Chairman, I beg to ask that we rescind our former position of *Ayes* and *Noes*, or if you do not want to do that, I will call for a division, and we check it and then see what can be done. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

The Chairman: Order! Order! I crave the indulgence of hon. Members to direct the House so as to resolve this issue. I wish to suggest that we adjourn for thirty minutes or

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Mr Okotim
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Mr Ngene: P

The Chairman: P

Mr Ngene: Mr Chair
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The Chairman: P
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The Chairman: P

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The Chairman:

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so, and discuss this matter in this House. Nobody would go out. We would sit as we are and discuss it; then we come back to the House and take a decision. Could somebody move that we adjourn for thirty minutes or so.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: I move that this committee be adjourned for about thirty minutes.

Mr Ngene: Point of Order : *Laughter.*

The Chairman: Order number what !

Mr Ngene: Mr Chairman, I think we cannot go from the committee. We have first of all to resolve to resume then we can adjourn for thirty minutes.

The Chairman: I do not think so. It is committee adjournment. It is adjourning the committee. Alright? So, your point of Order is not upheld.

Mr O. C. Morah Njikoka North East: Mr Chairman, I am seconding the Motion for adjourning the committee sitting for thirty minutes.

The Chairman: I am putting the Question.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose that thirty minutes be set apart for the settlement of this matter which should be rightly settled on the Floor of the full committee, because if we are given the opportunity . . .

Mr L. Okonkwo Awka North : Point of Order. Please, we do not have two Motions at the same time. There is a substantive Motion. (*Interruptions.*) Excuse me, I know what I am saying, that is the rule of debate.

Several hon. Members took the Floor.

The Chairman: Order ! Order !

Mr Okonkwo: The rule of debate is that we do not have two Motions at the same time. The substantive Motion is that we do adjourn the committee, and it has been seconded. So, until that Motion is dispensed with, there is no other Motion that could be put across the committee.

The Chairamn: Order ! Ordr ! Honourable Members, I appealed to the House that we

adjourn for about thirty minutes and discuss this matter fully, after which we come to the committee and look at it officially before we go to the House. And then a Motion was tabled based on that appeal and supported. Then the hon. Member for Ishielu West *Rev. Nwafor* was speaking in opposition. That is the way I recognize it.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman, Sir, I recognize that the Chair is the Alpha and Omega, but I am yet to be enlightened to fact . . .

The Chairman: I object to that assertion. The Chair is neither the Alpha nor the Omega. *Laughter.* The House is the supreme authority.

Several hon. Members: Hear ! Hear !

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman, I withdraw that part of my former statement.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am giving a counter Motion.

Several hon. Members: No ! No !

The Chairman: Order ! Order ! Thank you, the counter Motion is not acceptable. We have to dispense with the Motion on the Floor.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am speaking in support of the proposition that we adjourn briefly on the ground that the Chairman is directing the House on an issue such as this. He should be given the privilege and benefit of knowing the best way to direct the House so that we achieve our aim. I do not see anything wrong in adjourning briefly, possibly for him to hold some consultations. Is that not legitimate and necessary ?

So, in view of the fact that he was not the only person who went to the United States, he went with some people and this type of thing has arisen, it is a good thing for some consultations to be made. I do not know whether this is the reason, but he has a reason for wanting us to adjourn briefly and then come back to dispense with this matter.

I am supporting that we adjourn briefly.

Minority Leader: Mr Chairman Sir, we all support that there should be an adjournment, but most of us support the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*) that the adjournment should not be... (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Have I the consent of the House that the Question be now put.

Several hon. Members: Yes!

Question, That the sitting of the Committee of the Whole House be now suspended for about thirty minutes put, and agreed to.

Sitting accordingly suspended: 11.16 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 12.45 p.m.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to report to this honourable House that it is the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole House that individual reports should be withdrawn and one comprehensive report be prepared and laid before this honourable House by the hon. Speaker.

I beg to report.

Mr Speaker: The House will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole House.

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): I will like to move a Motion that the House do now accept the report the hon. Deputy Speaker, that individual reports by members of the delegation to the United States, be now withdrawn and replaced by one to be made by the hon. Speaker for the whole delegation and submitted to Members later.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South East): Thank you Mr Speaker. In view of the fact that the Members of this House who went on delegation to America went as a team and they returned also as a team, to make the report they will give us meaningful, comprehensive and cohesive; I second the Motion that the individual reports be withdrawn in order that they will be substituted with a combined, comprehensive report of all the members of the delegation.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the report submitted by the individual members of the delegation to the

United States of America be withdrawn and in their place, a comprehensive report compiled by the hon. Speaker be presented to this honourable House.

PRESENTATION OF BILL

1980 ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA APPROPRIATION BILL

A Bill for a Law to make provision of the sum of Three Hundred and Eighty Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty Naira to the services of the Government of Anambra State of Nigeria for the year ending thirty-first day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty and for other related purposes, presented by Mr A. O. Ottah (Awgu West); and read the first time.

ADJOURNMENT

Happy Easter to All

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 8th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

In moving this Motion for adjournment, Mr Speaker, I wish through your office, each and every one of the hon. Members a happy and prosperous Easter as well as the whole citizens of Anambra and our sister State, Imo. I want them to enjoy the Easter very, very well.

With this I beg to move.

What the Business Committee has in Stock

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment. In doing so Sir, I will like to use this opportunity to give hon. Members a purview of what the Business Committee is planning.

With regard to the Bill which has just been presented to us, it is the intention of the Business Committee that as soon as we return on the 8th of April, we will take up the Standing Orders. That will be on the 8th and 9th of April. Thereafter, we will put up a schedule which will show how the various Standing Committees will take up the various estimates as they relate to various ministries. Because we intend that the budget will be immediately committed to the various Standing Committees.

[MR NGENE]

In other words, the House will be in a sort of adjournment. But instead of adjournment into committees, it is intended that these committees will hold meetings during the normal sitting hours of the House. We also intend that we will time you.

We will give you the number of days in which you have to deal with the estimates of your own ministries. After a number of days, you will turn in your reports to the Finance Committee. Then the Finance Committee will deal with the whole estimates of the various ministries. We will also give them a number of days. Then, thereafter, the Finance Committee will report to the whole House and then the House will go into the Second Reading, the Second Reading now, not a Committee of Supply.

Then we intend that we will allocate not less than ten days for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. After the ten days, the House will go into the Committee of Supply and deal very seriously with the estimates.

So this is only an opportunity in which we are trying to give you a bird's eye view of what we intend to do. Probably by Tuesday you will see the whole thing appear in the Calendar.

**Check these Traffic Congestions,
Please**

Mr O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment. I have an observation to make.

The observation is that during the morning hours of every day, any body passing through Bishop Anyogu Street that is, crossing the Kenyatta market, will find out that the traffic congestion at that junction is too much because the traffic police are not posted there in time. And by the time they come there, people continue to fight which way to take. Also, the one-way imposed at the junction of Zik Avenue and Edinburgh Road up to nine o'clock in the morning, is uncalled for, because the traffic running from Edinburgh Road down to Zik Avenue is so heavy that if one will go to buy, say, fuel in the morning or to go and drop a letter in the Post Office, one will find it very difficult to pass through that way. So, I am appealing to the hon. Speaker to bring to the notice of the police authority that that imposition of one-way in the morning, along Edinburgh Road to Zik Avenue, and the non-posting of traffic police at the junction of Bishop Anyogu Street and Kenyatta, tell much on the public. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Now I move that the Question be put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 8th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.00 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 8th April, 1980
The House met at 12.25 p.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise on behalf of the Majority Leader who is unavoidably absent in this Chamber now, to move that this House do now adjourn till ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker: Any special reason for calling for such an adjournment?

Several hon. Members: Yes. No light. No power.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second this Motion for adjournment.

Minority Leader (Ogibuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the utter darkness in which we are, and in view of the fact that nobody can even see the document in front of him or even the one he is carrying, not to talk of reading them, and in view of the fact that we are even running the risk of losing our sight in this darkness, I very much support this Motion for adjournment and beg to move 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 this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Wednesday, 9th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 9th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Members of the Nigerian People's Party caucus will meet after the session today, at the Majority Leader's office, please.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I filed a Motion of public interest sometime ago and I agreed with the Chairman of Business Committee that this Motion will come out on the 3rd of March, 1980. Today is 14th of March...

Some hon. Members: 9th of April.

Mr Nwofor: Today is 9th of April, sorry. I would like to crave your indulgence Mr Speaker, and the general assent of this House to debate the Motion which is of public interest.

Mr Speaker: Which Motion is that? Has it been circulated in the Notices?

Mr Nwofor: Yes. It is about the Premier Breweries Onitsha. It has been circulated and I have agreed with the Chairman of the Business Committee to debate it today.

Question, That the Motion on Premier Breweries Onitsha be debated today, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: I can see hon. Members want that Motion debated. I am just wondering if it will not be to the best interest of the House to take that Motion later on, maybe today or at least tomorrow. Let us see if we can handle the issue that we have on the Floor immediately.

Mr Nwofor: But the House had agreed to take it up today.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. Now that the general assent of the House has been got for the Motion to be debated...

Some hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: I think it will be proper if we agree now to take it up tomorrow instead of just now.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Some hon. Members tend to forget that the issue of the Standing Orders has been bothering so many people for sometime now and in view of the relevance of this new Standing Orders on the budget to be debated, probably next week, I wish that, today and tomorrow be kept aside for debating the Standing Orders. Probably on Friday we take the Motion which is said to be of public interest. I cannot even remember what the Motion is all about. Members should be given copies of the Motion, you can't debate what you don't know. You have to have a copy of the Motion and study it to be able to debate it. So I am suggesting Friday.

Mr Speaker: I feel the important thing is that Members will like the Motion debated at some other time and not today. I think that is the general opinion. Anybody contradicting this let him say no. Okay, for purposes of clarity, the Motion which the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) was referring to is this:—

That this House directs the House Committee on Industry and Technology to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries, Onitsha and report within four weeks.

That is for those who do not know what the Motion was talking about.

Question, That this Motion be debated upon a future date, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: When?

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): As a Member of the Business Committee, I am very sure that that Motion has been fixed somewhere within this month; 24th to be precise.

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I think the Motion speaks for itself. It is urging a committee to investigate the alleged mismanagement which is of public interest and we cannot be talking anything here without putting the interest of the public first in our minds. Therefore, I urge the House that we

[CHIEF WHIP]

debate that Motion on Friday. Since the Standing Orders is coming up today and tomorrow I would please crave the indulgence of hon. Members that we discuss this Motion on Friday and let us resolve here that on Friday it must be discussed.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I think what we are now actually trying to fix is the date. That is the salient question because we have already agreed that the Motion be taken up. For purposes of courtesy or respect for the man who brought the Motion, I am asking Mr Speaker, whether we can still give him an opportunity to choose a date, because, after all, he is introducing the Motion. He also has to deliberate and elaborate on it for us to see what he has in mind before bringing the Motion. So, I am craving the indulgence of Mr Speaker to allow the man on whose name the Motion is standing to choose a date, because we have already agreed that we are no more debating it today.

The House already has a Calendar covering tomorrow and probably because of the N.E.P.A. failure, the day after tomorrow, to get the Standing Orders through. I think the resolution and the decision of this House, automatically overrides the decision of the Business Committee. So, whatever the Business Committee has decided is entirely out of the way. I am therefore asking Mr Speaker to allow the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) . . .

Mr Speaker: That's all right. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) should suggest a date to the House.

Mr Nwofor: Friday this week.

Question, That the Motion on Premier Breweries, Onitsha be taken on Friday this week, put and agreed to.

Mr F. N Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, a few days ago, that was on the 31st March, we had the Draft Estimates for this year tabled before this House. Some days later we found some pieces of papers—loose sheets relating to the Draft Estimates in our pigeon-holes. I do not know whether hon. Members have got this document because

very soon we shall be debating the estimates and I want to make sure that things are in order.

Mr Speaker: Well, I think I got a copy, yesterday.

Mr Okoye: Thank you Mr Speaker, the question is, are these loose sheets also part of the Draft Estimates or are they Supplementary or are they estimates within an estimates. These ragged tagged papers being circulated involves ₦10.6 million and we want to know whether they are all to be read together—or is it a duplication. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: I wish to thank the hon. Member for Anambra Central (*Mr Okoye*) for the observation. I have just been informed by the Majority Leader that the bound sheets which hon. Members got from their pigeon holes should be regarded as part of the estimates. Apparently, there were some arithmetical errors which were corrected and pushed in.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, we welcome that explanation but the point remains that they should say which ones should be cancelled because there are duplications. They should, for avoidance of doubts, say which ones should be cancelled and which ones should be accepted because we are going to deal on money matters, so that for the ₦10.6m we know which one to accept.

So, I think it would be better for the hon. Majority Leader to liaise with the Executive and get a paper in writing clarifying this situation. This is because in the previous Appropriation of ₦59.9m, we had error of ₦2.6m. We regarded these as arithmetical errors. If these are typographical errors that have brought in this amendment of ₦10.6m, we want to make it perfectly clear that this House wants to satisfy itself before we go into figures.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Speaker Sir, while it is likely that there were some printer's errors or arithmetical errors necessitating the issue of the amendment, I would agree with the hon. Member for Anambra Central (*Mr Okoye*) that the Executive ought to have forwarded these amendments or substitutes under a covering letter specifying exactly what was meant.

I wish to take this opportunity to mention that I am not satisfied with some of the actions of some members of the Executive. They seem to be taking things so lightly, feeling that papers coming here will just go into our hands anyhow.

I think this observation should be brought to their notice and a letter should be forwarded, addressed to the Clerk of the House specifying exactly what they meant by forwarding those substitute sheets. I do understand what they are but for avoidance of doubt, we should be told: "in place of this please substitute this", so that we can go into the bound estimates, remove the pages concerned, and put in the substitutes to be on the safe side.

Several hon. Members: Throw it back to them.

Mr Speaker: We will soon belabour this issue.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Thank you Mr Speaker. As I was telling you this morning with regard to the loose sheets brought in, I requested the hon. Member for Anambra Central (Mr Okoye) to avoid bringing this argument onto the Floor of the House this morning.

Several hon. Members: Why? Why?

Majority Leader: Wait, there is a reason for that.

Several hon. Members: Tell us!

Majority Leader: Please wait. There is a reason. The reason is that today is not for the estimates. Time is coming for that . . .

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Thank you Mr Speaker. I intend to call the last hon. Member who spoke to order with your permission, on grounds of irrelevancy. I do not think we are allowed to indulge in dialogue here. This type of dialogue is irrelevant to the matter on the Floor. He is trying to bring extraneous matters as to what he discussed with you or with any other hon. Member. This is not what we are asking for. We thought he was going to speak on the actual matter on the Floor—why we should or shouldn't do

what we are doing. We say that those loose sheets are not brought in a proper way before us. That is what we are . . .

Mr Speaker: Okay, Okay, it is all right.

The honourable Majority Leader should please tell the House what he has about the issue on the Floor.

Majority Leader: Thank you Mr Speaker. It is very unfortunate. I was saying that today is not meant for the Appropriation Bill or the estimate and I promise that before Monday you will be well inform with regards to the issue. Thank you.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, these loose sheets are not proper before us here. They should be sent back to their owner, to be sent to the House in the proper manner. We shall not be taken for a ride. This involves figures of ₦10; it is not a mistake. It cannot be a typographical error. It is something more than that. They think we are rubber stamp. We are prepared to go into this Appropriation Bill in detail. So I suggest that we send back the papers to their owners to come back to the House in a proper manner.

Mr Speaker: Why don't we close this matter. The hon. Majority Leader has already given an undertaking that by Monday everything would be put right. I suppose that should be okay.

Several hon. Members: *O zugo! O zugozi!*

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I want to inform this honourable House that an information has just come to my table to the end that the Clerk of this House should arrange to join others for the inspection of certain houses at Trans-Ekulu for the accommodation of hon. Members.

Several hon. Members: *Hei? Chei!*, Traitor!

Rev. Nwafor: And the document equally stated that either the Head of Service or those to be arranged to do so are intending to pay a certain amount in respect of the said accommodation.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, as the Chairman of the House Committee responsible for the welfare of hon. Members, I want to remind this House

[REV. PRINCE NWAFOR]
of its earlier decision that hon. Members shall not go to Trans-Ekulu. (*Applause*). And I want to assure the Speaker that he was not making any mistake in stating under this letter that he is not aware that the decision of the House has been changed.

Mr Nwofor: Able Speaker! (*Ekunie 1*)!

Rev. Prince Nwafor: And so Mr Speaker, you wanted me to advise you whether your belief is correct. You are not wrong at all. No decision of the House has changed the former decision that the hon. Members will not go to Trans-Ekulu and I want to say for the benefit of the whole State and those concerned with this alleged arrangement for the said accommodation, that this honourable House had decided and still maintains that hon. Members will not go to Trans-Ekulu and that hon. Members are not in any way prepared in inconvenience or to deprive other people of any accommodation made for them. And to this end, may I suggest to those who are concerned that it will not be wise to spend any money of the State for any other arrangement other than starting something new for the accommodation of the hon. Members.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I think the hon. Chairman of the House Committee has given his information and I see that several hon. Members want to deliberate on that; just a few comments.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Chairman who has given us the information the source of this information, because it appears to be an act, being done by an unknown hand. As far as my knowledge can carry me, there is no time the decision of this House, that hon. Members will not pack over to the isolation camp called Trans-Ekulu was reverted. So may we know if it would please the Chairman of the House Committee from what source the information was got.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Chairman was informing the House about a letter emanating from the office of the Head of Service. He did say so.

Mr Ojukwu: I think we should make time to debate on it because it appears to me that some people are misappropriating the estimate. It looks like some people have taken it upon themselves to waste and lavish money on a place that was not meant for us. If we investigate this and it is found correct, we must have to see that those people are properly surcharged.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, my contribution would be from the legal aspect of it, that unless you are a party to a contract, there is no obligation whatsoever. So, since this honourable House on the last day it met resolved, after a meeting between the hon. Speaker and His Excellency, that on no account should hon. Members go to Ekulu, it is obvious that we are not a party to a contract and therefore we have no obligations to discharge whatsoever. Thank you.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am in support of what the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) has said. If anybody is actually dreaming for our destruction let that person go and build a gas chamber and not to direct us to Trans-Ekulu where he would say oh! sorry! The only thing that remains is when an hon. Member is slaughtered or shot at the bridge there, they will speak long grammar whose tail will start at the River Niger or even at the Atlantic Ocean. We do not want to go there and we have said it.

Anybody engaging in or having any contract with any person whatsoever, we are not involved. We are not connected and we are not a party to the contract and since we are not a party to the contract no reminiscence of that, nothing resultant from the contract would be attributed to us and we cannot entertain that. Also Sir, if they had actually wanted anything by way of some compensation or concession from the people they call their contractors to furnish their houses for them. Let them go and withdraw them or any emergency funds for that because as long as we are here, if we find out that something which we have not authorized but which we are supposed to authorize is being done probably with public fund the person or persons involved in that will come before the House here to explain to the

people. They will come here to be carpeted. They have to come here and explain and if possible we indict them. I cannot see how under the cloak of officialdom our money is being siphoned here and there and it is said that it is being done for the hon. Members. We have already said over five months ago that Trans-Ekulu is not suitable for us for reasons we had given. They took it upon themselves to sing halleluyah to the masses thinking that they would blackmail us. They cannot, because you can only fool people for a short time but after a long time everything will be spelt out and the truth will start to germinate. Now every reasonable person has known really that going there means collecting hon. Members who contested elections. Because of the election, we had enemies whether they like it to go and confine them somewhere for destruction is absurd. It is my humble submission Mr Speaker that Trans-Ekulu is not for hon. Members of the Anambra State House of Assembly.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. There is no doubt whatsoever that on the Floor of this honourable House, a recommendation was made by the House Committee to the fact that Trans-Ekulu was not the proper place for hon. Members of this House. There is no doubt also that both the media and the public of Anambra State frowned at that recommendation which we all approved.

I want to suggest that we handle the issue of temporary accommodation for hon. Members at Trans-Ekulu with caution in view of public opinion. It is this very House which approved that recommendation, and it was not the only thing that was recommended. Some other things were there which were approved. I wonder how many of those approvals have been put into practice. I am, therefore, appealing for caution in the handling of this Trans-Ekulu issue. It is common knowledge that it is a temporary arrangement for hon. Members.

Several hon. Members: Shame! Traitor!

Mr Eze: Excuse me! Please, protect me, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, please the hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*) has the Floor.

Mr Eze: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am appealing to hon. Members to handle this issue with caution, in view of public opinion.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I think we agreed to have just a few comments on this issue.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am not going back to the suggestion by the hon. last speaker that this matter be handled with care because we have done a lot. What I am trying to suggest, Sir, is that this honourable House should set up a high-powered Commission of Inquiry into the spending in that area rejected by this honourable House, because a lot has been said about the hon. Members by members of the public. When they were enlightened, they realized and sympathized with our situation, and once that matter has been decided on the Floor of this honourable House, and knowing fully well that we are the lawmakers of the land, I do not see why any other person should go on spending the taxpayers money unauthorized, in furnishing that place. That is why I am suggesting that this House should set up a Judicial Inquiry into the spending and the furnishing of that rejected area. I am, therefore, saying, Mr Speaker Sir, that we need not sympathize with anybody over the issue.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would also like to suggest that this matter be closed, and not be debated at all. Thank you very much.

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, I do not have much to contribute to this debate, but, I must say with all honesty that there is a fundamental issue involved in this matter, and I am supporting wholeheartedly, the call made by the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke.*)

If a Motion is passed in this House asking that something concerning the expenditure of public funds should not be done and somebody ignores the Motion and goes on spending the public funds on the matter, it is a matter that this House should enquire into the whys and wherefores for such expenditure. There is information and I do not think the information is wrong that a lot of public funds have been spent on the Trans-Ekulu Layout after we

[MINORITY LEADER]
have resolved that the layout should be allowed to be used by the people for whom the layout is built, that is, for commercial business that should be given to the public to buy up. But instead of doing that, public funds have been spent on it. Therefore, if we are to discharge the duties expected of us, a Motion must come to the Floor of this House for a Commission of Inquiry. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr D. C. Anyabuiké (Awgu East): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, for allowing me to contribute my ideas to this Trans-Ekulu issue.

It is obvious that we have agreed or resolved that Trans-Ekulu is not suitable for us because the buildings are not safe, and that the place is not made for hon. Members. The buildings there are not constructed for the hon. Members, rather they were constructed by the Anambra State Housing Authority for sale to members of the public. We also agreed that a new site should be sought to put up buildings for the hon. Members. But hon. Members should realize that we come here to represent our various constituencies; therefore, for the interest of this State, I think hon. Member will agree that Anambra State was left by the former military regime with an empty Treasury. We have been trying in one way or the other in this honourable House to rehabilitate this State. So, I am advising that trying to reject a letter asking us to come and inspect that Trans-Ekulu is not all that very nice.

Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr Anyabuiké: Again, it is obvious that at the time this honourable House resolved that the sum of six thousand be given to each hon. Member to hire a flat of his own...

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order Mr Speaker Sir. It is Order No. 26(2) and if you like Sir, I will read it out:

A Member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto.

Secondly, I am also calling the hon. Member for Awgu East (*Mr Anyabuiké*) to order in that he is going back to the decision which this honourable House had previously taken. He is not authorized to go back to the decision

we have taken unless on a substantive Motion on notice. That, he has not done Sir. And he is not authorized under Order 35 to speak.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order upheld. So the hon. Member for Awgu East (*Mr Anyabuiké*) should please make his point.

Mr Anyabuiké: Thank you Mr Speaker. What I am trying to say is that this particular letter asking the hon. Members to go and inspect a particular site at Trans-Ekulu...

Mr Speaker: Order! That is not the information which the Chairman of House Committee gave us.

Mr Anyabuiké: Mr Speaker, please can you tell me the details of the information. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr Speaker: I think hon. Members should listen when others are speaking so as to get the subject matter and not lead the House astray. Nor will it be the responsibility of Mr Speaker to always re-say what an hon. Member has said to the hearing of the House. I am afraid I cannot help the hon. Member for Awgu East (*Mr Anyabuiké*) in this regard. He may please round off.

Mr Anyabuiké: Thank you Mr Speaker. My request is that I am craving the indulgence of this honourable House that we should go and inspect the site proposed for us at the Trans-Ekulu. The Anambra State Government has no money to construct a new...

(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I think the hon. Member for Awgu East (*Mr Anyabuiké*) has made his point.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am a little bit antagonized by what is happening this morning. I have no particular axe to grind on either side but my area of agony is that this has been introduced into this House in a rather unorthodox way.

I think Sir, that this thing is no where in our Calendar and I do not know what the hon. Chairman of the House Committee intended to achieve by introducing it this morning. We know it has been a vexed problem and if he had wanted to...

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. It is Order No. 26 (2) on irrelevancy.

The matter has been introduced to this honourable House, allowed by the Speaker, and accepted by the whole House. It is improper and irrelevant at this point in time for an hon. Member to stand up to question the authority of the Chairman of House Committee and indirectly questioning the authority of the hon. Speaker for allowing that issue to be discussed.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. That point of Order is upheld. Earlier on, an hon. Member sought to inform the House of an issue which is very important to hon. Members of this House and he was allowed. If the hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) has any contributions to make on the matter, definitely he has the Floor.

Mr Ngene: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I do not know, but if that is your decision, I would then say that I cut it off there. Thank you.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I first of all want to associate myself in all entirety with the postulations and submissions of my hon. Chairman of the House Committee.

In doing so, I recognize the responsibility and duties entrusted to me as the Member for Udi North constituency in the Anambra State House of Assembly.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is really very unfortunate that an issue that has taken the time of this honourable House, debated, gone into committee job, and came back to the House, should at this point in time be taking very precious time of this House; I mean being seriously debated again.

Well, democracy demands that when we think an issue was not well handled, we may go back to it, or maybe, there are other things that necessitated that. In any case, what we are saying, and I think if this honourable House wants to recognize itself as I think we want, on what duties and on what place we stand in the entire community and this State, we should take decisions and stand by those decisions. If there is any need for us to re-examine those decision, we will do it in a very democratic

way. In fact, I do not think that at the present time, the issue is re-examining the decision which we have earlier taken.

Therefore Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that it vexed me seriously to remember that in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which we passed here sometime last year, there was a provision, apart from the provision of ₦1 million, for the construction of houses for hon. Members.

It is also very painful that in the estimates just submitted to this House, I saw ₦2 million for this purpose (even though we have not debated it and handled it) and we are still talking of "a temporary", "a temporary"! I do not know Mr Speaker, how temporary is temporary in this State. What I am saying is that if there is a provision; if we are satisfied that there is a provision in this House for construction of houses for hon. Members in the last Military Regime's Estimates, in the Supplementary Appropriation Estimates, and also in the new 1980 Estimates and we are being asked to move into that particular accommodation, I think the first duty of this honourable House will be to immediately get up and set up a high powered Parliamentary Investigation body to investigate into what is happening with money appropriated for this purpose.

(Prolonged applause).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nnatubeugo: We should not be sentimental about any issue. We should face it squarely, believing in our conscience that what is right should also appear to be right and will always remain right. If it is wrong, it has to be wrong and remains wrong. If we think that the decision we have taken is wrong, Mr Speaker, there are procedures provided by the Standing Orders and the constitution for reintroducing a thing. Then the House will come back and reintroduce it for discussion, but if we have completed it and finished with it, I think it is an absolute waste of the people's time and the people of our constituencies who sent us to deliberate on issues that affect them seriously, to continue deliberating and wasting time over housing.

I remember very well the decision of the House as far as housing is concerned. If we have rescinded it, I have not seen it. So, Mr

[MR NNATUBEUGO]

Speaker Sir, I could have already asked a full-fledged parliamentary investigation on what is happening with almost all the appropriation we have passed, but I am waiting because I have seen similar provisions in the Motions coming up, since I know very well that what is happening to Trans-Ekulu is not very far away from Housing Development Authority. A full-fledged parliamentary investigation will have to go into the Housing Development Authority, the Nigerian Construction and Furniture Company and all those other companies that were given you which they were appropriating. We have to make them understand that as the custodians of people who should look after what is happening to people's money, we should be satisfied that money we appropriate for them is used for what we have appropriated it.

So, Mr Speaker, at this point in time, I am asking that we do not waste time for what is really necessary is that for the moment, we are not handling it the way we should handle it. When the time comes for us to handle it, we will sit down and handle it.

With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to resume my seat. (*Prolonged Applause*).

Mr Speaker: Order! This is the end of this matter. If, however, any hon. Member feels very strongly about the issues raised, of course, he knows the right thing to do. He may bring up a substantive Motion for us to handle it. Definitely we cannot continue, we have to go to the business of the day.

DRAFT STANDING ORDERS OF THE ANAMBRA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE)—CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Order No. 1—Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Membership

The Chairman: Any amendment on Order No. 1?

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): I will suggest that it is only that every member must have taken an oath of Membership before he can really participate in the election of the Speaker.

Several hon. Members: No! (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! It is a Constitutional provision—Section 88 (1) says:

Every member of a House of Assembly shall, before taking his seat in that House, take and subscribe before the House the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Membership prescribed in the Sixth Schedule to this Constitution, but a member may before taking the oaths take part in the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Amendment put and negatived.

Order No. 1—Oath of Allegiance and oath of Membership—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 2—Languages:

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): I do not think that there is any other language spoken in this State. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! There are some other languages spoken in this State. Igala is spoken in this State. Order! Could hon. Members please use the microphone.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): I want to confirm that Igala is spoken in this State. In my own area, Igala is spoken, and in some parts of Nsukka too, Igala is spoken.

An hon. Member: The people of Ete and Effium . . .

The Chairman: So, if that is the basis for the amendment, I want hon. Members to consider it and know whether the views of the hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*) still stand.

An hon. Member: No. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Please note that Order No. 2 has no subsection. So, that indication does not arise.

Order No. 2—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 3—Seats of Members—*Ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 4—Re-assembly of the House—*Ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 5—Sitting of the House.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): I have an amendment. My amendment is that *Mondays* should be deleted in line one and then the sitting of the House should be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. My reason is that to be an hon. Member does not exclude one from visiting offices. If perhaps one has a business to transact in the offices but closes here on Fridays, by the time he gets to his own area, the offices must have also closed. But if *Mondays* is deleted, we shall have time to visit the offices.

Question, That the word proposed to be deleted be deleted, put and negatived. (Laughter).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Any more amendments?

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman my amendment is in line 5—that is immediately after the following words, *a substantive motion has been moved by the Majority Leader*, we should add, *or in his absence any other hon. Member recognized by the Speaker.*

The Chairman: Order! That is an insertion.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Any other amendments in Order No. 5?

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Order No. 5 (2). In 5 (2), I will suggest that Fridays be deleted entirely because it would confine us and in fact categorize us as civil servants if we have to attend sittings of this Assembly on every day of the week; even to go to our bankers to transact business, one has to put body and soul together. If we continue sitting here all the five days of the week, perhaps most of us have not their bankers here and we cannot go to the offices to transact

business for the members of our constituencies, we cannot transact such business without having a day off in the week. It is my humble appeal Sir, that we delete Fridays.

Minority Leader (*Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Chairman Sir, why we must always have our eyes on the constitutional Motions is that if we keep on deleting *Mondays* and *Fridays* and having the usual recesses, we may not be able to sit in this House for 181 days and that being the case, we would have committed an offence. They might have dissolved us. Therefore, what I am saying is this, this House is not such that any Member who has anything to do could not obtain permission to do it. So, Mr Chairman Sir, we should allow *Fridays* to stay.

Question, That the word proposed to be deleted be deleted, put and negatived.

The Chairman: Order No. 5 (8) of the Standing Orders.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Line 2. After the words *Majority Leader* we should insert, *or in his absence any other hon. Member recognized by the Speaker.*

The Chairman: Is that the opinion of the House?

Several hon. Members: What!

The Chairman: What the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) is saying is on Order No. 5 (8), line 2, to read: *On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays a motion may be made by the Majority Leader or in his absence any hon. Member recognized by the Speaker.* That is the amendment.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to. (Laughter).

The Chairman: Order No. 5 (9) of the Standing Orders.

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): Mr Chairman Sir, line 2. It is just a correction of spelling error. The word *pursuance* is not correctly spelt here.

The Chairman: Please correct the spelling of *pursuance* in line 2 of Order No. 5 (9). What you have is *prusuance*, it means *pursuance*.

[DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP]

Order No. 5—(Sitting of the House)— as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 6—(Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker). Order 6 (1).

Question proposed.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Mr Chairman Sir, I am just wondering whether we should not drop the words *until the next sitting of the House*. In other words, what I am trying to do is to make it possible for the Speaker to resume his seat on his return because the provision says *When Mr Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk-at-the-Table, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair in the House and shall be vested with all the powers of Mr Speaker until the next sitting of the House*.

The Chairman: Look at Order 6 (2) and see what we have there.

Deputy Chief Whip: I don't think it quite covers that.

(Interruptions).

The Chairman: I see what you mean.

Deputy Chief Whip: I am looking at the situation where the Speaker is absent.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): I am entirely in agreement with the hon. Deputy Chief Whip (Mr Emehelu) that we should delete the words *until the next sitting of the House* because if we delete these words it will then be possible for the Speaker to come in and assume his seat, otherwise, he will not, because it says that his deputy will be vested with all the powers until the next sitting. Unless you have in mind that if such a situation arises, when you come in, you will come and sit here with us. (Laughter).

The Chairman: I have no objection. (Laughter). We are not personalizing but I think you have a good point but I think what that clause wants to provide is that when the Speaker is not there, the Speaker's absence will be announced by the Clerk and then Deputy Speaker takes over until the Speaker comes back. I think that is the problem. So could we have the Motion the way the hon. Deputy Chief Whip (Mr Emehelu) wants it.

Deputy Chief Whip: I would want the words *until the next sitting of the House* dropped.

Mr R. A. Osita (Uzo-Uwani South): Mr Chairman Sir, *until the Speaker comes in*.

The Chairman: *until . . .*

Mr Osita: *until the Speaker comes in*.

The Chairman: I am trying to see if we could marry the two ideas. You are both saying the same thing but the language you use is what matters.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Mr Chairman, I think we should stop it at *Mr Speaker*, full stop, or then we say *until the Speaker returns*. But then it will be clumsy. So I second the Motion that it will stop at *Mr Speaker*.

Question, That the words proposed to be deleted in Order 6 (1), line 3 be deleted, put and agreed to.

Order No. 6—(MR SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKER)— as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 7—(DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE).

Order No. 7 (1)–(3)—ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 7 (4).

An hon. Member: On Order No. 7(4), I move that the words *or pertinent* be inserted after *question*, that is, before the word *and* and then in line 4, the words *or pertinent* before the word *voting* should be inserted.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be inserted put and agreed to.

Order 7—(DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE)— as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 8—(Quorum)—ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 9—Order of Business.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Order No. 9 (14)—(Business Motions moved by the Majority Leader) I am still insisting that in the absence of Majority Leader any other person will move Business Motions.

The Chairman: Any contribution to that? I think I will suggest for 9(41) if the House will accept, that the words, *Business Motions* would be enough and we can therefore delete *moved by either A or B*. This makes it possible for any other person to move Business Motions.

Amendment agreed to.

The Chairman: Any other amendment?

Order * No. 9—(Order of Business)—*as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 10—Message from the Governor.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, Messages from the Governor and important announcements. Many a time we make . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: That is already in Order No. 9 (5) of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 10—Messages from the Governor—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 11—Petitions.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman Sir, I move that Order No. 11 (8) be deleted. It makes it ineffective.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman Sir, I wouldn't like it to be deleted completely. It will be better if we recast it. I wouldn't like, for example, if a matter is pending in court or something like that, then a petition will be entertained yet in the House. That is the only aspect there.

Mr Ojukwu: If I may try to clarify the point I am trying to make there, you see, the House will not receive any petition on any matter for which there is a judicial remedy and for which no application has been made, that is, the case is not in court, but one will find out that one can seek redress in court; one has not done that. So, it is not subjudice at all. This is not a case in court, but a case that can be tried by court if one had applied.

The Chairman: On the other hand, I think we will soon constitute this place into a quarrel settling arena. If the public can use the court, that should be the best choice. I suppose that is the intent of this section. However, I don't know, the House will decide.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Mr Chairman Sir, there are certain issues which the court may not handle, for example, chieftiancy matter. If you take chieftiancy matter to court, the court may decline hearing it. Such matters could be referred to the House.

Amendment negatived.

Order No. 11—Petitions—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 12—Presentation of Papers—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 13—Questions to State Commissioners and Members—

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, I do not know if it is out of order to base a question on a newspaper report? Supposing a newspaper carries an allegation against this Assembly and quoted a Commissioner, can't we ask him to exonerate himself or own up the quotation?

It is out of order to base a question on a newspaper report.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): If we take Order 10 and 11 together, I think we will clearly see what these two provisions are trying to kill. I think if allegation is made in a newspaper, the proper way to fight it back is by another—either counter allegation in a newspaper or by denial in a newspaper. I think it would not be proper for us to call people to come and explain some publication in the newspaper which may be true or false. If you feel that you have been libelled, you have a judicial remedy. That is what I feel about it. I think we leave it as it stands.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): I think I agree entirely with the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*). If a serious report about the House is made in a newspaper, we can call the Editor to order. So I think we should scrap it completely. Thank you.

The Chairman: I think it is useful to point out that we are dealing with Order No. 13—Questions to State Commissioners and Members, so this question applies to hon. Members and Commissioners only.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Chairman Sir, I am strongly associating myself with the previous two hon. Gentlemen because in Order No. 13 (11) it says that: *A question may not ask whether statements in the Press or of private individuals or unofficial bodies are accurate.* I mean if the press or private individuals or unofficial bodies, put up an allegation and perhaps the Commissioner fails to refute it, if such question comes up, the members of the public will feel that such publication or allegation is correct. So I am suggesting that such matters should be questioned so that it could be deleted because it is not only allegations in press publications or unofficial bodies that accuse the government or the Commissioner; if they fail to refute it, we are entitled to ask.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): I rather see it in a different light. As the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) was saying, Orders 13 (10) and (11) should be taken together and I am saying that the second sentence in Order 13 (10) is only anticipating Order No. 13 (11). Order No. 13 (10) says:

A Member must make himself responsible for any facts stated in his question.

That is enough for that number in my view. The second sentence which is: *it is out of order to base a question . . .* is part of No. 13 (11) which has been taken care of there. That is why I suggest that that second sentence should be deleted because it has been taken care of by Order No. 13 (11).

Question, That the words proposed to be deleted be deleted, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Any other amendment?

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): I do not quite agree with Order No. 13 (II)—*a question may not ask . . .* I would rather say; *a question may not be asked.*

The Chairman: Please correct that error; *a question may not be asked whether statement in the press or of private individuals or unofficial bodies are accurate.*

Question, That Order No. 13 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders put, and agreed to.

The Chairman: Order 14 (1)—Notices of questions shall be given by Members in writing to the Clerk and shall not be read *viva voce* in the House.

Question proposed.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): I would like *and shall not be read* to be changed with *and may be read*. It will not be a long question. It gives some light, adds life to the question when you mention the question and repeat it. It does not make any difference when you say; I rise to ask the question standing in my name, question number this. The whole thing seems to be dull.

The Chairman: I suppose what you are saying comes much later which is about the notice:

Order No. 14 (2) *when called by Mr Speaker, a Member shall ask his question by rising and begging leave to ask question No . . . of (referring to the State Commissioner or Member to whom it is addressed in the manner provided in Standing Order 26, paragraph (14)).* We find out in Order No. 26 (14).

An hon. Member: Order 26 does not reflect this!

The Chairman: That will be 15 then—*Commissioners shall be referred to by the designation of the office held by them. Members may be referred to by name or by reference to their constituencies.* So, Order No. 26 (15) not (14). Please correct that.

The Chairman: I think the issue raised earlier on by the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) is a matter of parliamentary practice. I said, not repeating the question, notice of which had been given and which question has appeared on the Calendar is merely parliamentary practice all over the world. In some places, the hon. Member just rises and mentions say, question No. 7, and sits down. Then the Commissioner will start answering the question, because it appeared on the Calendar. However, I would like to know if the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*), is making any further amendment?

Mr Ojukwu: Order No. 14(2)—When called by Mr Speaker, a Member shall ask his question by rising and begging leave to ask question No... I would like to add *and reading out the question* to it.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Chairman: Any more amendments on Order No. 14 ?

Order No. 14, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 15 — Adjournment on definite matter of urgent public importance.

The Chairman: Any amendment on Order No. 15 ?

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu-Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Order No. 15 (2). I am asking for the deletion of *before the commencement* in the following:

The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to Mr Speaker before the commencement of the day's sitting and Mr Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

I am asking that *before the commencement* be deleted. In fact I want the whole thing to be recasted.

The Chairman: That will be putting the cart before the horse.

Mr Ogbu Nwobodo: I withdraw. (*Laughter*).

Question, That Order No. 15 stands part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

Order No. 16—Personal privilege and explanation.

The Chairman: I wonder what hon. Members will feel about line 2 of Order No. 16. If we said a Member may introduce special guests to the House instead of just saying *his—*

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Being hon. Members we are supposed to use our discretion. So, let an hon. Member bring any guest whom he feels is worthy of being introduced to this House. Because, if we say *special* we don't know, it is the

hon. Member who will know a guest that is special. Therefore it should be left to our respective discretions. So, I think we leave it as it stands.

Mr Speaker: Like the hon. Member's girl friend which he spoke of.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: No, if he, in all sense of responsibility, feels that she is a girl friend of such an important guest to him, she should be brought into the House by leave. So, I think the situation is properly taken care of.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): My observation is, if the Speaker considers it necessary to authorize the introduction of a guest, it should not be left again to the indulgence of the House. The indulgence of the House ought to be taken for granted because it is embarrassing after the Speaker had allowed an hon. Member to introduce his guest, and the guest is brought in here and does not receive the indulgence of the House. I would rather say that once the leave of the Speaker is obtained, we ought to take the indulgence of the House for granted to avoid embarrassment.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: I think the provision is quite in order. It does not say by the assent of the House; it is indulgence, and once the Speaker, in all sense of responsibility in exercise of the powers both constitutionally and discretionally conferred on him, feels that a guest should be introduced into the House; I think you indulge. So, I think it is in order.

Mr Ekwealor: In that instance, Mr Chairman Sir, I will ask that the order be reverted by *the leave of the Speaker* and the *indulgence of the House* rather than the other way round. It makes a difference.

Mr Chairman: There is a slight amendment by the hon. Member for Anambra North (*Mr Ekwealor*). *By the indulgence of the House* and the *leave of Mr Speaker*. Which one comes first ?

The amendment is that line 1 should read—*by the leave of Mr Speaker* and the *indulgence of the House*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Order No. 16—(PERSONAL PRIVILEGE AND EXPLANATION)—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

[MR UMUNNA]

Order No. 17—(BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Order No. 18—(ORDER OF THE DAY)

The Chairman: Any amendments?

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): It is on the part that reads: *to convey and earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.* What does that mean?

The Chairman: An order of the day is a Bill or other matter which the House has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day. An earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.

When the House has decided that a particular issue should be discussed on Monday next week, you cannot substitute Tuesday or say tomorrow, Thursday or Friday for that decided by the House. That is the meaning.

Order No. 18—(ORDER OF THE DAY)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Order No. 19—(MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Order No. 20—(MANNER OF GIVING NOTICES)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Orders 21-22—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Orders Nos. 23 to 25, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

The Chairman: Order No. 26. Rules of debate.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Chairman, experience has taught us that if we let this stand like this, we shall be having a lot of time wasted by hon. Members reading their speeches.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman, I want the Order to read thus:

A Member may not read his speech but may read short extracts from books or paper in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference notes. That means, we replace shall with may not and then continue with may read.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Please Mr Chairman, there is sufficient reason for inserting this very line in the Standing Orders.

If one has a Motion, I think he is authorized to read his Motion very well because since we have been here, so many of us do not very much argue or present Motions. It is not so easy for one to explain himself. So, this is only in particular to the Mover of a Motion. It does not apply to everybody contributing to the Motion.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): Mr Chairman, the text of the Order is, *a Member may not read his speech.* The word there is *not* Motion. If we allow this, people will come here to read prepared speeches.

In fact, after writing your own speech, you re-read it and it sinks in you, then you will be able to be the real author of that speech. For us to come here to read speeches will be turning this House to a lecture room. And in parliaments all over the world, speeches are not read. So, let us go back to what it was before for we do not want lecture room.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Thank you Mr Chairman. I think we are here to debate and not to deliver speeches. So, since it is debating, there is no need of reading speeches.

The Chairman: Can I then put the Question?

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Mr Chairman, if we want to make it more legal, then we strike out *may* and use the words, *shall not*.

The Chairman: Let us take the first amendment, then the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) may still move for further amendment.

Question, That on line 1 of Order No. 26 (1) between the words "may" and "read" be inserted the word "not" and between the word "speech" and "may" be inserted the word "but", put and agreed to.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Mr Chairman, may I move that in line 1, the first *may* be deleted and in its place be substituted with *shall*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Order No. 26, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 27—Raising point of Order.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman, in line 4, immediately after the first order, I will like the words *and citing the order* to follow.

If we leave it so vague and open, there will be too many "points of orders". Past experience has taught us this.

Amendment put and negatived.

Order No. 27—ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 28—(Behaviour of Members not speaking).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman, I want Order No. 28 (1) to read as follows:

During a sitting, all Members shall be properly dressed, enter and leave the House with decorum.

The proper dress is English or French suit, or native attire. I mean we cannot be coming to this honourable House with flying shirts like students, and then putting on straw hats on native dress or putting red caps on French suits.

The Chairman: The hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) has raised what I consider a relevant issue, because I know what comments have gone across my ears and I am sure hon. Members also know about dressing.

So this is perhaps an opportunity for us to give it a full debate and know whether it is necessary to pressurize hon. Members to look at themselves properly before they enter the Chambers.

Majority Leader: I am entirely in support of the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) who has been a good man and who has been contributing beautifully. It is good for one to know that it is not so easy for one to become an hon. Member, and it is from the way you dress yourself up that people will term you to be an hon. Member.

I quite remember an hon. Member making reference with regards to the V.I.P. Lounge

at the airport. In fact if one does not dress very well, the page boy will ask you to go out, but if we start learning from dressing very well before entering this House, it will take us a long way.

So I am purely in support, and I wish we make it part of this Standing Orders.

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): I think, Mr Chairman, the amendment is quite unnecessary. If an hon. Member sees that a fellow hon. Member is not well dressed, let him call him on a point of order and the Speaker will decide.

Several hon. Members: Order what?

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): I quite see with what the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) and the Majority Leader said about dressing. So, Mr Chairman, what I am saying is, while I agree that it should be embodied in the Standing Orders, we have to take cognizance of the fact that red cap chiefs will always put their red caps under any dress.

Several hon. Members: Are you a red cap chief?

Akunne Sam Okeke: Yes, I am. Whatever type of dress I put on, I will never put on another cap except red cap, and so I say that should be recognized traditionally.

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am in full support of the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*). If we are to be educated on how we shall dress ourselves, I think we shall revert to answering the roll call. We rejected the roll call because we are not students, and since we are not students, it is not the responsibility of this honourable House to tell us how we shall be dressed. If any hon. Member does not feel that he must have to dress himself up neat and tidy, I think this is not a place for us to teach ourselves that we shall regard ourselves as hon. Members by the way we dress ourselves.

(Several members took the Floor).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Why should hon. Members stand when another hon. Member has the Floor?

Deputy Chief Whip: Mr Chairman, I think the word *decorum* takes care of everything. Let us not belabour the issue.

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Mr Chairman, I do not think we have any special uniform to enter into this House. So when we are called hon. Members, every one of us knows what is hon. Member, and we are not here as school children to be educated on how to dress. If any hon. Member sees his fellow hon. Member not dressed properly, he can call his attention. I do not think that it is necessary for us to stand up here and move a Motion or ask a Member who is not properly dressed to go out and dress properly. It does not show maturity.

So I do not see it necessary for us to put every bit of it in this Standing Orders.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Mr Chairman, I think it is necessary for us to know the type of dress we wear into this House. Somebody may think he is properly dressed, but people looking at him may know that he is not properly dressed. Therefore, if we are to appear very decent, it is proper for us to have a system. That is, if we are going to recommend two or three types of dresses, we do it right on the Floor of this House, like suit, national dress or French suits, and not wearing anything to the House.

The Chairman: Just before we go astray on this matter, I will like hon. Members to direct their thinking on whether hon. Members should come to the House formally dressed, or otherwise, and when we talk of being formally dressed, we mean either wearing English formal dress, which is lounge suit or wearing any of the Nigerian traditional dresses; may be you dress like the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*), that is like the Yoruba with that cap, or like the Hausa man or like the Igbo man; like the Rivers man or like the Bendel man, which the Majority Leader, here, wears quite often or what you call the French suit.

I think this is the issue that I will like hon. Members to consider. Instead of an hon. Member wearing shirts and trousers as if he is going to play golf or tennis and other things. That is really what I want us to decide.

Mr S. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Mr Chairman Sir, dress should be standard here. We have the right to correct ourselves when we are not properly dressed. We are not going outside to tell an hon. Member that he is not properly dressed, but know when we are properly dressed. You cannot come out with a simple shirt and trousers and slippers and say that you are properly dressed. All of us know when one is actually dressed in English or national dress. We shall raise a point of order on improper dressing. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: We will have two or three more speakers and we will wind up. (*Interruptions*).

Mr G. A. Enendu (Idemili North): Mr Chairman Sir, what we are doing is that we are trying to amend the Standing Orders, and I think we must stress that Members coming in here must be properly dressed. It is essential, therefore, that in amending the Standing Orders, we add after the word *enter* the words *the House formally dressed*.

I think it is important. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Idemili North (*Mr Enendu*) still has the Floor. Allow him finish.

Mr Enendu: Mr Chairman, I think we are prolonging this matter so much. The amendment is that we should include that Members should enter the House formally dressed.

The Chairman: It is all right. We have got you.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Just in support of the hon. Member for Idemili North (*Mr Enendu*). That was why I was referring to you Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: The hon. Member for Udi North (*Mr Nnatubeugo*) should go ahead please.

Mr Nnatubeugo: We are talking about formal dressing. All I am saying is that we should just do it this way. During a sitting, all Members shall be formally dressed and shall enter or leave the House with decorum. Formal dress are normally classified. Well if you are having a full invitation you will be told, dressing-formal, or it would be dinner or

things like that. If you are asked to dress formally it may be a complete suit, complete *agbada*, French suit and of course we are not talking of Members of the House who are traditional rulers because this is no House of Chiefs. (*Applause*).

Mr A. U. Ogbaga (Abakaliki North West): Mr Chairman Sir. . .

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): On a point of law.

The Chairman: Yes the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) on a point of Law but after the hon. Member for Abakaliki North West (*Mr Ogbaga*).

Mr Ogbaga: I hope this is the highest conference room in this State and so many people coming to this House both within and outside the State come here to copy us so that this question of dressing be spelt out otherwise we make nonsense out of it.

So what I am saying is that the Standing Orders should be very clear about dressing and whatever we want to cite in this Standing Orders should embrace the proper dressing for the State Assembly and not anything. If you want to appear in French suit, if you want to appear in traditional dresses, it must be very clear. This is all I want to say.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): The point of Law Sir, is the title. The title deals with behaviour of Members not speaking. So this question of dressing should come as another heading altogether otherwise if you are faced with interpretation and you still see behaviour as the title then in the body of the law you see dressing, it should come as another section or another Order—dressing. But I dare say that dressing is a matter of substance because if we want to project the image of this House it must reflect in the way we dress.

Mr N. Ekuma (Ezza East): Mr Chairman, in addition to dressing we are talking of, I think it is normal we think of shaving our hair so that wherever we are going we should know that this is the type of shaving hon. Members will be going with. (*Laughter*).

So that we may look more tidy. When we are dressed and our shaves look very wild, it means we are still wild. (*Laughter*).

So we should think of shaving our hair. It is different altogether. (*Laughter*).

The Chairman: Okay, thank you. Order! I think we have heard enough on this matter. Let us decide it.

Question proposed.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): On a point of Observation. My observation is to the little point raised by the hon. Member for Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) Look at the title. We have . . .

The Chairman: Could the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) let us finish with this first.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you Mr Chairman. Talking of decorum, what happens when the Mace is appearing, coming in and going out? The usual practice is that many hon. Members talk and chat and laugh and move at the same time as the Mace is moving out. Is that very decorous? Thank you Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: I will crave your indulgence. That is a bit out of what we are saying. Standing Order 28, any more amendments?

Mr A. E. Odoh (Nsukka East): I would like us to see Standing Order 28 (2)—Members shall not cross the floor of the House unnecessarily.

I would like this word *unnecessarily* to be specific somehow.

Several hon. Members: How?

Mr Odoh: This is because something may be necessary to me but unnecessary to another person. In this case, I would like to repeat . . .

The Chairman: Could the hon. Member for Nsukka East (*Mr Odoh*) make his amendment and we can take the point out.

Mr Odoh: My amendment is on this word *unnecessarily*. I would like 28 (2) to read: *Members shall not cross the Floor of the House nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member without permission.* That is *unnecessarily*. (*Interruptions*).

[MR ODOH]

I would like you to understand me properly because . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Go ahead, you have the Floor.

Mr Odoh: Because something . . . (*laughter*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Please allow the hon. Member who has the Floor to go ahead.

Mr Odoh: I am saying that this word *unnecessarily* is not specific. This is because something that is necessary to me . . .

An hon. Member: Foul!

Mr Odoh: This is because the way I cross the Floor may be unnecessary to somebody while it is necessary to me. In this case I am saying we add *without permission*, that is, it should now read, *crossing without permission*.

The Chairman: Okay. Okay.

Mr Odoh: And this *permission* could mean somebody bowing before crossing the Floor, could be a sort of permission, showing that the person is not crossing any how.

The Chairman: Okay.

Mr Odoh: Try to understand my argument, hon. Members.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Oh yes! (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr Odoh: Excuse me. I would like the words *without permission* to be added after *Member* and the word *unnecessarily* be deleted.

Amendment negatived. (Prolonged Laughter).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Let's leave it. Any more amendments?

(Several Members took the Floor).

An hon. Member: Are those non-Members standing recognized?

The Chairman: Order! Order! I would appeal to the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) to please amend the title if it is not suitable, so that we can take it up.

Meanwhile, the hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) should please make his contributions.

Mr M. I. Ezeugwu (Nsukka Central): I am saying that I would want it to read as follows:—

Members shall not cross the Floor of the House unnecessarily, nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member or in any vacant space other than the seat allotted to him.

Several hon. Members: Right!

Mr Ezeugwu: What prompted this is that if one looks at the seat behind me, on several occasions, hon. Members go there to sit. I do not know whether that is the correct thing to do, or whether we can move to any vacant seat to sit.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman Sir, my amendment is on the title of Order No. 28. I would like the title to read *Behaviour of Members*, full stop, and that we delete *not speaking* so that it reads *Behaviour of Members*.

The Chairman: In the House?

Mr Ojukwu: Yes, "Behaviour of Members in the House".

Amendment agreed to.

The Chairman: Yes, any more amendment on Order No. 28?

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): I think it should be more grammatical to say *Members shall not cross the Floor of the House unnecessarily*, or instead of *nor*, that is *or sit in a place allotted to any other Member*, otherwise we put *neither* there, but I think it should be *or*.

Amendment negatived. (Prolonged Laughter).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Any other amendment on Order No. 28?

Several hon. Members: No!

Order No. 28,—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

I would seek the indulgence of the House to suspend the sitting of the committee. The committee sitting is adjourned until tomorrow when the House reconvenes.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader: Mr Speaker Sir, I now stand to move that the House do now adjourn till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Co-operative Movement

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, in fact, I would like to bring a very important and urgent matter . . .

Mr Speaker: Are you seconding the Motion for adjournment ?

Mr Ikeh: I beg to second the Motion and in doing so, Sir, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to His Excellency, through this House, on an issue that is very very important.

It is an affair which concerns co-operative movement. In co-operative movement, we have two important apexes. The first apex i.e., Anambra Co-operative Wholesale Association (A.C.W.A.) and the other one is Anambra Co-operative Finance Association (A.C.F.A). Now the one that is about the wholesale, seems to be in a stalemate. The Commissioner and his Permanent Secretary, along with his entourage, toured the whole of the State and they heard complaints from several quarters.

Talking about the A.C.F.A. not pulling its weight and those who are co-operators, who actually contributed money to make this finance or economic venture a reality, are now suffering. As a result, the ministry wants to make a change, so that there will be progress in A.C.W.A. But the ministry could not do so because there is now a conflict between the ministry and the Co-operative Department of that ministry. The Permanent Secretary and the Registrar of Co-operatives seem to be at logger-head as regards the improvement of the A.C.W.A. position.

So, I am appealing in the interest of the co-operators or those who raised money, that His Excellency should intervene, in order that there will be good re-organization of A.C.W.A. It is an organization that operates with millions of naira, raised by co-operators and we also know that the Co-operative Bank of Eastern Nigeria is a bank established by co-operators.

(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ikeh: It will then follow that this arm of co-operative movement is very important. I wish this appeal be heeded to so that the thing

happening now in the Anambra Co-operative Wholesalers Association should be stopped, and there should be re-organization. The co-operators would then get benefits of the money that they had contributed for the running of A.C.W.A. With that I beg to second the Motion.

Some hon. Members: Put the Question !

Mr Ikeh: Oh ! I beg that the Question be now put. (*Laughter*).

Civil Servants should go on Posting

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg to support the Motion for adjournment. It is unfortunate many people are tired, but I want to point out to this honourable House that this State, it appears to me, has no policy for the control and discipline of civil servants, I mean public servants in general because I observed this during my tour of my constituency.

You see, you have many health centres and many secondary schools in my area without any staff. One health centre in Ifite Ogwari is lying without a midwife for a year now. This was established before the war and has been functioning, and midwives were posted to that place but they refused the posting and no action was taken. On the 20th of last month a pregnant woman died with a child in the womb. Both of them died because there was no midwife to take care of these people, and . . . (*Interruptions*). Excuse me please. Excuse me Gentlemen. So people say they cannot go to rural areas to work, but they don't remember that people all the way from America, Japan, England, came here to open this place. A worker cannot go from Nsukka to either Uzo-Uwani to work because Uzo-Uwani is in the bush. I don't know the idea behind that, and the natives have to measure to borrow these things. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Okafor: Mr Speaker Sir, please protect me. If this area of the State does not belong to, or they have no say in the Government of the State, we should be told so by the Executive or the Legislature. I am a Member of this House and we have about two other persons taking part in this government. We pay our taxes and with the money paid these

[MR OKAFOR]
amenities like secondary schools were established.

Okay, can you imagine that one secondary school that is doing Class III now has only one graduate tutor, that is the Principal. Others are posted and they refused to go and the Executive took no action about that. We are talking here that we want to improve the conditions of service of civil servants. That is the popular saying here and we all like it that way but what of the other measures we shall employ to get these people do the work the way they are supposed to do it. Human being is human being and life is life every where. The life of a man at Enugu has the same value with the life of the man at Ifite-Ogwari, Onitsha and so on and so forth.

I want us to know how to control this dichotomy in the service. So Mr Speaker Sir, I don't want to waste much of your time, but this is highly sentimental. I want us to take every step to make the Executive know that there must be a policy that will be effective to control the movement of civil servants. Those who refuse posting should either be punished in the way of either withholding their salaries or increments or they drop the job for others to do.

Thank you, Sir, Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till Thursday 10th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 10th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, all the Chairmen of Committees and their Deputies should remember to meet in the Speaker's office when the House rises today.

**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, YOUTH
AND CULTURE**

**Special Rehabilitation Programme for
Anambra State War Victims**

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): Mr Speaker, I rise to ask the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture if the establishment of special rehabilitation programme will not be seriously considered . . .

Mr Speaker: Order! The hon. Member for Ikwo South (*Mr Iburu*) should please ask the question as prescribed in the Standing Orders.

Mr Iburu: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to ask the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture if the establishment of special rehabilitation . . .

Several hon. Members: No! Point of Order.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I refer the hon. Member for Ikwo South (*Mr Iburu*), to his Standing Orders, Order No. 14.

Mr Iburu: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to ask question No. 7 standing in my name which reads thus . . .

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Speaker: Order! It will be necessary for hon. Members to fully acquaint themselves with the procedure in the House so that we don't have this type of embarrassment some other day. The hon. Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture is here and she may wish to answer.

Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture (*Mrs Uche Offia-Nwali*): Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members of the House of Assembly, before I answer the question can I please crave the indulgence of the Speaker to make a small observation. About two weeks ago I was surprised to hear on the radio that I, the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture, deliberately refused to appear before this House to answer the Oral Questions and I think it is very important that before I answer this question, I want that impression corrected and I urge the Speaker and the hon. Members of this House to make efforts not to show the members of the public that there is a problem between the Legislative arm of the Government and the Executive when there is none.

Mr Speaker: Order! The hon. Commissioner may say what she wants to say directly and not bearing on other matters.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to draw the attention of the Speaker and the Members of this House that I was originally invited to appear before this honourable House to answer this question before this Assembly went on recess. You decided to go on recess which meant that the date was changed without any reference to me and I did not complain. When you resumed and I was asked to come . . .

Mr Speaker: The hon. Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture (*Mrs Offia-Nwali*) will please watch her language.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: I thank you Mr Speaker. When I was informed that I was to appear here on the 25th to answer this question which you will be surprised to know I am very very anxious to answer, I sent a letter to this honourable House pleading with hon. Members to please take my question at one o'clock in the afternoon instead of at ten because I had a very urgent matter at ten o'clock in the morning. I think it is the kind of request a Commissioner can make to a House of Assembly and it should consider it. And I did not see how I could have deliberately refused to appear before this House but I think what I object to most is taking the thing to the Press and I think it is a very sad thing. That is what I want to draw the attention of this House

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to. I apologise that I was unable to be here but please Mr Speaker, I urge you to make sure that the situation does not repeat itself. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo Petrus Agballah*): Observation !

Mr Speaker: Order !

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Now to answer my question Mr Speaker . . .

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Yes hon. Minority Leader.

Minority Leader: Sir, it is unfortunate to observe this morning that Mister Commissioner who is addressing this honourable House is very impertinent and rude and that being the case, I am requesting the Speaker to ask Mister Commissioner to leave the House for the hon. Members to consider what steps to take in view of her impertinence. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: I do not think it has come to that stage but I would however like to inform the hon. Commissioner that it is not the practice that an hon. Commissioner should direct the business of the House. If the House wishes to get questions answered at Question Time and Question Time is fixed in the Standing Orders of the House, the House does not change the Standing Orders just because the hon. Commissioner has some appointment somewhere. This is the legislative body of the State and I think the hon. Commissioner is duty bound to answer when the State calls. The hon. Commissioner may please answer the question in her name.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Thank you Mr Speaker. The question in my name is if the establishment of special rehabilitation programme will not be seriously considered to take care of the war victims of Anambra State origin, in view of the fact that there was no victor, no vanquished after the civil war in Nigeria.

This question is partly answered and partly not answered. I will explain what I mean. The matter of rehabilitation of victims of the war has been a very serious social problem facing the State and the Government of the State, though my Ministry has been doing everything possible to solve this social problem.

Maybe some hon. Members and the Speaker know that the State Government has a rehabilitation centre in Oji-River but the rehabilitation of these war affected people is really a Federal Government problem.

But I may tell this honourable House that the Federal Government had zoned the country into six and set up six rehabilitation centres, one of which is sited in Anambra State in Emene. This rehabilitation centre is aimed at taking care of these people and other disabled members of the society who need special training and special rehabilitation. The one sited in Emene is supposed to serve six States and I should also say here that of the six centres, only the one in Anambra State has taken off. But having said that, we still have the problem of Oji-River. The Emene centre is a school where the disabled persons can receive special training and then be settled outside, you know, to work with ordinary people. The Federal Government put up the structures and the State Government is supposed to run it and staff it.

It was the intention of the State Government that when this project takes off, Oji-River inmates will be transferred to the Emene Rehabilitation Centre but the problem we have now is that most of the people, if not all the people in Oji-River who were injured during the war had received one kind of training or another at Uturu Rehabilitation Centre immediately after the civil war when they were trained in all kinds of crafts and after their training, most of them were rehabilitated. Some of them were given money to establish their own business and what we find is that it is not easy for them to stay outside and run this business. So when they run out of money they go back to Oji.

They all have beds in Oji-River and they always go back there. So when we were doing the screening to see who would go to Emene we found that for most of the people in Oji-River, we cannot do anything for them in Emene because they already have their training. We are certainly taking some of them to Emene to go and act as instructors but those who have been fully trained, and we have evidence that they have been rehabilitated a few times and they still went back to Oji-River, their problem cannot be solved by taking them back to the Emene school.

I therefore believe that this is a problem that only the Federal Government can solve. The Federal Government has to devise a means of doing a formal rehabilitation of these people and it is not just a matter of giving them money, they should have a centre where these people who have been trained can go and practise their trade under supervision. My Ministry took the opportunity of the visit of the Federal Minister for Social Development, Youths, Culture and Sports during the opening of the Emene Rehabilitation Centre to discuss this burning issue and the Minister went back, promising that he will have discussions with the appropriate authorities and maybe during the meeting of Commissioners responsible for social development of the whole country this matter will be discussed again. But I think that anything that this honourable House can do to help get the Federal Government to realize that the problem of these group of people is actually the problem that the Federal Government itself should tackle. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Mr Speaker Sir, in a follow up question; along the streets in our urban towns like Enugu and Abakaliki and other places, we still see the war victims begging along the streets. And in fact, I don't know whether the Federal Government will come from Lagos to see about those people. I think it is the Ministry that will take care of them. I wish to know what arrangement the hon. Commissioner is making for those people. Thank you.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Mr Speaker Sir, there is an arrangement under way to clear these group of people from our streets. In fact we would have started it but we need finance because to get these people, you cannot just collect them from the streets, you have to collect them, keep them somewhere, screen them. As you know, some of them are patients. What my Ministry has done in the last few months is to contact the different agencies whose co-operation we need before we can clear these people from the streets. We have so far contacted the Ministry of Health to seek their co-operation because when we carry out this exercise, all the leprosy patients that will clear from the streets will have to go to the leprosy hospital. We have also consulted the Psychiatric Hospital because all the people who are mentally retarded have to go somewhere.

We contacted the Judiciary to help us commit these people, some of them who may not be accommodated in the Psychiatric Hospital, to commit them to the Psychiatric Section of the Prisons from where the Social Welfare people can take them to the Psychiatric Hospital for treatment. We consulted all these people and we have made a suggestion to the Government to release a certain amount to the Ministry so that when we collect these people from the streets, we will be able to keep them for some time during which proper screening will be done and they will be transferred to the proper institutions because we have no facilities to keep them.

And for those people who are not really disabled but are regarded as destitutes only because they have no job, we have also tried to make sure that if it comes to that we can have them employed and if any one of them decides not to work, we will find out where the person comes from and if possible have the person repatriated. So we have done all these ground work and when our Estimates come out, you will find that there is a provision in the Estimates for a small amount of money to be allotted for this. So we are only waiting for this honourable House to approve our Estimates. *(Laughter)*. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Still a follow-up?

Yes, the hon. Member for Ikwo North (*Mr Igwe*) should please finish up.

Mr Igwe: Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to know how the Ministry gets information from the rural areas since some of the local government areas have no social welfare workers.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members, I will assure the hon. Member that there is no local government in Anambra State that does not have a division of the social welfare. Every local government has one. What has happened so far is that these welfare workers are attached to the local government in the area. There is move now by my Ministry to bring all of them back to the Ministry so that we can co-ordinate their activities, but every local government has a Social Welfare Division, and we do know, because apart from using the people we have in the field we also send officers from the headquarters to go to the area. And the members of the public come to us when they have problems, and I believe that some of the hon. Members here have come

[HON. COMMISSIONER]
to see me because they have problems of disabled persons in their areas and we usually take immediate action.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to ask the hon. Commissioner what is the numerical strength of the war victims of Anambra State origin in the centres at Oji and Emene and the degree of financial involvement by the State?

Mr Speaker : Yes, you could if the hon. Commissioner has the figures.

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Mr Speaker Sir, it is not difficult to get the figures. What is happening is that there is no war victim of Anambra State origin in Emene at present. Remember that Emene was only commissioned last week. We have interviewed them and intend to send some of them to Emene, but we have about 52 inmates at Oji-River out of which 34 are from Imo. The Imo State Commissioner for Social Welfare and Special Projects came to Anambra State and we visited Oji-River together and when the statistics was taken we found out that 34 out of the 52 inmates come from Imo, so she went away saying that the Imo State Government would like to take their own inmates and find a place for them at Uturu. But then again Emene belongs also to Imo. Imo is one of the States that should share Emene.

So it has not been decided now whether they are taking all of them to Imo or some of them are going to Emene. So we have only about eighteen inmates in Oji-River most of whom are not actually in Oji-River. They all have beds there. Some of them go out. In fact, these people you see in the streets, some of them are from Oji-River. They go out for weeks and months and they come back to their beds. I can assure you that that will stop once we get organized in Emene. As for the State Government financial involvement, the State Government is completely responsible for the Oji-River Rehabilitation Centre. We feed them. We go there every week. We have people who supply food and cook for them and we pay the staff. The institution is completely under the Ministry. The State Government is financing it.

As for Emene, the Federal Government put up the structure as I said. The question of financing the place and feeding the inmates

and paying the staff is the responsibility of the State Government. Because there are five other State Governments, it has not been decided how these finances are going to be sorted out. Right now it is the Anambra State Government, and so far about eighty thousand naira has been spent by the State Government at Emene, and in the Estimates we are asking for something like another one hundred thousand naira for the maintenance of the place for the next financial year. That is the extent of the State Government financial involvement.

Minority Leader (*Ogibuibo Peter Agballa*): Mr Speaker Sir, realising that the war victims pose a very great danger to the driving public, may I know what practical proposals or steps the Commissioner is taking to get them off the roads to avoid crushing some of them?

Mrs Offia-Nwali: Mr Speaker Sir, I believe that I went into details but for the benefit of the hon. Member, we cannot just get these people off the roads. They are citizens of this country. In order to get them off the roads you have to make arrangement for their rehabilitation. That is what I have just said that we are doing the ground work. If you will be kind enough to approve the amount we are asking for, and if you think that amount that has to be approved for us is not enough, this honourable House is in a position to say so. If we have enough finances, we will definitely do everything we can. In fact when we start we are going to involve you because although my Ministry is going to be the champion it, it is not only the Ministry of Social Welfare that has the duty. So we are going to ask other well-meaning members of the public including the hon. Members of this House to help us, and I believe that we can succeed in clearing them.

Mr Speaker: Thank you hon. Commissioner. Another question.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Igbariam Farm Settlement

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to seek leave to ask Question No. 3 standing in my name to the hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Production, through you.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Production (Prof. D. M. Ekpete): Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members of this House of Assembly, the question relates to the fate of the settlers at Igbariam Farm Settlement. The School of Agriculture which is now located at Igbariam Farm Settlement will only be using 1,000 hectares of the land available there. 2,400 hectares which form the balance of the land there will be used by the settlers who are still on the farm settlement as well as the villagers from around Igbariam and environs who will then be put together to form the community that will own the farm. In other words these 2,400 hectares will become part of the Igbariam community farm which will be used by the settlers and the villagers we are going to add to them for food production.

In that exercise we intend to provide the settlers with the land cleared through contractors using bulldozers, then ploughed and prepared for planting. Then we are going to split the farm into five hectare pieces, and allocate each of these pieces to individual farm families or farmers, and farmers will utilize improved seeds and fertilizers for production on these pieces of land, and we believe the settlers at the Igbariam Farm Settlement will benefit from this programme in addition to utilizing their proximity to the School of Agriculture in further improving their farming techniques and yield of their crops.

Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir.

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): Mr Speaker Sir, may I know what arrangement the Ministry of Agriculture is making to establish some farm settlements in the food producing areas of the State especially in places like Abakaliki?

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! I do not think that this is part of the question.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Mr Speaker Sir, I want to know whether the farm settlement is also a school and if so, what is the system of recruitment of the students because I have not heard of students going to that school?

Mr Speaker: Yes, the hon. Commissioner may enlighten the House.

Prof. Ekpete: Mr Speaker Sir, the School of Agriculture at Igbariam only started in 1978 and so, the first intake of students totalling about one hundred and fifty at the moment, consists mostly of Field Overseers who were converted through the Federal Government Establishment Circular to Agricultural Assistants but did not have the basic training in agriculture. So, the first thing the Ministry has done has been to put those staff into in-service training in the school and that is why it would appear that there was no advertisement because I presume that is what the hon. Member is referring to. There was no advertisement for that first intake. But it is intended that from now on, the students will be admitted through normal advertisement and possibly interviews.

An hon. Member: JAMB or WAEC? (Laughter).

Prof. Ekpete: No! It will be...

Mr Speaker: That's alright! (Laughter).

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I am aware there is a farm school at Achi. What is the relation between the Igbariam School of Agriculture and the Achi Farm School? Is it the same thing or is it part of the Igbariam, or is the Ministry of Agriculture establishing another farm school at Achi and another one at Igbariam? This House would like to know Mr Speaker?

Prof. Ekpete: Mr Speaker Sir, there are two schools, in fact, there are more than two schools in the State that train people in one form or other in agriculture. The School of Agriculture at Igbariam is at a level where we intend to admit people with school certificate or G.C.E. Ordinary Level, train them to get OND or HND and become Agricultural Assistants or Agricultural Superintendents. In the case of Achi, it is a farm school which is intended essentially to upgrade the experience of farm hands who may otherwise be called farm labourers that can be upgraded to Field Overseer level and invariably such farmers may just have only Standard Six or may not in fact have been to school at all. So, there are two levels of agricultural schools and in fact, it is not only Achi, we have another one being built at Mgbakwu and other places. We intend to increase the number of this type of school to cater for the different categories and levels of farmers in the State.

Thank you.

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker Sir, I am aware of the explanations of Mr Commissioner, but doesn't the Commissioner consider it an absolute waste of Government or public fund, establishing schools left and right in every corner of the State when he is aware that at Igbariam Farm Settlement, from the explanations he has left to us here that his Ministry is only going to utilize one thousand hectares of land and will still be left with two thousand hectares of land; that if his Ministry decides to convert the remaining two thousand four hundred hectares of land to farm school and concentrate the teaching profession there, it will be really saving public fund because the present system of scattering schools of all grades all over the State is an absolute and calculated system of wastage of public fund? Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to get the answer.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Udi North (*Mr Nnatubeugo*) did make quite an eloquent speech but I am not quite sure the hon. Commissioner has got the question he wants answered. Please could the hon. Member be specific.

Mr Nnatubeugo: The question, Mr Speaker, is that I am asking the hon. Commissioner whether he does not consider it a simple wastage of public fund, establishing schools of agriculture of all cadres in different parts of the State instead of concentrating in a place where, as already mentioned, there is space, there is land?

Prof. Ekpete: Mr Speaker Sir, I think the hon. Member will agree that it is wrong in practice to put all one's eggs in one basket. Secondly, within the State there are at least about seven different agro-ecological zones which require various agricultural practices to enable the communities and trainees in schools to perform different kinds of agricultural production. If for no other reason, that is enough reason for having many schools in order to cover these various zones.

Thirdly, the activities in agriculture include not only crop production, but also forestry, veterinary and livestock production. Therefore, you must have schools to cater for these specialization areas within agriculture and I must say that even the number of schools we have falls far short of our requirements and the hon. Member will agree that unless we

now start training farmers in large numbers, in due course we will find it difficult to have people that will go back and replace the old women and men in the villages trying to produce food. Many of them will soon be passing out, and we need to train young men who will ultimately go back and produce food with modern scientific method. We can only do this if we even double the number of schools we have now.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Mr Speaker Sir, may I know from the hon. Commissioner whether he is aware that the people of Igbariam are complaining very seriously that Government is trespassing into the land not given to it and that even for the one so given, adequate compensation has not been fully paid.

Several hon. Members: Land Use Decree!

Mr Speaker: Order! Yes, the hon. Commissioner, may have something to say on that.

Prof. Ekpete: Yes, Mr Speaker, it is true that the farm settlers in Igbariam have been complaining about Government coming to help them in becoming more productive farmers. But this is not surprising to agriculturists, because in our extension effort, we always expect opposition from farmers; they are very difficult to change. But, I think they are being adequately taken into account in the planning of the community farms so that once we do the clearing of the land and give them the ready land and pay them for the crops they will produce which will be maize, this complaint will stop.

Mr Speaker: Shall we take the next Question, please.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Ekwegbe Community Farm

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to ask Question No. 9 that stands in my name.

Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Production (Prof. D. M. Ekpete): Mr Speaker Sir, the question relates to the fate of the Ekwegbe Community Farm and

the existence of other farms in Nsukka Zone. Taking the issue of the Nsukka Senatorial Zone, it is not quite correct to say that apart from Uzo-Uwani, there is no other community farm in Nsukka Zone. Because right now, Eha-Amufu area is within Nsukka Zone, that is the Isi-Uzo Local Government Area and we have a community farm located in Eha-Amufu right now and therefore, it is not correct to say that only Uzo-Uwani has a community farm in that area.

However, for the Ekwegbe Farm, the Ministry has since the inception of the National Accelerated Food Production Programme which was being sponsored jointly by the Federal Government and the State Government included the Ekwegbe Farm among those farms that are regarded as NAFPP community farms. People who have travelled from Enugu to Nsukka or back will see at the Ekwegbe market the notice board which shows clearly the interest and attention which the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production has paid to that farm. In fact it has now moved from an experimental stage to a production stage. The farmers have been formed into co-operatives and they have been receiving inputs such as fertilizer and improved seeds for production on the farm and we intend ultimately if it becomes possible that that would become one of the community farms which we have been discussing earlier on. Ekwegbe will become one but until then, we cannot say now. I am giving the hon. Member every assurance that my Ministry is taking particular interest—in fact more interest in it than some of the others because of its peculiar position in the Ekwegbe Farm. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you Mr Speaker, my question is rather general. I wonder if the hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Production is aware of the prevalent cassava disease now all over the State, especially in my own Local Government Area (Oji-River). (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I understand it that the question is of public interest. The hon. Commissioner may want to comment.

Prof. Ekpete: Mr Speaker Sir, yes, I am aware that there is and there has been, cassava disease known as cassava mealy-bug. It is an insect that attacks the stems and shoots of

cassava and more or less makes it nearly dead. It is quite widespread, not only in Anambra State but in Bendel and even in Ondo and Oyo States. It is a belt that runs across the country.

When this disease started or became very serious about a year or two ago, a Federal Task Force was set up under the Chairmanship of one Professor Taylor who is the Director of Vet Research in the University of Ife and they were mostly provided with funds to enable them start the programme that would try to get rid of this particular disease from all the cassava in the whole country. It has not moved rapidly enough and it appears that the Federal Government has found an alternative by creating a new division known as the Pest Control Services Division of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the headquarters for the South Eastern Zone is here in Enugu and I have already been in touch with them to now spread their net in the control of the cassava mealy-bug because, since it covers large areas, we in the Ministry do not have enough resources both in human labour, in material, sprayers and chemicals to mount the kind of campaign that is required to control the insects. But this new Division of the Federal Ministry has given assurance that they are getting their loins tight to get ready and tackle it. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Thank you hon. Commissioners. You may now retire.

THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS OF ANAMBRA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

Order Nos. 29–31 *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order 32—(TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES)

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): Mr Chairman, I feel that forty to forty-five minutes is too long to listen to one person. Somebody would have to put up some argument and say that . . .

The Chairman: If the hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*) would advance his argument for the amendment which he is to propose, the House would move on.

Mr Okoye: I feel that it is a very long time listening to one man for forty minutes. I would like it to be thirty minutes.

[THE CHAIRMAN]

The Chairman: Order, Order! Order No. 32 (2), line 2, that the word *forty-five* be deleted and in its place be inserted the word *thirty*.

Amendment put and negatived.

Order No. 32, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 33, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order Nos. 34 and 35, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order 36 (1)-(5), *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order 36 (6) (ORDER IN THE HOUSE OR COMMITTEE).

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): I would want the last sentence which appears on page 25 of the draft Standing Orders which says: *for the remainder of the session* be amended. Suppose we limit it to two weeks?

The Chairman: Yes, that portion of Order No. 36 (6) on page 25 states: *When the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction have been removed from the House they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.*

Mr Alor: Why not say for two weeks?

The Chairman: Let me read the whole of Order No. 36 (6): *If a Member or two or more Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of Mr Speaker to withdraw, when severally summoned under the direction, Mr Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction. When the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction have been removed from the House they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.*

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): But clause five takes care of it.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Chairman before we take a decision on this; assuming the remainder of the session would be up to three, four, on five

months and that automatically means that their seats would be declared vacant, does that mean that under the Constitution they would lose their seats?

The Chairman: I think this is what it in practice means, that Members can really ask an hon. Member to go, in a way of sacking him from the House.

Mr Nwofor: I think if we look at clause five, it takes care of this portion.

Mr Umunna: No!

Mr Nwofor: Read it out.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): I am sorry Mr Speaker, if you read clauses five and six, you will see that six envisages a more serious situation. So, I should like us to put a maximum of about three weeks in clause six and in clause five we have also to put something, either a week or so, because clause five says "until it is determined by the House" without saying how the House can determine it. I think clause six is more specific, but it envisages a more serious situation than that provided by clause five.

The Chairman: In either four, five or six, it is the decision of the House. I suppose that the essence of this is to make the House the ultimate, even on its members. If the whole House thinks that honourable "A" is no longer conducive to this House, it can discipline him. But I agree with you, taking into consideration the present Nigerian Constitution, that some check should also be effected particularly in clause six. In clause five, it is a decision of the House but in six which says "till the rest of the session", I think we have to look at it again.

Mr Didigu: Mr Chairman, I suggest that we place a limit by saying "will be suspended from the service of the House for a period of one month or the remainder of the session whichever is less".

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): Mr Chairman Sir, I think this is a serious situation and we have to look at it from the other angle. I say this because suspension is suspension, even if it is one day. It will be on record that the House has suspended a Member for one day. So, I am suggesting a week's suspension in clause six.

The Chairman: I thought that the hon. Member for Njikoka Central South (*Mr Alor*) wanted to make some modification?

Mr Alor: Mr Chairman, yes, I wanted to say for a period not exceeding two weeks and that covers it. If anybody suggests two days or one day or one hour, for a period not exceeding two weeks, is my amendment.

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Mr Chairman, I am speaking in support of what the hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti West (*Mr Didigu*) said, because looking at the paragraph from where it reads:—“... shall refuse to obey the direction of Mr Speaker to withdraw, when severally summoned ...”, it is assumed that before such Member or Members must have been suspended, the hon. Speaker must have severally summoned him at least to repent. I think a period of a week or two will definitely render the Speaker—may I say; the duty of the Speaker may not be so effective. I take myself to be a victim. If the hon. Speaker must have severally invited me and I refused, I shall then have the hope that it will only last for a week or two before I come back. But if the punishment will last for at least a month, such hon. Member or Members will have to forfeit his or their one month's remuneration, and this will make him or them behave like hon. Members.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Chairman Sir, I speak in the line of the hon. Member for Njikoka Central South (*Mr Alor*) who suggested two sitting-day weeks.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Mr Chairman Sir, looking at No. 6 and trying to fix the time, it makes me go to No. 5, and it would appear that if we fix the time for No. 6, one wonders what No. 5 will be doing, because No. 5 has a stipulation that his suspension shall last until determined by the House. I am trying to see how we can reconcile No. 5 and No. 6.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): The essence of this provision, Sir, is not the length of time but the social stigma attaching to the suspension. So, I suggest two weeks.

Mr Chairman: There are definitely two suggestions; one is two weeks, and the other one is one month. It would appear everybody is opposed to this question of the remainder of the session. I want us to decide first on...;

okay, we will take on two weeks first, and then we will try to amend two weeks to one month. That is, the words “during the remainder of the session” be deleted, and in their place be inserted “for a period not exceeding two weeks”.

Amendment, put and agreed to.

The second one is that the words “two weeks” be deleted and in their place be inserted “one month.”

Amendment, put and negatived.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Chairman, I would like us to time No. 5, and I am suggesting that No. 5 should read thus: *That if a Member be suspended under the provisions of this Order, he shall be directed by Mr Speaker to withdraw. The suspension shall last until determined by the House within a week*, because if we do not say within a week, it means the House may leave it for two or three or four days. The House may determine it quite alright within one day, but if time limit is not attached there, nothing prevents the House from leaving it indefinitely.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman, I think it would not be proper if we put any time in Clause 5, because that envisages a situation; it may be of minor offence, and the Member so suspended; if I am suspended today, I know that by tomorrow I will lobby and it is brought up and the House determines it within two or three days; so I think we better leave it, since it is a more serious situation, that is why we have put a time limit.

The Chairman: I think that since it is a matter for the whole House, if the time is not limited, it has its own advantages too.

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was of the opinion that there should be some addition, something like “provided that the House is given the opportunity to determine within a period of two weeks.” In fact, if we leave it, there is the tendency of our forgetting it entirely.

The Chairman: I don't know if the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) will want us to put the Question on the amendment. We want to get it right.

Mr Opata I will like the House to take a decision on this. That is, Order No. 36 (5) should read thus:

If a Member be suspended under the provision of this Order, he shall be directed by Mr Speaker to withdraw, his suspension shall last until determined by the House within a week.

Question, put and negatived.

The Chairman: Any amendment on Order No. 36 (7) ?

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Yes, Mr Chairman, I think it will be advisable to remove the following in line 5, *for the remainder of the sitting*. Again remove in the last line, that is line 7, *as the case may be*.

Now, we have given a period for Order No. 36 (6). *For the remainder of the sitting* is I think, indefinite.

The Chairman: Sitting is for the day !

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Mr Chairman, in line 4 of Order No. 36 (8) I suggest that the word *period* be deleted and in its place be inserted the words *not exceeding five days*.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman, even though we do not envisage that type of situation to arise, I think it will be better if we leave it the way it is. It is within the discretion of the Speaker to know if the atmosphere is conducive and congenial for all of us to assemble because this envisages a situation when all of us will agree to disagree.

(Laughter).

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North-East): Mr Chairman, I am in support of what the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) said, in that the Speaker has the opportunity of conferring with some functionaries of the House to determine that particular time when it is conducive to reconvene.

The Chairman: Any more amendments please ?

Order No. 36 (6) as amended—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

The Chairman: Order No. 37—(Voting).

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Chairman, I don't know whether the preposition "to" in line 1 of Order No. 37 (1) is appropriate.

The Chairman: I think the word should be "on". Are the lawyers there? I hope this is not one of the legal languages.

Question, That the word "to" in line 1 of Order No. 37 (1) be deleted and in its place be inserted the word "on", put and agreed to.

The Chairman: For record purposes, I have been told that "to" is a legal language usually used. But here we have said we will use "on" and so we are using "on". So it becomes a legal language here.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Chairman, if you are legally advised that "to" is the correct word, I think we can show a sense of maturity by reverting ourselves to the right word. In the old Standing Orders, it is "to". I am not a lawyer, I don't know much of legal terms.

So if you are legally advised, we can revert ourselves.

The Chairman: Except that the old Standing Orders was cited; I think the lawyers disagreed on this.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Not necessarily disagreeing but we are not here to copy the old Standing Orders. If we read this, I think we are not going into very strict legal jargon. "On" here will make it more understandable.

Order No. 37 as amended—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

The Chairman: Order No. 38. Any amendment ?

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Mr Chairman Sir, I don't understand this Order No. (8). "A Member must vote according to his voice." Does that mean "choice" or "voice" ?

Several hon. Members: Voice !

Mr Alor: That's conscience.

The Chairman: Standing Order 38 what ?

Mr Alor: Standing Order 38 (8) —"A Member must vote according to his voice."

The Chairman: If you say Aye, it is Aye, if you say No it is No.

Mr Alor: Supposing we use the word *conscience* here instead of *voice*. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! voice is voice. If you say Aye then you voted Aye. If you vote No you voted No. Right? Any further amendments?

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): Standing Order 38 (4). Spelling error in appointment.

The Chairman: Add 'o' between 'p' and 'i.'

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Sorry Mr Chairman. There is a little omission in 38 (12) line 2. C can we go back? Line 2 shall agree the numbers instead of on the number.

The Chairman: Still on page 29. Before leaving the door of their lobby the tellers shall agree on the numbers voting . . .

Mr Alor: It said *agree the numbers*. I think on should be inserted.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): I think it is right Mr Chairman. It is sort of reconciling the number.

The Chairman: Yes. Agree the numbers. Make them agree.

Question, That Order No. 38 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

Order No. 39—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 40—Notice regarding Bills.

Mr Alor: I don't know if mine is different. I have 39 and 43. I haven't 40, 41, 42 but I have 39.

The Chairman: Some pages are missing. Have you got them? Are you all right?

Mr Alor: Not yet.

The Chairman: You will sort it out with the Clerk.

Order No. 40—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 41—Presentation and first reading.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): You have *st dash g*. That's in Order 42, second line.

The Chairman: We are coming on to that.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): There is no 41 (2) here.

The Chairman: Please correct that. Presentation of first reading—Order No. 41. You have 1 the next one should be 2 which starts with "A Bill". That should be 2. Then the other becomes 3, the other one becomes 4. Take note.

Question, That Order No. 41 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Standing Order No. 42. I will refer hon. Members to the flying sheets distributed yesterday. It is very important. I would like us to take Standing Order No. 42 as on the loose sheet if it is the opinion of the House. It is a later amendment, to bring it fully in line. That is, instead of what you have on the bound book you now have Standing Order No. 42—*At the conclusion of the proceedings on the first reading or on any subsequent stage of a Bill, a day to be named by the Business Committee in consultation with the Speaker shall be appointed for the next state.* Any amendment on that?

Please take note. I think what you have is the Speaker. All along we have been using Mr Speaker so please change *the* and put *Mr* Speaker to make it consistent. In Standing Order No. 42 for instance the one on the loose sheet second line from the bottom of that paragraph underlined, *in consultation with the Speaker*, should be with *Mr Speaker*. Is that clear? Shall we continue.

Question, That Order No. 42 as amended stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

Order No. 43. Here again, there is going to be some reshuffling of position. What we have as Order No. 43 on the bound sheets should now be Order No. 44, that is on page 32 and directly below it is "Committal of Bills". This should just interchange with Order No. 44. So, that correction made, Order No. 43 becomes 44 and 44 becomes the new Order No. 43. You get that right? You will

[THE CHAIRMAN]
make the correction on the loose sheet which you have; No. 43 to bring it in sequence. Is that understood?

Several hon. Members: Yes.

The Chairman: And please, for "Committal of Bills," we would like to use the loose sheet and not the bound sheets. That is Order No. 43 which reads:

When a Bill has been read for the first time, it shall be referred to a Standing Committee for consideration and report back to the House. Bills referred to Standing Committees shall be allocated to a particular Standing Committee by the Speaker whose discretion in this matter is final.

Honourable Members may ask questions if they wish.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I feel . . .

Several hon. Members: Mr Chairman!

Mr Opata: I am sorry. Mr Chairman Sir, I feel that the draft in the bound one is preferred to the one on the loose sheet. It depends on the type of Bill. The one on the bound sheets reads thus:

When a Bill has been read a Second time, it shall stand committed to a Standing Committee, unless there is provision . . .

Then this "unless" shows, perhaps there may be a particular Bill which may be better dealt with by the Committee of the Whole House rather than by a Standing Committee. I feel that this provision is necessary because Bills are not of the same importance. If the need arises, the House will know when the need arises and it is covered by this condition. When there is no need, under normal circumstances, it should be committed to a Standing Committee. But the one on the loose sheet removes this provision.

So, I feel that the one on the bound sheet is preferred to the one which we regard now as an amendment. That is my comment. Thank you.

The Chairman: I feel the hon. Member is only taking the changes in the bound sheet and that is the proviso. That is the one the hon. Member has taken, but as a matter of

fact, the major change there is that instead of saying *when a Bill is read a Second time*, you are now saying *when a Bill has been read the First time, it shall be referred to a Standing Committee*. It is a question of tautology and I seize this opportunity to explain.

The presidential system of legislation makes the work of legislation more in the committees. So, the emphasis now is in the Standing Committees. Once a Bill has been presented, the committees pick up and when they have finished, they report to the House. They will probably have re-written the Bill completely, amended it or recommended an outright rejection. But the one you are talking about which is the second, that is, where it says . . . *unless the House on Motion made we refer it to the Committee of the Whole House*. That is necessary for a Second Reading; that is for a Bill that has been read a Second time. In this particular one which we are recommending, the committees would have done all the looking.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguaa West): Mr Chairman Sir, doesn't it appear putting the cart before the horse, because I think the idea of committing the Bill to the committee when it must have been debated, and its general principles discussed and passed, is for the committee to use all the materials it must have gathered in treating the Bill before sending it back. That is the way I look at it.

The Chairman: I would like hon. Members to look at it the other way. The committee serves as a clearing house. Somebody picks up an idea and it is drafted into a Bill. Then it goes to the committee which looks at it in very great details; honourable Members and the members of the public are invited to air their views on this, all in detail so that what the committee comes out with may be the Bill as presented by the initiator or a recast form of the Bill so that the House does not waste its energy talking on trifles.

What comes to the House is what I might call mature proposal which has been properly investigated and based on the result of the investigation, hon. Members can then talk on the general principles. Whatever is seen on the Bill that comes for Second Reading must be taken very seriously because nearly everybody

who wants to give evidence has done so. Then, after the Second Reading, that is, when we have debated on the general principles and merits, we commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole House to enable the House effect whatever amendments it wants to, based on the outcome of that general debate, before it is read First time. This is the system.

An hon. Member: Mr Chairman Sir, I think the problem here is in the wording. "When a Bill has been read a Second time", I think this committal ought to have been after the presentation and the First Reading, not when it has been read a Second time.

The Chairman: That is why we have this. That is why we have it here. I hope everybody has this sheet. All right. It is important, please, everybody should have it.

(Interruptions).

Order! Order! It has been circulated yesterday and if you did not get it please get hold of it through the Clerk's office after the meeting. It is important. So Order No. 43 is now the one being deliberated upon. Any amendment on it?

Amendment agreed to.

Order No. 43—(COMMITTAL OF BILLS TO COMMITTEES)—as amended, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 44—(SECOND READING).

The Chairman: That is Second Reading, Order No. 44; what appears on the bound sheets as Order No. 43. It is at the top of page 32 of the bound sheets. Any amendment?

Orders No. 44-46—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 47—(SCOPE OF AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE).

The Chairman: Any amendments? Members should note the full implications of Order No. 47—Order No. 47. That is the one I was emphasizing and the emphasis now goes to the committees.

Order No. 47—(SCOPE OF AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE)—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 48—(PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEES ON BILLS)—

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North-East): Mr Chairman Sir, I think that on line one we have to put apostrophe after 's' in days.

Amendment agreed to.

Order No. 48—(PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEES ON BILLS)—as amended, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Orders No. 49-51—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 52—(BILLS AFFECTING PRIVATE RIGHTS)—

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Mr Chairman Sir, first line is not quite clear. It appears the word *the* should be *term*.

Amendment agreed to.

Order No. 52—(BILLS AFFECTING PRIVATE RIGHTS)—as amended, *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Order No. 53—(COMMITTEE OF SELECTION)

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Chairman Sir, Order No. 53 (2), second to the last line. The sentence *The Committee of Selection shall consist of Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker who may take the chair in the absence of Mr Speaker as the chairman and ten Members who 'shall'*—the amendment is that we remove the word *may* and insert the word *shall, who shall be elected by the House* because of the importance of this committee.

Amendment agreed to.

An hon. Member: Mr Chairman Sir, the same line 2. I want to be inserted after the word *Chairman*, that is after *Mr Speaker as the Chairman, Majority Leader, Minority Leader and eight Members who shall be elected by the House.*

Many hon. Members: No! No!

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Amendment put and negatived.

Order No. 53—(COMMITTEE OF SELECTION)—as amended *ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo P. Agballah): Mr Chairman, in the same line 2, I want an insertion to be made after the word *Chairman* that is, *Mr Speaker as the Chairman, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, and eight Members who shall be elected by the House.*

Several hon. Members: No.!

The Chairman: Order!

Question, That between the word "Chairman" and "and", be inserted the words "Majority Leader, Minority Leader", and after the word "and" and before the "Members" the word "ten" be deleted and in its place be inserted the word "eight" put and negatived.

Question, That Order No. 53 stand part of the Standing Orders put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Order No. 54, any amendment?

Order No. 54 ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 55, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 56, any amendment?

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Chairman, why do we have "eleven Members", and not as "the Chairman and ten others" consisting of eleven Members?

The Chairman: Yes because the Chairman is part of this eleven Members. In the other one, it is the Chairman and ten others. Here, it is "eleven Members." The Chairman is one of the eleven.

Mr Ojemeni: But why is it framed in this way? In other committees, it is said "Chairman and ten others", but it is only in this committee that it is "eleven others." I ask, is there any difference between them?

The Chairman: None!

Question, That Order No. 56 stand part of the Standing Orders put and agreed to.

Order Nos. 57 to 59, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 60—(Standing and Select Committees).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Order No. 60 (1), the last line to stop at as may be necessary and delete the words *for the consideration of Bills*. This done, the whole thing should now read. *At the beginning of every session, the committee shall appoint such number of Standing Committees as may be necessary.*

Many hon. Members: And other matters!

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata East): I fully support the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) because, if we state here that this Standing Committee is for consideration of Bills...

The Chairman: And other matters!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: No. but it is not added here.

An hon. Member: Add it!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Alright, unless we are adding it, otherwise if we leave it as it is...

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Move a Motion on that!

Mr Okekeizuagwu: I add that *it may be necessary for the consideration of Bills and other matters that may be referred to them.*

The Chairman: Order! Order No. 60 (1) line 3, that after the word *Bill* be added *and other matters that may be referred to them*. But please take the better expression: *and such other matters that may be referred to them*.

Question, That Order No. 60 as amended, stand part of the Standing Orders put and agreed to.

Order No. 61—ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 62—(Reports from Select or Special Committee).

The Chairman: I do not know if the House would like to look at Order No. 62 very closely because we are getting into the presidential system of legislation fully. This particular Order virtually makes all the committee sittings...

An hon. Member: Secret.

The Chairman: Not secret as such. What I was saying is that evidence taken at such committee cannot be publicized until it has

been reported to the House. Just before the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) comments, why I was giving a second thought about this particular Order, is that sometimes the committee hearings rarely make news; but sometimes the committee will not report to the House until after a very long time. That is, probably they will not be able to report until they have completed their investigation. I am wondering whether we should make provision to allow certain evidence in the committee to be made public.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Chairman, while the intention is quite good, I think that this is a Standing Order and not a Constitution. I don't know how binding this document is on the public outside this House. For instance if there is a committee sitting and taking evidence from the public, you cannot control somebody who may prepare a statement which he will give one to the committee and then give one to the press. When such a situation arises, what happens? So the way I see it is that the latter part of it, if we are deleting a part of it, the last phrase there should go. That is *any other person*. I do not think that it will be binding on anybody outside the committee or outside the House.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, as you have rightly put it, the presidential system is committee system and most of these jobs are done in the Committees. Order No. 62 should be relaxed because, but for the publicity given by Senate Committee on Watergate, we wouldn't have known anything about it and by the time they will finish and make it over to the public, it will be too late. In fact, it should be relaxed entirely—to be left loose. The committee should use its discretion especially on matters of public interest.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Assuming that such evidence is published if it is given in committee meeting, it is a privileged statement, there is no harm.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): What I mean is if we must retain that last sentence, we have to put some form of relaxation; because if we say it wouldn't be published by any other person and if it is published, it will be an offence. So, I am saying that it will not be published by any other

person of such committee except with the permission of Mr Speaker or the Chairman of the Committee. I think this will be enough.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): I think I am in agreement with the statements of the previous speakers. We cannot bind ourselves and also bind people who come to the committee to testify. Because, in some cases, the facts to which they are testifying are common knowledge and they may give pre-publication of these facts to other bodies before coming to the committee. My suggestion therefore, is in line with what has already been said: that if we delete the last phrase and say after *Committee* that is from there we delete every other word that comes and in their place put in this to relax the severity of that clause: *provided always that any such publication shall be authorized by the Chairman of that committee*. That is we delete from the last line in fact, and in its place we say *provided always that any such publication shall be authorized by the Chairman of the committee or by the committee*.

I said "provided always" — this is a more legal way of putting it — *provided always that any such publication shall be authorized by the committee or the Speaker of the House*. I say this because in some cases, like such national issue, of ₦2.8 billion, the public would like to be there to ensure that justice is done, especially when there are threats coming from all angles to the Members of the committee.

Mr Opata: What of if we add: *unless authorized by the committee or Speaker of the House*. It saves a lot of words.

The Chairman: Instead of saying "provided".

Mr Opata: Yes.

Mr Opata: Mr Chairman, Sir, what of if we add *unless authorized by the committee or the Speaker of the House*.

The Chairman: We look at it this way, and take that proposed by the hon. Member for Njikoka North West (*Mr Ogbuagu*), that is, to read: *the evidence taken before any committee of the House and any documents presented to such committee which have not*

[THE CHAIRMAN]
been reported to the House, may only be published with the permission of the Speaker or the Chairman of that Committee.

The amendment is that on the third line after the word *House*, all the words after the word *House* be deleted, and in their place, be inserted: *may only be published with the permission of Mr Speaker or the Chairman of that committee to read: the evidence taken before any committee of the House, and any documents presented to such committee which have not been reported to the House, may only be published with the permission of the Speaker or the Chairman of that committee.*

Amendment, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: What this is likely to give us is that the television, if you so wish, can then also cover committee hearings with the permission of either the Speaker or the Chairman of that committee.

Order No. 63—(REPORTS FROM SELECT OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES)—
Ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.
 Order No. 64—(APPROPRIATION BILL)

The Chairman: Yes, amendments.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu: (Njikoka North West): Mr Chairman, I am trying to make an amendment on Standing Order No. 64 (4). My amendment will read thus: *unless the Speaker otherwise directs, and without prejudice to Order No. 64 (2).* I just want us to put in an application that such a Member who wishes to speak for more than twenty minutes will, at the instance, apply to Mr Speaker.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, if you look at Order No. 64 (3) line 4; I do not know if the correction was made in your own sheets. What we have is *and economic state of Nigeria*. It should be changed to *Anambra State*.

Mr Opata: Mr Chairman, I think that because of the importance attached to Appropriation Bill, that twenty minutes is not enough. Does it mean that the Speaker will continue to direct every Tom and Dick. If we say, for instance, thirty minutes, which has been the normal thing; if somebody has to finish what he has in one minute, let him finish and sit down, but for the Speaker to continue to direct

everybody who wants to speak for more than twenty minutes, I think it will be too burdensome for the Speaker. It is not easy for somebody to put up a proper argument on Appropriation Bill within twenty minutes. It is such an important Bill, and it is one of the major functions why Members are elected into this honourable House.

The Chairman: I think when this particular Order was being amended, what we had at the back of our minds was that during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, every Member should be able to speak, because the job of Appropriation Bill concerns his constituency. It is the only time he can move us to push in something for his constituency, and we calculated that if twenty minutes is given to all of us, that should be perhaps the optimum period, depending on what the hon. Member for Nkanu South (*Mr Mbah*) has to say. He may speak for less than twenty minutes or more than twenty minutes. Even if you are dishing out argument, in fact, nobody looks at the time. Anyway, it is a decision to make, I am only trying to make an observation.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Chairman, we are still actually arguing that it is very important that an Appropriation Bill like this, is one of the foremost and very essential aspects of our job here. I don't really think that twenty minutes will be enough for an hon. Member to contribute on an Appropriation Bill sufficiently. I think we should make it thirty minutes. There are Members who may even not like to speak up to thirty minutes.

The Chairman: The proposal is thirty minutes. So let's decide on that.

Question, That in line 2 of Order No. 64 (4) after the word "than", that the word "twenty" be deleted and in its place be inserted the word "thirty", put and the House divided by Roll Call.

Ayes: 11

Noes: 42

Not Voting: 1

Absentees: 31

Ayes

Agbo, J. N.

Anyabuike, D. C.

Idoko, B. C.

Mbah, B. O.

Morah, O. C.
Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
Nwafor, G. C.
Nwambeke, P.
Onyefuru, G. N. C.
Opata, C. U.
Ugwuokpe, W.

Noes

Agbo, E. A.
Akunne, J. O.
Alor, S. N.
Azegba, F.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Didigu, S. O.
Ede, S. N. O.
Egbe, P. J. N.
Ekuma, N.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Emehelu, C. O.
Eneje, J.
Enendu, G. A.
Eze, P. I.
Iburu, N. A.
Igwe, F. E.
Ikeh, B. O.
Ikeoha, D. C.
Itanyi, E. A.
Macduhu, E. J.
Nwofor, F. C.
Nworah, D. C.
Obah, M. C.
Obeta, S.
Odife, S. E.
Odo, A.
Ogbaga, A. U.
Ogbodo, S. J.
Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
Ojemeni, S. O.
Okafor, S. N.
Okeke, B. C. N.
Okeke, C. E.
Okoye, F. N.
Okoye, G. R.
Okpaga, A. E.
Onyido, S. I.
Udeorah, S. J.
Umeaba, W.
Umunna, F. O.
Unabia, P. U.
Unigwe, F. B.

Not Voting

Obiekwe, I.

Absentees

Agballah, O. P.
Chukwuka, C. E.
Chukwuka, G. B. C.
Egwuonwu, M. N.
Emodi, F. C. (Madam).
Ezenwa, A. N.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Ezeugwu, M. I.
Igboka, G. N.
Igwe, M. O.
Mbaso, L. A.
Ngene, D. O.
Njoku, L.
Nnaeto, A. O.
Nnaji, C. O.
Nwafor, A. N.
Ogbu-Nwobodo, N.
Obuna, A. A.
Ogbuka, C. J.
Ojukwu, M. C. O.
Okeke, A. O. C. S.
Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
Okonkwo, L.
Okoye, V. C.
Omeje, E. P. I.
Omeke, A.
Osita, R. A.
Ottah, A. O.
Ozoekwem, S. N.
Udeani, H. C.
Ugoh, O. M.

Question accordingly negatived.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Chairman Sir, there is no financial provision for the committal of the Appropriation Bill to Standing Committees or will Standing Order No. 43 apply?

The Chairman: The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) should read in between the lines.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Order No. 64 (5), the second line. I think it is a mistake. "Committed to the Finance Committee and thereafter, "And" there—

The Chairman: *When the Bill has been read a Second time it shall stand committed to the Committee of the Whole House.*

Mr Alor: Order No. 64 (5)—*When the Bill has been read a Second time it shall stand committed to the Finance Committee and thereafter, 64 (5).*

The Chairman: Please take the correction. I am talking of Order No. 64 (5), second line.

Mr Alor: Second line ?

The Chairman: Make the correction first.

Mr Alor: That's committed to the Finance Committee ? That is . . .

Several hon. Members: Relax !

The Chairman: Rule 5, what you have is—*When the Bill has been read a Second time it shall stand committed to the Finance Committee and thereafter to the Committee of the Whole House.* I am saying please correct that. Delete the words *Finance Committee and thereafter to the*, to read—*When the Bill has been read a Second time it shall stand committed to the Committee of the Whole House to be called the Committee of Supply to which the Estimates shall also stand referred.* Okay ?

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Order No. 64 (12)—*An amendment to increase shall take precedence of any amendment to decrease.* Then you go to subsection (b) of that 12.

I want some explanation there.

The Chairman: What it means is that if you decide to increase the allocation on an item, say, the Osumenyi/Nnewi bridge, you agreed for an increase and then under the Head, "Bridges in Anambra State", supposing you increase the sum for Osumenyi/Nnewi bridge to N10 million, when we come to the heading Anambra Bridges, by the addition of the N10 million, in the total sum we may come to something like N5 million. You find that we can still decrease in spite of your effort at increasing the particular item. So the Head takes precedence in this particular case, that is, you can still reduce the Head even though you have got that there and it is the Head which is the final thing. Please get some checks and balances there. Any more amendments?

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Sorry I am going back to Order No. 64 (7). Mr Chairman Sir, I am wondering whether there is any reason for not giving any specific number of days to the discussion of the Estimates in the Committee of Supply. The old Standing Orders gave 12 days, here it is left entirely to the discretion of the Business Committee.

The Chairman: Yes. This is so because we are operating a system which allows now for greater work in the committees and the coordinators, so to say, of the time of the committees is the Business Committee. So the Business Committee has its eye on when the various committees are likely to finish so you cannot pin down the time immediately.

Again it depends very much on what time is needed. One Appropriation Bill may be easier than another. You may have a difficult one that will require more days. So once you fix the number of days there, then you go up the ladder and that may impair the committee work.

Mr Ekwealor: Mr Chairman Sir, what I am saying is, supposing the Business Committee decides to give us a few days only in the Committee of Supply; are we not giving them power to stampede us through the Estimates because I think if there is a number of days beyond which they cannot go then it might be a little more realistic. Because without any number of days they are given the option to say, "you discuss it in the Committee of Supply for just one day".

The Chairman: I see. I get the point you are making. Perhaps what you want to do then is to amend this number, to check even the Business Committee and not necessarily to fix the number.

Mr Ekwealor: To check the Business Committee. That is exactly my intention.

The Chairman: *There shall be allotted such number of days as the Business Committee may determine for discussion of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of Supply provided that if the House (Interruptions).* Yes, the hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*) wants to make a proviso. I think this is the point he is making—supposing the House doesn't finish within the number of days allocated to it.

(*Several hon. Members took the Floor*).

The Chairman: No, let's finish with this issue. The hon. Member for Anambra North (*Mr Ekwealor*) has raised an issue that the Business Committee may give only two days for the Committee of Ways and Means and at the end of the two days you find that the House

is not satisfied that the work is fully done, what happens? You want to make a proviso that you can . . . yes, go on.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): I am saying that in that wise, the programme of the Business Committee should be approved on the Floor of the House. That will give us the time to check them provided that their programme is approved on the Floor of the House.

The Chairman: What I really want is someone to bring up a proviso which makes it possible for the House to have a say at the end of the days given to them.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Chairman. The proviso I intend to suggest or proffer is that after the allotted days, the committee finds it very difficult or impossible to accomplish the task ahead, that the Speaker reserves the right, with the consent of the Members, to extend the time till such a time that it will be possible for us to complete the assignment.

An hon. Member: The Speaker or the Chairman!

Mr Mbaso: The Speaker or the Chairman reserve the power to extend . . .

An hon. Member: Reserves the right to extend.

Mr Mbaso: Reserves the right to extend the time, with the consent of Members of Parliament.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): At the end of that, I have, *provided that if the time so allotted is inadequate, the Speaker, with the consent of the House shall vary the time.* It could be more, it could be less. But "so allotted" is inadequate. The Speaker, with the consent of the House shall vary it.

The Chairman: Look at this and see the way it has been amended. We will try and marry it with the various amendments. We want it to read thus:

There shall be allotted, such number of days as the Business Committee may determine for discussion of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of Supply, provided that Mr Speaker reserves the right to extend the time if necessary.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Order No. 64 as amended—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Several hon. Members: Adjourn! Adjourn!

The Chairman: Honourable Members we have just four pages and I am wondering whether we should not move to sit, until we complete this?

Several hon. Members: Adjourn! Adjourn!

The Chairman: Order! Order! I am saying that we have just four more pages to go.

Several hon. Members: Put it in Motion!

The Chairman: O. K. I crave the indulgence of the House to put the Question that the House continues to sit until we finish with these Standing Orders.

Question put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday 11th April, 1980 at 9 a.m., and in moving the Motion, I beg that the Question be put.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday 11th April, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

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An hon. Member: The Speaker or the Chairman!

Mr Mbaso: The Speaker or the Chairman reserve the power to extend . . .

An hon. Member: Reserves the right to extend.

Mr Mbaso: Reserves the right to extend the time, with the consent of Members of Parliament.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): At the end of that, I have, *provided that if the time so allotted is inadequate, the Speaker, with the consent of the House shall vary the time.* It could be more, it could be less. But "so allotted" is inadequate. The Speaker, with the consent of the House shall vary it.

The Chairman: Look at this and see the way it has been amended. We will try and marry it with the various amendments. We want it to read thus:

There shall be allotted, such number of days as the Business Committee may determine for discussion of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of Supply, provided that Mr Speaker reserves the right to extend the time if necessary.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Order No. 64 as amended—*ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.*

Several hon. Members: Adjourn! Adjourn!

The Chairman: Honourable Members we have just four pages and I am wondering whether we should not move to sit, until we complete this?

Several hon. Members: Adjourn! Adjourn!

The Chairman: Order! Order! I am saying that we have just four more pages to go.

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Question put and negatived.

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Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 11th April, 1980

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT
STANDING ORDERS OF ANAMBRA
STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Mr Speaker: Order No. 65—(Supplementary Appropriation Bills), that's where we stopped. Amendments?

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to crave your leave and the permission of the House to suggest that in view of the fact that we won't have enough time to finish what we have as No. 1 on the Calendar, shall we please, go to the next thing we have on the Calendar. That is my prayer Sir.

Several hon. Members: Why? Why?

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for this permission given me. I will rather say that we continue with the Standing Orders. This Standing Orders has been going on for some time now and we have not got much to go. I think it stands to reason that we end one thing and then begin another. We are hoping to use this Standing Orders for a very important work—the Budget. And so, I am of the opinion that we should continue with it. If we start the second thing, and we don't finish today, we continue wherever we stopped. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. It is very clear to me Sir, that hon. Members of this House hate to be rushed, and I associate myself with that attitude. The other Motion is a very important one, requiring very, very careful consideration. As a matter of fact, some of us still require some time really to collect and collate information based on certain salient

issues raised by this Motion and unfortunately it has been rushed. Instead of the 24th or so billed for a debate on this Motion by the Business Committee, one way or the other, the House decided to bring it up today leaving the more important thing. We have operated for upwards of six months now without any set of Standing Orders, except the one provided for by a transitional clause in the Constitution. I do not think we are placing our priorities right. I do not see any hurry about what is involved in this Motion and besides there is the fact that we require time really to analyze the situation, consider all the factors and all the implications that may arise from this Motion. And it is in that light Sir, that I whole-heartedly support... (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehelu*) has the Floor.

Deputy Chief Whip: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is on those grounds that I support the hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*).

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, you will remember that this honourable House had a request by the hon. Member who moved the item No. 2 on the Calendar for today, and this House accepted his request that the Motion be put down for today. Today is half day and it is eleven o'clock and we shall adjourn by twelve. Unless, we deliberately do not want that Motion to come up today, then we can go on with the Standing Orders. If we really want it to come today, we have gone half way with the Standing Orders. Let us take the Motion because it is put down for today, and today is Friday.

I am supporting the hon. Member who is praying this House that we lift the item No. 2 in the Calendar because we put it down for today by the unanimous decision of this House.

An hon. Member: We are here, Sir!

Mr Speaker: Order! I can see about fourteen of you standing and if the fourteen of you will want to speak, probably you will be debating on what is on the Calendar for today.

An hon. Member: Put the Question!

Minority Leader (*Oghuiboo Petrus Agballah*): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy you have allowed me to contribute to this debate.

In the first place, the Mover of the Motion craved the indulgence of the House to have this Motion debated and asked that the Motion be debated today, with the consent of the whole House and you, Mr Speaker. We agreed that this Motion should come up today, Friday and that being the case, unless there is something to hide, in which case the Motion could be put off. But, if we are here to discharge our responsibilities and look at any Motion squarely where it deserves it, it is . . .

Deputy Chief Whip: On a point of Order, Mr Speaker.

Several hon. Members: Order No. what?

Deputy Chief Whip: On imputation of motives!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Could the hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehehu*) please enlighten the House on the imputation of motives?

Deputy Chief Whip: Mr Speaker, what I am saying in effect, is that I think it is imputing improper motives to talk about something to hide. Nobody has anything to hide in this matter. All we are saying is that considering the time at our disposal, after all, the Standing Orders could have been cleared yesterday, only four pages are left. By now, we could have disposed of two pages. Nothing stops us from taking on this Motion today if only we could save the time of the House and go straight into first things first.

All I am saying is that the way we place our . . .

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Minority Leader (*Oghuiboo Petrus Agballah*) made a conditional statement which in my opinion, does not impute improper motive. So the point of Order is not upheld.

Minority Leader: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In fact, as I was saying, the case of the Motion is of far greater interest to the public whom we serve than the Standing Orders.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Minority Leader: Yes, etiquette requires that you serve others before serving yourself. The Standing Orders is serving the House. The Motion on the Floor is for us to look into the why and wherefore. I mean, there are some out-cries about the goings-on in a department of the State.

Since the allegations are so alarming, Mr Speaker Sir, it will be in the best interest of all of us if we debate the Motion before the Standing Orders.

Thank you.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I am personally saying is that it is good to treat things in priority. First come, first served. We have been on this Standing Orders for a long time and we were to finish it yesterday but hon. Members requested that it should be suspended till today. Why are we wasting our time, instead of finishing the remaining four or five pages? There is nothing to hide in the Motion. After all, the Motion is out and it may be debated any other day or today. The longer we keep talking, the more it is delayed.

Mr D. O. Ngene (*Nkanu West*): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am very much inclined to talk on this matter because this is my own area and probably by virtue of your concurrence, I was made the Chairman of the Business Committee.

In fact, Mr Speaker Sir, I am particularly disheartened that the Business Committee is being taken for a ride to some extent.

Several hon. Members: Not so! Not so!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I think the hon. Chairman of the Business Committee (*Mr Ngene*) should not think the House is taking the Business Committee for a ride. The Business Committee is a creation of the House.

Mr Ngene: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was not in fact, referring to the whole House taking the Business Committee for a ride. But I know that a few individuals who probably have an axe to grind somewhere, feel that . . .

Several hon. Members: Point of Order
Point of Order!

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. I rise to call to order the hon. Member who has the Floor under Order No. 26 (6) of the Standing Orders which says and I quote—

No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.

The hon. Member who had the Floor said that some Members have some axe to grind. Unfortunately, it is not a conditional statement as the previous statement. This is a categorical statement. So I beg that he be called to order.

Mr Speaker: The point of Order is upheld. The hon. Chairman of the Business Committee (*Mr Ngene*) should please watch his language.

Mr Ngene: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Irrespective of the hustling and bustling and my being called to order on almost every sentence, I still want to make a point, that it would be a nice thing . . .

Mr Speaker: Order! The hon. Chairman of the Business Committee (*Mr Ngene*) has been called to order and that language is not to the best interest of the House. He may please resume his seat.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I think the question or the Motion that has been brought up does not really require a serious debate.

First and foremost unfortunately, we exhausted time for today's proceedings by starting the meeting by 11 a.m.

Mr Speaker: Order! That is not true. You may continue.

Mr Nnatubeugo: Also Mr Speaker, the Motion which is being asked for debate today is the second item on the Calender. It is a very important Motion requiring hon. Members to air their views correctly; an issue we consider, affecting the public interest. I do not think that one hour is even enough for debate on this Motion. I am asking that we might as well, in view of the fact that we have barely one hour to go, whether we would request the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) on whose name this Motion stands, to consider whether he himself is introducing

this Motion, if forty-five minutes is anything for him to elucidate, punctuate, expand and expatiate all he knows about the Motion. What other time is then left for hon. Members to contribute effectively on the Motion? If this Motion had stood on my name, I would prefer that it be debated on some other day.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): On a point of Order! The Order is on irrelevancy. The point at issue is whether we are going to take the Motion first and not how the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) will present his Motion. So that is the point of Order I am making.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! A debate has arisen on which comes first, the consideration of the Standing Orders or the Notice of the Motion of Premier Breweries Limited and that is what we are debating. The hon. Member for Udi North (*Mr Nnatubeugo*) may round off.

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker Sir, I am saying that since the Motion is standing in the name of the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*), we may probably, because I am looking at the time we have, may be the whole House may decide after due consultation between the Speaker and the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*), try to see whether we can really readjust because I am actually thinking in terms of the time. And that is the main point which I am making.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): I crave the indulgence of the Speaker to refer the House to Standing Order 18 (2).

Mr Speaker: Order! Could you pass on the microphone to him for the recorders?

Mr Eze: Order No. 18 (2) . . .

Orders of the day not reached before the end of a sitting or appointed for a day on which the House does not sit shall be set down for the next sitting of the House. Notices of motions not so reached shall be removed from the Order Paper . . .

I am craving the indulgence of the Speaker . . .

Several Hon. Members: Finish up! Go to the end!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Yes. Finish up Standing Order 18 (2).

unless the Member who has given notice of motion shall direct the Clerk to put it down for a future day and the provisions of paragraph (3) of Standing Order 20 (Manner of giving Notices) shall not apply to notices of motions which have been postponed.

So if we don't reach this Motion today, we can put it off till the next sitting day unless the Mover wants it to be dropped, he has to advise the Clerk. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! This is a simple matter which hon. Members can easily decide but since you all want to talk, we take you one by one.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute. Really, the debate and consideration of the Standing Orders was specifically fixed for the 8th and 9th, therefore the time allotted for that has passed. We are only debating it because we need to complete it. The Motion in today's Paper was specifically fixed for today, therefore, it has to take precedence over any other thing and also wherever we stop we can adjourn and start from there next time as we have been doing with this Standing Orders. Therefore it is my humble appeal and suggestion that we start with the Motion today. (*Interruptions*).

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): It beats my imagination that the Standing Orders all of us have been crying for, that it requires immediate attention to enable us to tackle the present Budget is now being treated as something unimportant. I think this Motion has nothing to be rushed. If we consider it next Monday or any day next week I do not think it will be too late and telling us to use the short time now left to debate on this, is not sufficient because it may entail that a number of things will come up generated by this Motion and that is more reason why it should be exhaustive. It is going to take us, if you don't mind, a day or two. So I am fully in support of the people who had earlier suggested that we continue with the Standing Orders, finish with that, and then by next week we take on the Motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): On a point of Order. Order No. 31. That the question be now put.

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

Question, That the consideration of the Standing Orders of the Anambra State House of Assembly appearing as the first item on the Order of the Day be shifted until the Motion on Premier Breweries, Limited Onitsha has been deliberated upon, put and the House divided by Roll Call.

Ayes: 37 Noes: 37 Not voting: 11
Ayes

Agballah, O. P.
Akunne, J. O.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Ekuma, N.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Ezenwa, A. N.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Igboka, G. N.
Igwe, M. O.
Ikeh, B. O.
Mbaso, L. A.
Morah, O. C.
Njoku, L.
Nnaeto, A. O.
Nwafor, G. C.
Nwambeke, P.
Nwobodo, O. N.
Nwofor, F. C.
Nworah, D. C.
Obah, M. C.
Obiekwe, I.
Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
Ogbuka, C. J.
Ojemeni, S. O.
Ojukwu, M. C. O.
Okeke, A. O. C. S.
Okeke, B. C. N.
Okeke, C. E.
Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
Okoye, F. N.
Okoye, G. R.
Okoye, V. C.
Onyido, S. I.
Ozoekwem, S. N.
Umeaba, W.
Umunna, F. O.
Unigwe, F. B.

Noes: 37

Agbo, E. A.
 Agbo, J. N.
 Alor, S. N.
 Anyabuike, D. C.
 Azegba, F.
 Chukwuka, C. E.
 Didigu, S. O.
 Ede, S. N. O.
 Egbe, P. J. N.
 Emehelu, C. O.
 Eneje, J.
 Enendu, G. A.
 Eze, P. I.
 Idoko, B. C.
 Ikeoha, D. C.
 Itanyi, E. A.
 Macduhu, E. J.
 Mbah, B. O.
 Ngene, D. O.
 Nnaji, C. O.
 Nnarubeugo, C. A. L.
 Obuna, A. A.
 Odo, A.
 Ogbaga, A. U.
 Ogbodo, S. J.
 Okafor, S. N.
 Okpaga, A. E.
 Omeje, E. P. I.
 Onyefuru, G. N. C.
 Opata, C. U.
 Osita, R. A.
 Ottah, A. O.
 Udeani, H. C.
 Udeorah, S. J.
 Ugoh, O. M.
 Ugwuokpe, W.
 Unabia, P. U.

Not Voting: 11

Chukwuka, G. B. C.
 Egwuonwu, M. N.
 Emodi, F. C.
 Ezeugwu, M. I.
 Iburu, N. A.
 Igwe, F. E.
 Nwafor, A. N.
 Obeta, S.
 Odife, S. E.
 Okonkwo, L.
 Omeke, A.

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker Sir.

Several hon. Members: Order what? Order what?

Chief Whip: When a Member...

Several hon. Members: Order what?

Mr Speaker: Please hear him.

(Interruptions). Order!

An hon. Member: Result please.

Mr Speaker: Is the hon. Member for...

(Interruptions). Order! Is the hon. Member for Njikoka South (Mr Ugoh) voting? Are you for *Aye* or *No*?

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): I am for *No*. (Applause).

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order Sir!

Several hon. Members: No point of Order!

Mr Ngene: On a point of Order! Order No. 37 (2). Let me read it.

A question is fully put when Mr Speaker or the Chairman has collected the voices both of the Ayes and of the Noes.

My humble submission, Mr Speaker Sir, is that it is wrong for people who have voted... the question has been collected, the Ayes and the Noes.

An hon. Member: On a point of Order!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nkanu West (Mr Ngene) raised a point of Order and I say it is out of Order. Your point of Order is not upheld because I am still collecting the voices. Honourable Gentlemen, for once, the Ayes 37, the Noes 37. (Prolonged Applause).

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Let it be re-scheduled,

Mr Speaker: Our Standing Orders are very clear. The Speaker may have to vote for once! (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Able Speaker! Able Speaker! Don't vote.

Another hon. Member: No lobbying! No lobbying! (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order! Order!! I do not know if the hon. Members shouting honourable Speaker are the 'ayes' or the 'noes' so that I will know who is lobbying.

Several hon. Members: The noes; the ayes. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Honourable Gentlemen, I think our time is far spent, and we cannot afford to continue to drift. Let's get down to the business of the day as set out on the Calendar. (*Applause*).

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS OF ANAMBRA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(8th April, 1980)

(*In Committee of the Whole House*)

The Chairman: Order No. 65—Supplementary Appropriation Bills—Any amendment?

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Order No. 65 (c) I would want the words *provided that Mr Speaker or the Chairman of the Committee shall have the right to extend the time if necessary* to be added immediately after the word *Supply*.

The Chairman: The Question is being raised, if some control should be effected on the Chairman when he has used up all the time allocated to him by the Business Committee. He should not be vested with the power to extend his time. So that time may be extended, but then it has to be in consultation or approval, or somebody has to reserve the right, either the Speaker or the same committee as hon. Members may choose.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): I have some sort of amendment; *provided that Mr Speaker reserves the right to extend the time if necessary*, otherwise if you send that back to the Chairman who faulted, I mean, he can keep extending it *ad infinitum*.

The Chairman: That is to say we add to the last line of Order No. 65 (c) after the word *Supply* the words *provided that Mr Speaker reserves the right to extend the time if necessary*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Order No. 65—Supplementary Appropriation Bills—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 66!

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu Nwobodo: (Nkanu Central): My amendment is on Order 66 (1) third line; that after the word *member* be inserted the words *representing all political parties in the House*.

Amendment put and negatived.

Order Nos. 66-69—ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 70—Official Reports of Speeches. Any amendment?

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): On Order No. 70 (4), it is provided that *Mr Speaker shall rule thereon*, that is *any speech*. So, line 2 seeks to make any material change in the record; it says, *Mr Speaker shall rule thereon and shall direct publication of the speech in accordance with his ruling which shall be communicated to the Members concerned and shall be final*.

I do not know how a Member really gets this cleared with Mr Speaker because it is not clear I am suggesting that we add in line 2, *any speech or seeks to make any material change in writing to Mr Speaker and Mr Speaker shall rule thereon*. I do not know if you follow me?

The Chairman: Yes, it appears your problem lies in understanding it.

Mr Alor: If a Member disputes the correctness of the record of any speech or wishes to make any material change in the record, Mr Speaker shall rule thereon and shall direct publication of the speech in accordance with the ruling which shall be communicated to the Member concerned and shall be final. Now, what I am asking is this—how does the person concerned make this appeal to Mr Speaker so that he will give his ruling?

The Chairman: Order! If a Member disputes the correctness of the record, the verbatim report is normally distributed and if there has to be some corrections, such a member does so and it is Mr Speaker who allows, . . .

Mr Alor: What I am asking really is how does a Member make this appeal to Mr Speaker? I know you have a copy.

The Chairman: Honourable Members usually get two copies of the report. They go through it, make corrections and then send it back.

Mr Alor: That is without appealing to Mr Speaker, this is what I want to know.

The Chairman: Once you have done that, the Speaker is supposed to have seen the corrections.

Order No. 70, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Mr B. O. Mbañ (Nkanu South): I wanted to make an observation; assuming I made a speech and I felt it wasn't what I said, if Mr Speaker rules against what I said, I do not know how far that will go. That is, I made a speech and it was not correctly reported and Mr Speaker is to rule on it.

The Chairman: Order! This provision is made to check anybody who says "aye" today and is recorded there. The tape recorder has it and the Speaker has it. Then tomorrow the person comes to say he said "No". There has to be an arbiter for we don't have to go to court on that and the Speaker is the arbiter in this case.

Order No. 71—(Employment of Members in professional capacity).

The Chairman: Is the hon. Member for

Anambra North East (*Mr Chinwuba*) not amending this? (*Laughter*), or the Engineer? what about the teachers? (*Laughter*).

Order No. 71 ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

The Chairman: Order No. 72—(Strangers)—Any amendment?

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): I want us to guard against strangers infiltrating into the Chambers for many reasons security reasons and otherwise. I want it to be *strangers shall not be admitted to debates in the Chamber unless under such rules as Mr Speaker may make from time to time for the purposes* and so on. So it should be, *the strangers shall not and not shall be . . .*

The Chairman: I think the hon. Member is getting confused about the statement. Let me just clarify. *Strangers shall be admitted to debate in the chamber under such rules as Mr Speaker may make from time to time for the purpose, provided that if any Member takes notice that the strangers be present Mr Speaker or on committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question "that strangers do withdraw, without permitting any debate or amendment. Notwithstanding any thing in these orders Mr Speaker or the Chairman, may whenever he thinks fit order the withdrawal of the strangers from any part of the House.* (Applause).

Mr Unigwe: Mr Chairman, I don't know, maybe after this must have been adopted, it will be strictly observed, otherwise I would rather say *strangers shall not . . .*

The Chairman: Okay, we take note of the observation.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): The stranger, *provided that if any Member takes notice that strangers be present, Mr Speaker or in committee the Chairman . . .*, how does the Members alert the Speaker' or the Chairman that there is a stranger?

The Chairman: That is a good question. If you at any time see somebody or you see people at any time that you think the House should be in secret session, you only have to shout Mr Speaker, "I spy a stranger" — that is the Parliamentary language.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Mr Chairman, I share the fears of the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*). This language, in affirmative, is weak. It should be more forceful in the negative. *Strangers shall be admitted—either you say strangers shall not be admitted and then recouch the sentence, or strangers shall be admitted only on such . . .* That word *only* makes it negative and sufficiently forceful.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman, I think you are trying to see the same thing the other way round. This is only making it negative, but the fact is that the essence is still there and it looks more polite—*strangers shall be admitted to the Debates in the Chamber under such rules as Mr Speaker may make from time to time*. I think it is just the same thing instead of trying to recast it.

Question put and agreed to.

Order No. 72 ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 73, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 74 — (INTERPRETATION).

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Order No. 74(2), line 5; I think the word should be *affirmative* not *firnative*.

The Chairman: *The word is affirmative.* The "a" is missing. Just put it there please.

Question put and agreed to.

Order No. 74, ordered to stand part of the Standing Orders.

Order No. 75 — (DEFINITION)

Mr Alor: I think something is missing here again. That is in *A session means the sitting of the House commencing, . . . only "en" is there.* I think that means "when".

The Chairman: I will want us to look at it closely because if it means the sitting of the House commencing when the House first meets, after a recess or dissolution and terminating when the House is recessed or is

dissolved, it does not bring out what we will want to be a session.

I think our session should make for the 181 days that is in the Constitution. That is the minimum number of days in a session. So, when the House has sat for 181 days and gone on recess; but is everybody directing his attention to the matter on the Floor?

Several hon. Members: Yes.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): I agree that a session should mean 181 days of business, but I do not buy the idea that we shall add 181 days after we have gone on recess, otherwise we have gone on recess though we have not done 181 days. So, I am saying that the important thing there is to say that 181 days should make our session, but it should not be put in here, that is how many times we should go on recess within the session. I do not know whether my point is clear?

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr G. N. Igboka (Njikoka Central West): I want to know how we combine that with the new calendar we are adopting that is, from January to December. Is it a Calander year or financial year?

The Chairman: In terms of legislature, that is the life of the legislature it does not. Yes, it is more in line with the old one and I do not see us adjusting to the new one unless we amend the Constitution.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Chairman, while we are working on this, I crave your indulgence to call the House back to Order No. 56 (3). This is something very important. The number of Members on the committee is eleven. One-third of eleven is three and two-thirds *Laughter*.

The Chairman: Ask the hon. Member for Udi North (*Mr Nnatubeugo*) . . . (*Laughter*).

Mr Didigu: Mr Chairman, I was wondering whether it would not be necessary for us to define the section properly. That is to define adjournment and recess.

The Chairman: I thought there are definitions on these.

[THE CHAIRMAN]

Honourable Members should consider this amendment for the definition of session—*A session means a period beginning in October and ending when the House goes into recess after sitting for 181 days or stands dissolved.*

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): I disagree.

The Chairman: I shall read that again so that hon. Members would get the words correctly: *A session means a period beginning in October and ending when the House goes into recess after sitting for 181 days or stands dissolved.*

Mr Mbah: My objection is *beginning in October*, or any moment the House is dissolved and election is conducted; it could be in January and the session starts when the new body is elected and sworn in. This could be in March. That is a session starts whenever new members are sworn in.

The Chairman: I repeat that. I would like to join the hon. Member who has the Floor in suggesting that "a session means a period beginning from the first day of sitting of the House, after election and ending when the House goes into recess after 181 days or stands dissolved".

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Mr Chairman, I would like to say that no matter whether we start counting from January or October, we reckon that it affects twelve calendar months so that we put off this idea of 181 days because it is very likely that from October last year to the end of September this year, we must have sat for more than 181 days. So that what we are trying to do now in a sense is that perhaps from August, we might start talking of another session if we have sat for 181 days. But it is likely we are going to sit for 190 something days or 200 and therefore, 181 days may not be very relevant.

An hon. Member: It is a constitutional provision!

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): Mr Chairman Sir, I think it could just save the situation by adding *not less than 181 days*, so, that covers us.

The Chairman: Yes, I think the view expressed by the hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) should be considered by

all. You know, it contains most of the things said by hon. Members. That is, that a session should mean "a period of twelve calendar months beginning from the day of first sitting of the House after election". We leave it at that.

An hon. Member: Election is once in four years.

The Chairman: O! yes, election is once in four years, that is very good. A session means a legislative period of twelve calendar months. Is that acceptable to all?

Question, That a session means a Legislative period of twelve calendar months, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Any more amendments?

Question, That Order No. 75 stand part of the Standing Orders, put and agreed to.

Question, That the revised Standing Orders be reported to the House as new Standing Orders for adoption by the honourable House, put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the chair.)

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): I rise to beg that the Standing Orders as amended, be adopted and used in this House as from today.

I beg to move.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second.

Question, That the revised Standing Orders 1980, be adopted as the Standing Orders for the Anambra State House of Assembly, put and agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I wish to inform the House that the 1980 Budget is now formally referred to committees. All the standing committees should handle, as from today, based on the revised Standing Orders, the necessary legislative processes of the Budget as it concerns their ministries.

The Finance Committee, in addition to handling the Budget of the Ministry of Finance, should also handle the Budget of the Legislature. That committee will also

handle the Budget of the Governor's Office excepting that it will liaise with the Information and Publicity Committee on the Budget as it concerns the Ministry of Information.

A programme will be out by Monday. It is planned that the various committees will first work on their ministerial Budgets and then assemble their reports and recommendations before the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will then compile all ministerial Budgets and bring them together and be able to report to the House for Second Reading. After the second reading, the House will resolve into a Committee of the Whole House which we call a Committee of Supply, for deliberation after which the Bill will be read the Third time.

I will want to see all the Committee Chairmen for more detailed briefings on how this year's Budget will be handled in the committees.

Any Member of a committee may move over to another committee if he so wishes, to testify or to defend an item particularly as it affects his constituency.

It will be necessary for all the committee meetings to be properly scheduled. That is why the Committee Chairmen must work closely with the Business Committee so that proper arrangements could be made for public hearings, proper Press coverage; proper accommodation and proper provision of the secretarial staff and other material that the committee will use.

So, I wish every committee the best of luck in the 1980 Budget.

Thank you hon. Members.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Speaker Sir, may I know whether during the period the various committees will be handling the Budget, there will be formal opening here every morning before we all go to the committee rooms.

Mr Speaker: Yes. From Monday, the House will always convene at 10 a.m. as usual and say the Prayer. If there are any announcement or announcements to be made, if there are any matters of urgent importance, we may take them up and treat them quickly before going

to the committees. This does not mean that the committees may not start sitting by 6 a.m. if they so wish. The committees can sit from 6 a.m. to 9.55 a.m. and then adjourn to come and attend the day's sitting before they go back.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): Shall we re-assemble here for adjournment after the committee sitting?

Mr Speaker: No. The House will adjourn formally after the day's sitting. By this I mean that we assemble here at 10 a.m. for the day's deliberation, then adjourn.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Does it then mean that we will not be preparing for debate on the hon. Member for Awka Central's (*Mr Nwofor's*) Motion?

Mr Speaker: Why not?

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji River): Mr Speaker Sir, please when do you intend to call the meeting of all Committee Chairmen for the briefing?

Mr Speaker: As we rise today.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni: (Anambra West): Mr Speaker, I want to know whether we have explanation from the Executive clarifying the position of the pieces of paper submitted along with the Draft Estimates?

Mr Speaker: That will be on Monday.

Mr B. O. Mbah (Nkanu South): What I was asking is the question of convening every morning only to be back to committee. You know the remuneration of committee meetings is quite different from that of the sitting. I am asking that if we really haven't any serious thing any day, we would simply start with the committee. (*Interruptions*).

Mr D. C. Anyabuike (Awgu East): Mr Speaker Sir, my question is, since we have been divided into various committees, I don't know what arrangements you have made as to pay our sitting allowance? (*Laughter*).

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I stand to move that this House do now adjourn till Monday, 14th April, 1980 at 10 a.m. I beg as well that the Question be now put.

eral hon. Members: Somebody has to tell you. (Laughter).

B. O. Ike (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaker: The hon. Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip, the Human Resources Committee should please meet in Room 104. I should have announced this in the morning. I have been informed by the hon. Minority Leader of the National Party of Nigeria group that they are happy to contribute in this year's budget.

I would like to have three volunteers to represent the Legislature at Gboko tomorrow. I will travel with two Commissioners or so to the Executive. Volunteers please? Hon. Unigwe, hon. G. N. C. Onyefuru and Mr. Odo Ogbu Nwobodo should represent

the legislature at the burial of Senator Joseph S. Tarka. Please you will see me as soon as the House rises.

This honourable House is informed that the hon. Deputy Speaker (*Mr Nnaji*) will be getting married tomorrow. All hon. Members are cordially invited and when we rise we shall stand for one or two minutes to talk about that wedding.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Speaker Sir, please I forgot about the wedding so I withdraw.

Mr Speaker: Right. Can we have any other volunteer? Yes the hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti North (*Mr Macduhu*) thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn till Monday, 14th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.15 p.m.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 14th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I have received a copy of a letter sent to the Clerk by the Secretary to the Government on the complaints of Members about the attachments to the original Appropriation Estimates to the original Estimates circulated to Members. I will advise that hon. Members deposit their copies of the Estimates with the Clerk so that the papers could be properly organized for amendments. Please deposit your copies of the Estimates and the loose sheets brought in later on, with the Clerk so that they can be properly organized for you.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND
ORDER OF THE DAY

Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I filed in an amendment to this Motion with the Clerk of the House, and it doesn't appear on the Order Paper. I don't know if I could proceed with the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Yes, I am aware of your amendment. Could you present it to the honourable House?

Mr Nwofor: I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, that this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha, and report within four weeks.

Mr Speaker: I hope hon. Members have got down the stated amendments. Could you repeat the amendments please?

Mr Nwofor: That this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha, and report within four weeks.

Mr Speaker: All right. I hope that is clear to hon. Members. Yes, let us listen to the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*).

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Speaker Sir, I don't know if I may most humbly beg leave of the Mover of this Motion that we substitute the word *Parliamentary* with *Assembly* because Parliament in its proper connotation will refer normally to the Federal House which has two sections. I don't think it would be proper in the present system if we replace the word *Parliament* with *Assembly*. If we refer to the Constitution, there is no place one can see any thing like *Parliamentary* in it. In it, one will only see *State House of Assembly*, *the National Assembly*. Therefore it should be a committee made up of assembly of Members of this honourable House to investigate . . ."

Mr Speaker: What the hon. Member is saying is that this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint . . .

Mr Okekeizuagwu: *A committee made up of Members of this honourable House*, so that we get it clear.

Mr Speaker: All right.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Yes, to investigate. That is committee made up of Members of this honourable House to investigate . . .

Mr Speaker: That is all right. What the hon. Member for Aguata West is suggesting, is that the House requests Mr Speaker to appoint "a Committee of Legislators" to investigate the alleged . . . Is that accepted by the Mover of the Motion?

Mr Nwofor: Yes.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. If nobody is dissenting, that becomes the substantive Motion, that is, That this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Committee of Legislators to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha, and report within four weeks. Now, the hon. Member who has the Floor can continue.

Mr Nwofor: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the amended Motion. I will first of all, Mr Speaker, establish that this Legislature is charged with the responsibility for maintaining good Government in Anambra State. I will

[MR NWOFOR]
also establish that this Legislature is competent to appoint such a committee. I will in addition, establish, Sir, that this Motion is not a confrontation with any arm of government.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, the Motion as amended, has not been given assent to by hon. Members. There should be Question put.

Mr Speaker: That's all right. I did say "if there is nobody objecting," I did make that statement.

Several hon. Members: The Chief Whip should say he is sorry.

Chief Whip: I am sorry, Sir. (*Laughter*).

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also have another amendment to that Motion, and I would want it to be considered alongside the amendment just suggested by the Mover of the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Amendment to the Motion? Are you begging leave of the Mover or a general amendment?

Mr Ngene: I am begging leave of this House to add to the amendment which has just been made.

Mr Speaker: I am afraid I am not aware of such an amendment, and I have not been so informed.

Mr Ngene: Sir, what I am inclined to is that the amendment he made is not acceptable. I am opposed to it except, of course, my own slight amendment is also added.

Mr Speaker: I will rule on that. The hon. Mover of the Motion did make an amendment to which someone begged leave to change certain words which the Mover accepted, and I asked if there was anyone objecting to the amendment he made; there being no dissenting voice, I allowed him to carry on. In the middle of his Motion, you do not stop us to go back and start afresh, whether you object or not.

Mr Ngene: Sorry Sir. I thought you were going to put the Question like the hon. Chief Whip...

(*Interruption*).

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Point of Order.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! This question is decided. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) should please round off.

Mr Nwofor: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will also talk on the recent development since the Motion was filed. I will equally touch on the alarm raised by the *Daily Star*, the large scale interference by the Ministry of Industries and Technology, and will also inform this House that the management has been rendered ineffective. I will show that there was a downward trend in the operations of the company. I will show allegations of large-scale corruption and sharp practices. I will also establish that the whole exercise is antipathy.

Mr Speaker, for the avoidance of doubt, I will beg your leave to read in full many sections of the Constitution, and I quote; I start by establishing, Sir, that this honourable House under Section 4 subsections 6 and 7 is charged as follows:

- (6) *The Legislative powers of a State of the Federation shall be vested in the House of Assembly of the State.*
- (7) *The House of Assembly of a State shall have power to make the laws for the peace, order and good government of the State or any part thereof with respect to the following matters, that is to say—*
 - (a) *any matter not included in the Exclusive Legislative List set out in Part I of the Second Schedule to this Constitution;*
 - (b) *any matter included in the Concurrent Legislative List set out in the first column of Part II of the Second Schedule to this Constitution to the extent prescribed in the second column opposite thereto; and*
 - (c) *any other matter with respect to which it is empowered to make laws in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.*

So, Sir, this Assembly is charged with the sacred duty of ensuring that there is peace and good Government in Anambra State. In this respect, therefore, let me remind the hon. Members that we took oath of office that we shall uphold the Constitution no matter whose ox is gored.

Mr Ngene: Point of Order. Order No. 17 of the Standing Orders, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order No. 17 of the revised Standing Orders ?

Mr Ngene: Yes, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order No. 17—Business of the House.

Mr Ngene: By the old Standing Order, Sir.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member may please be informed that the House has adopted a revised Standing Orders which we are using, and he can always quote from that.

Mr Ngene: Order No. 19, of the Standing Orders, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order No. 19—Notice of Motion.

Mr Ngene: I am afraid that the Mover of the Motion is already debating on it when it has not been supported.

Mr Speaker: Order No. 19—Notice of Motions. May we know the relevant section please ?

Mr Ngene: Sorry, Sir; if I will be given time . . .

(Laughter).

I want to be given time, Sir, because I was in the Committee that reviewed this Standing Orders, and I remember we were very emphatic about it, that when somebody moves a Motion, the Motion has to be seconded before it is debated. The hon. Gentleman is already debating the Motion, and I think this is improper.

(Interruption).

Several hon. Members: He is moving the Motion !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! The point of Order is not upheld. Somebody has been called upon to move a Motion, and I think he has the Floor.

Mr Nwofor: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I think his intention is to get this Motion lapsed, but I will not agree.

(Laughter).

Mr Speaker: Watch your language.

Mr Nwofor: All right. Mr Speaker, Sir, my second point is to inform this House that under section 120 of the Constitution, we have powers to investigate any Ministry or any Parastatal in this State, and I quote in detail, Sir,

Section 120—Power to Conduct investigations:

(1) *Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly shall have power by resolution published in its journal or in the Official Gazette of the Government of the State to direct or cause to be directed an inquiry or investigation—*

- (a) *any matter or thing with respect to which it has power to make laws; and*
- (b) *the conduct of affairs of any person authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be charged, with the duty of or responsibility for—*
 - (i) *executing or administering laws enacted by that House of Assembly, and*
 - (ii) *disbursing or administering monies appropriated or to be appropriated by such House.*

(2) *The powers conferred on a House of Assembly under the provisions of this section are exercisable only for the purpose of enabling the House —*

- (a) *to make laws with respect to any matter within its legislative competence and to correct any defects in existing laws; and*
- (b) *to expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it.*

So, it is clear to everybody that this Motion is not unconstitutional, and also, Mr Speaker Sir, I will direct the House to section 121 — (Powers as to matters of Evidence) of the Constitution which reads thus:

(1) *For the purposes of any investigation under section 120 of this Constitution and subject to the provisions thereof, a House of Assembly or a Committee appointed in accordance with section 97 of this Constitution shall have power —*

- (a) *to procure all such evidence, written or oral, direct or circumstantial, as it may think necessary or desirable, and*

[MR NWOFOR]

to examine all persons as witnesses whose evidence may be material or relevant to the subject-matter;

- (b) to require such evidence to be given on oath;
- (c) to summon any person in Nigeria to give evidence at any place or to produce any document or other thing in his possession or under his control, and to examine him as a witness and require him to produce any document or other thing in his possession or under his control, subject to all just exceptions; and
- (d) to issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects to do so and does not excuse such failure, refusal or neglect to the satisfaction of the House of Assembly or the committee, and to order him to pay all costs which may have been occasioned in compelling his attendance or by reason of his failure, refusal or neglect to obey the summons, and also to impose such fine as may be prescribed for any such failure, refusal or neglect; and any fine so imposed shall be recoverable in the same manner as a fine imposed by a court of law.

(2) A summons or warrant issued under this section may be served or executed by any member of the Nigeria Police Force or by any person authorized in that behalf by the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the State.

So Mr Speaker, there is abundant evidence that this House is competent to inquire into any government company or into any ministry or into any person whom we think is not performing his duties according to law.

And finally, Mr Speaker, I draw the attention of the House to section 97 (1) of the Constitution which reads thus:—

A House of Assembly may appoint a committee of its members for any special or general purpose as in its opinion would be better regulated and managed by means of such a committee, and may by resolution, regulation or otherwise as it thinks fit, delegate any functions exercisable by it to any such committee.

I am trying to argue Sir, that under this section 97 of the Constitution, we can delegate the

function of this House to the committee which we want now to appoint, if it is the consent of this honourable House. So, Mr Speaker, I have dwelt at length on the constitutional provisions, and I want to leave nobody in doubt that we are competent to so order.

Thirdly, this Motion is not a confrontation with any arm of government. On 12th October, 1979, I drew the attention of His Excellency to the mismanagement in the Nigersteel Company Limited, Emene and up till the time of this Motion, that letter has not been replied to. On 26th March, 1980, I wrote a letter to the Speaker complaining to him and asking him to use his good offices to ensure that my letter to His Excellency was replied to and I crave your indulgence Sir, to quote in full my letter to Mr Speaker; it is a short letter.

Several hon. Members: Point of Order, point of Order.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I think that is a complete deviation from the Motion on the Floor.

Mr Nwofor: I want to assure the Members. . .

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nwofor: All right, no problem thank you Sir. This Motion is not a confrontation, because we are carrying out a constitutional duty given to us by the Constitution and it is a way of checking the excesses of the Executive; it is not a confrontation at all. It is not malicious and it is not intended to bring anybody down; it is only intended to . . .

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is with regard to . . .

Several hon. Members: Order number what?

Mr Ugoh: Order No. 26 of the new Standing Orders. Mr Speaker Sir, with your leave, let me state my point of Order. You see, what I think is that the hon. Member who has the Floor should bring his Motion without delay and without unnecessary issues. If he makes a *prima facie* case, this House will know and may be we shall support.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Point of Order is upheld. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) should please go straight to the point and avoid irrelevancies.

Mr Nwofor: All right, I wish to show Sir, that there is large-scale interference by the Ministry of Industry and Technology contrary to the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. On 25th February, 1980, the Commissioner for Industries, contrary to the provisions of the law . . .

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Address the Speaker please.

Mr Ugoh: Mr Speaker Sir, I am . . .

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ugoh: Sorry, sorry. Point of Order please.

Mr Speaker: I suppose hon. Members understand the procedure ?

Mr Ugoh: Yes, I am sorry for speaking without . . .

Mr Speaker: No dialogue. May we know if the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) has completed his speech ?

Mr Nwofor: No.

Mr Speaker: He should please go on.

Mr Nwofor: I said that the Ministry of Industries interferes unduly with the management of the Premier Breweries by appointing staff of various cadre to the Company, contrary to the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. Now that we are running short of time and the article is here, the interference is unwarranted and against the interest of the company.

Too, the government appointed an interim board when the board was dissolved, but they were left to do no work and as far as we are concerned, they are not functioning; but the board is supposed to look after the management of the company in accordance with section 72 of the Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Company.

Recently Sir, we received a petition from the staff of the Company alleging that, I quote just a paragraph of the letter:

When the present Government took off last October 1979, it was also full of praises for the company for her marvellous performance

since inception. This was highlighted by publications made in various Nigerian dailies.

Early in December, 1979, contrary to the praises lavished on the Company her Board of Directors was dissolved, distributors and attachees phased out, and the Government took over the sales and distribution of Premier Beer through their agents who do not possess licences, stores and other facilities relevant for the effective distribution of Beer. Most importantly was the fact that these emergency distributors had no previous stock of good quality empties. As a result those of them who managed to bring in empties returned disused, tattered and weak competitors' cartons to the Brewery. The result was that in less than three months beer sales dropped, empties were no longer coming in as they should. For sometime now our finished products warehouse has been filled up to the brim because these inexperienced emergency distributors can no longer sell the beer effectively and our cash flow has gone down. If this trend continues unchecked very soon we shall start running at a loss and everybody will once more witness another Government owned company operating in the red.

About two million new bottles have been purchased to replace the ones lost to these inexperienced distributors. We have watched all these in silence with hope that sooner or later reason will prevail. We honestly think that this is not the best way to run a profit oriented company.

This is a petition we received and on 26th March, 1980 the *Daily Star* carried a front page alarm reporting that the Premier Breweries Limited is in danger of collapse and by your permission Sir, I will quote just a paragraph.

Mr Speaker: Order ! I do not allow that.

Mr Nwofor: Allegations of large-scale corruption, however I do not intend, I have the list of all the distributors, but I do not intend to shout names this time; I will leave it to the committee to find out. But suffice it to say that since the inception of this government, the distribution of Premier Brewery has been anything but commendable.

There is large-scale corruption, large-scale sharp practices and with consent of this House, I will leave it to the committee to find out.

[MR NWOFOR]

I wish also Sir, to say that we as hon. Members, have a duty to ensure that this State is governed in accordance with law. Every Public Servant or every Commissioner in this State has a brother. Shall we because of it continue in sin? I ask this question God forbid. This question was asked in Romans, Chapter 6 verse 1. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nwofor: So, what I am saying is that we have a duty here to protect the good people of Anambra State who have left their trust unconditionally to this honourable House to protect their interest. And finally Sir, let me conclude by quoting Saint Paul's epistle to the Galatians, Chapter 6, verses 3 to 9 only.

Several hon. Member: Go on! Go on!

Mr Nwofor: *For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the work —*

An hon. Member: On a point of Order! Bible is not acceptable in this honourable House. I think the only bible we have here is our Constitution. That is the only Bible we have here. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I wish the hon. Member has raised a point of Order on another issue. To say that the Bible is not acceptable in this House is not admissible because I think all of us swore by the Bible.

Several hon. Members: Oh yes! Oh yes!

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order! Order No. 26 (8) of the Standing Orders States:—

The conduct of the President, Vice-President, Governor, Deputy Governor, Ministers and State Commissioner, Members of the Legislative Houses, judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion —

Several hon. Members: This is a substantive Motion. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Hear him out please.

Mr Ngene: Mr Speaker Sir, I believe that the Motion we are debating is not a substantive Motion on the integrity of any individual. It is an investigation which the Mover of this Motion is requiring. Therefore, I think it is wrong for the Mover of this Motion to impugn on the integrity of commissioners and public officers. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) should please be more specific about what is impugning the integrity of any particular officer from the statement made by the hon. Member who has the Floor.

Mr Ngene: I was not talking of the Bible being quoted, but I remember that when the hon. Member who has the Floor was talking . . . I am sorry I couldn't catch him immediately. But under our Standing Orders, I could catch him even after he has made his speech. I say that when he was talking of "wide-spread corruption and Commissioners having brothers and sisters" and so on, he was impugning on the integrity of the Commissioners and . . .

Mr Speaker: Which Commissioners?

Mr Ngene: Government functionaries.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The issue here is the use of the words "wide-spread corruption" and bringing in the names of Commissioners. I think the point of Order is upheld on that point only.

Mr Nwofor: Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, verse 6:

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption:—

Mr C. O. Emekelu (Enugu North): On a point of Order! My point of Order is on irrelevancy.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order is upheld.

Mr Nwofor: Finally Mr Speaker . . .

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) may keep his Bible till some day.

Mr Nwofor: All right (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker Sir, finally, I think I have made a *prima facie* case for this honourable House to find more facts about the goings-on in the Premier Brewery.

And with these few remarks, I beg to move Sir.

Mr O. M. Ugeh (Njikoka South): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to second this Motion now on the Floor and I will submit that this Motion is without rancour or bitterness. In seconding this Motion Sir, I will state most emphatically but humbly that it would be a pretence on my side to say that I have not heard wide-spread rumours about the goings-on in the Premier Brewery at Onitsha. To do that will be sheer pretence and hypocrisy on my side.

I was just back from my constituency and from elsewhere throughout the state; I heard so much. And the most significant point Sir, which moves me to second this Motion is the petition written by some well-meaning people. I think that that petition alone without more, is weighty enough to motivate this House into setting up an inquiry to know what are the goings-on. With this and the following reasons, I am seconding the Motion.

In the first place, if we do not set up this committee Sir, we shall allow rumour mongers to gain more grounds to the discredit of this N.P.P.-ruled state. If we do not peg their rumours now, the rumours will spread farther and wide and the consequences will be upon our heads as the standard bearers of this state. That's one.

Secondly, Sir, I am seconding this Motion because it is only by setting up this committee that our Government, and when I say our Government, I mean the three arms of Government of which we are one, that our Government will inspire confidence into the people who elected us into power. Failure to set up this committee, Mr Speaker, might seem as if we have something to hide. But if we set up a committee of investigation, we shall all be exonerated. Maybe when the result is out, I tell you that those who peddle rumours about may hide their faces in shame or it may be the contrary, but I tell you that even some of us here Sir, are being suspected.

It is only by setting up an inquiry that we, let me say myself, will get myself exonerated. If I am asked to go and testify in the inquiry, assuming that my integrity is questioned, I will go there to lay myself bare. I have nothing to hide. And so, anybody who is lobbying, if there is any lobbying or who is agitating against this Motion, may, in one way or the other, be implicating himself by showing directly or otherwise that he has something to hide. Any clear conscience fears no accusation.

An hon. Member: Correct !

Mr Ugeh: Clear conscience fears no accusation, Mr Speaker.

Several hon. Members: Fire ! Fire !

Mr Ugeh: Therefore, anybody who knows that he is free, as free as I am, should submit himself to the inquiry. (*Applause*). So, Mr Speaker Sir, there is no doubt that there is a kind of crisis of confidence within this area of the country. It is the binding duty of this House to arrest the situation to show the people that we are the custodians, the keepers of their consciences.

It is those of us here who get the feed backs and it is those of us here who will arrest any situation, and in circumstances like this, there is no other way to arrest a situation when misplacement of confidence is gaining ground, except by laying everything bare. By this we shall be ensuring our seats in future, for those who want to contest again. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker Sir, I am happy that the last speaker, the sponsor of this Motion has confined himself judiciously to a certain limit. Had he gone further to make certain allegations or to call certain names, I would have solicited your support to call him to order, because he would be testifying to a tribunal that is yet to be set up.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir. Standing Order No. 22. I would want to read it out and then expatiate on it if you allow me—

Debate on any Motion or amendment shall not be entertained unless the Motion or amendment shall have been seconded but in committee a seconder shall not be required.

Now my point of Order there, Sir (first of all we are not in a committee) and we have slightly erred by allowing the Mover of this

[MR NGENE]

Motion to spark off the debate before it was seconded. The point there is that I think that . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The point the hon. Member for Nkanu West is making does not arise. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) moved a Motion and the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoh*) is seconding the Motion.

Mr Ngene: But I wanted to expatiate on that if you would allow me.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Standing Order 22 which the hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) has quoted has not been contravened at all.

An hon. Member: You have done your job!

Mr Ugoh: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am still saying that in this State of ours, Sir, and, indeed, in the whole of this Federation, this House of Assembly, as indeed operating a Presidential System, is on trial. It is said in Igbo, with your permission, Sir, "*N'odimma k'alu mee, K'umuaka wee malu ife an'akpo alu*"; unless there is an abomination children will not know what is called abomination, and, Sir, unless we sit up to our task and responsibility here, the people will not know what we ought to do, and even the Executive will not know what we are capable of doing, and what they can do. They won't know the limits of their powers. They won't know that our co-operation in everything will be necessary.

So, by doing this, Mr Speaker Sir, I think we shall even be engendering a closer co-operation between the Legislature and the Executive on one side, and the understanding between the two arms and the people on the other. So, Mr Speaker Sir, I think that this Motion is rather straight forward, in that if we set up this Inquiry as being solicited for by the sponsor of this Motion, many other things will be set aright, because it will keep other holders of public offices on the alert, either by not doing what they are expected not to do, or they will be careful not to be pushed too far in whatever they are doing. So it will help them to operate within required limits; for those of them that may err in future. It is like a whip behind every one of us because this inquiry can involve anyone of us, so that anybody who behaves both

inside and outside, surreptitiously and otherwise will know that this is a watch-dog of the people, this House of Assembly. If we negate justice here, and perhaps in the law courts, Mr Speaker the hope of the common man is gone.

So, in conclusion, Sir, I am completely in agreement with the sponsor of this Motion, and will even thank him that he is courageous enough to bring it timeously, because unless we act and act swiftly, we shall be presiding over the disintegration of certain bodies, may I not mention what!

So, Mr Speaker, I beg to second. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr C. O. Emehelu (Enugu North): I thank you very much, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I do not think we shall be doing ourselves any good by engaging in unnecessary verbosity. For that reason, Mr Speaker, I think we go straight on to the brass tacks, the tacks as they are.

The Mover of this Motion tends to be apologetic in the approach, and when you start being apologetic about a statement you make, or an action you take, it then means that there are other considerations other than pursuit of justice and fair play behind your actions and behind your utterances. The reason I say this, Mr Speaker Sir, is that the objective of government is very clear. Government is established for the good of the people. In this connection, Mr Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the basic principle upon which this Constitution was even ever conceived and written and with your permission, I will quote part of the objective:

AND TO PROVIDE for a constitution for the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our people.

We do not just rush into establishing inquiries just for purposes of ordering inquiries. If there are specific cases of misconduct, or misdemeanour or, in fact, injustice, I think any Member here is in a position to all the offering public officer to question, instead of casting innuendos, and in fact, to say the least casting aspersions, unsubstantiated under the guise of pursuing justice.

I do not think, as the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoi*) rightly pointed out, that anybody with a clear conscience fears any accusation. And as matter of fact, immediately you mention the word inquiry on any establishment it will definitely have a psychological effect in the minds of the public and the masses. Even when you accuse somebody of stealing and he goes before the court of law and is set free, you still find people winking each time they see him. This is a fact. So that if we have a specific case, as a matter of fact as I said, it is incumbent upon us, we are in short, that is what is in the Constitution, to uphold the Constitution, to bring to book the particular offending officer.

Then of course, we are not arguing about the competence of this House to institute this inquiry but then I want us also to have a look or to bear in mind the possible psychological effects it will have. Even if we go into the very wording of the Motion you will see exactly the psychology I am talking about. Already the Mover of this Motion had pre-judged the issue, that this House request the Speaker to appoint a Committee of Legislators to investigate the alleged mismanagement. This is exactly what I was saying. Once you allege something it is true (*Laughter*) with most people it is already true. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Emehelu: So Mr Speaker, I wouldn't want us to really defeat the basic spirit in which we are trying to run the State in operating this Constitution. It will serve no useful purpose if we create the impression that we are witch-hunting some people. For instance, the Mover of the Motion did mention in the course of his debate that the Ministry of Industries and Technology went beyond its powers in making appointments and he tried to buttress his arguments by reference to the memorandum establishing the company. All right! Wherein does that Memorandum derive its power? That is a salient question to ask. And in any Company's Decree (*Interruptions*). And in any case, Mr Speaker, all I am saying, I don't want to be misunderstood, is that the question of competence or interpretation of that memorandum belongs elsewhere not here.

In terms of the rights of the Ministry *vis-a-vis* the Board of the Company, the interpretation of their rights belongs elsewhere not here.

I want Members to bear that one in mind when we allege that the Ministries of this or that went beyond their powers. After all nobody is challenging the competence of the Ministry in dissolving the former Board and setting up a Caretaker Committee.

An hon. Member: *Madu one na ele Mmanya?*

Mr Emehelu: Now then what I think we should do, after all there are allegations here and there; there are allegations against the Turners Asbestos Factory at Emene, there are allegations in the Nigercem, allegations against so and so; what we should do really, if we get carried away by these allegations, is to sit down, if we are setting up a Legislative Committee to investigate these things we should map out a time-table in pursuing a specific objective not as if we are witch-hunting some people.

As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, even though the competence of this House is not to be challenged I want to sound a note of warning that this kind of action may be completely misunderstood by the general public and may lead to unnecessary rancour where there is none. And it is our incumbent duty to work judiciously and seriously towards enhancing the unity of all the people of this country and in particular of this State. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute my views to this topic. Personally, I vehemently oppose this Motion to establish any fault finding or any kind of committee into a particular industry because it is very easy to criticize. This House has just started not quite six months ago, not up to a year and we have more important jobs to do.

We have many contracts suspended, many road projects suspended, no action is being taken, no operations like 9th Mile Corner to Omor Road. This contract is being handled by the SATT Company and they are not doing anything there now, and it was one of our priorities during the electioneering campaigns.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! On a point of Order ? Order 26 (2), Yes !

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to raise a point of Order and my point of Order rests on Order 26 (2):

A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

We are talking about a particular inquiry, we are not talking about roads and the gentleman who is speaking is talking about roads. I do not see the relationship between roads and Premier Brewery.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! The point of Order is upheld. The hon. Member for Uzo-Uwani North West (Mr Okafor) may continue his debate.

Mr Okafor: Thank you Mr Speaker. What I am trying to say is that this Motion is very selective and it is pointing a finger on the Premier Brewery and this House is the father of all the Ministries in this State and must behave fatherly to all the ministries and to all government establishments. If we want to investigate into the workings of the Ministry of Industries in the State we have to set up a Parliamentary Committee to investigate into all the ministries or establishments, for the last speaker was almost mentioning this. If we introduce a matter that is controversial, that will attract disharmony in the government I think that Motion should be dropped. From the first day, that Friday when we wanted to debate on where to place this Motion I could understand how controversial the Motion was going to be, even among Members here ourselves. It is not a friendly Motion. It appears to have an ill intention.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): On a point of Order. Order No. 26 (6)—*No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.* The hon. Member who has the Floor is talking about something that had previously transpired here and had been disposed of. He is raising another argument on it. That is against the Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order not upheld.

Mr Okafor: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am trying to round off and my summary is that this Motion is to be dropped because it appears that it is one sided. Thank you.

Several hon. Members took the Floor.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Everybody, please sit down. . . . (Interruptions) . . . Order, Order ! I say everybody should sit down.

Mr C. J. Ogbuika (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I think it is important to have a proper view of the personality of the Premier Brewery which we are talking about. I crave the indulgence of the House to give one or two ideas of the Premier Brewery Limited to buttress the argument that it is important for the survival of this industry, that a Committee of Inquiry be instituted.

The Brewery, as you all know, is located at the bridgehead, Onitsha as a joint venture between the Anambra State Government, the NIDB and the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry and it started off with a capital of N15.25 million, Anambra State Government taking 80 per cent shares, NIDB 10 per cent. shares and the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry 10 per cent. shares. Work was started there and it was intended that 300 workers will initially be engaged and production will be around 20 thousand cartons per month. Well, construction started in May, 1976 and by December 1977, sample productions were undertaken and the products of the industry successfully introduced in the Nigerian beer market and the industry was commissioned in March, 1978.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): On a point of Order, Sir, Order No. 26 (2). It appears to me that the hon. Member who is speaking is indulging in irrelevancies. The point on the Floor now is whether to appoint a committee to investigate the happenings in the Premier Breweries. If he has any suggestion that he thinks will be useful to the committee, let him give it.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order ! The hon. Member for Idemili East (Mr Ogbuika) said he wanted to advance an argument why he thinks that committee should be set up and went ahead to advance that argument. You should let him land. The point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Ogbuika: I was saying that in February, 1980, that is this year, the production stood at 18,000 cartons per day. The following summary of production returns will give us an

idea of what the production of the industry has been. In December, 1977—27,068 cartons, January 1978—129,271 cartons, February 1978—169,172 cartons, March—203,565, April—293,085, May—336,139, June—379,660, July—360,753 cartons, August—375,873 cartons...

Mr E. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order! Order! 19 (b). A Motion for the House or of any debate. Mr Speaker Sir, unless the Standing Orders otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any Motion or amendment which it is proposed to move with the exception of the following. Please go down to section (b), a Motion for the adjournment of the House or of an debate. Mr Speaker Sir, I am moving for the adjournment of this House till 10 o'clock tomorrow in view of the fact that we are sweating, we are most uncomfortable in this House...

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I will not allow that Motion at this particular point in time because we have just few minutes to round this debate.

Several hon. Members: No! No! We shall all speak. We have to speak on this Motion.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Yes the hon. Member for Idemili East (Mr Ogbuaka) to round off.

Mr Ogbuaka: I will abandon the statistics...

Mr Ngene: I will like to have a division on this.

Mr Speaker: On the substantive Motion? (Interruptions). Order, Order! Yes the hon. Member for Nkanu West (Mr Ngene) will like to have a division on this, that is on the substantive Motion. You mean on the Speakers ruling? That has to come on a substantive Motion.

Mr Ogbuaka: No I was saying that in view of the attention being drawn to time limit, I will abandon the statistics I was giving the House. But I want to point out that whereas the Premier Breweries Limited has made substantial progress all along for instance, in 1973 exceeded a pre-tax profit of N6 million, paying N1.3 million as company tax and retaining N5.2

million as a net profit and expecting a similar profit this year, if the present downward trend in the fortunes of the company which started in December, 1979 is checked, I am saying that if the present downward trend is checked, it is hoped that the profit made over last year will gain the net this year. And it was upon the consequent performance of the company that the company is now engaged in expansion by its own internal means, this internal funding of the expansion that is billed to cost the company N12 million and is aimed at increasing the production of the company from 350,000 cartons per month to 750,000 cartons in addition to 200,000 cartons for malt.

Action by the State Government

On December 4, the Governor announced the dissolution of the Board of Management of Premier Brewery Limited and cancellation of all distributors and attachées of its products. He then announced the appointment of an interim board headed by Dr R. C. Udekwe. On the 25th of February, the Commissioner announced the appointment of a new Marketing Manager and filled a vacant post of Personnel Manager. It is more than four months...

An hon. Member: It is quite more than four months.

Several hon. Members: Is that your annoyance?

Mr Ogbuaka: No it is not my annoyance... (Interruptions). More than four months have now elapsed since the dissolution of the Board and up to the present moment, neither the Board has been reconstituted nor the distribution channels of the products of the industry restored. It is the delay in reappointing the distributors and the reconstitution of the Board as well as the recent action of the Commissioner that has given rise to a thick spate of rumours all over the place on the intentions of our government about the Premier Breweries Limited. There is evident need to clear the air, Mr Speaker.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I am hurrying in view of our time, one of the headaches of Government-owned Corporations is interference by the government of the day, with the day to day running of the industries. These companies do not complain only of lack of money, they complain that they are not allowed to get along, doing the work for which they are

[MR OGBUKA]

constituted to do. You know, as a public company, the Premier Breweries Limited is registered as a company under the Company Law and everything about its functioning, the day to day management, how it will be done, is provided for in the Articles and Memorandum of Association. If the Memorandum and Articles of Association is sidetracked, it means that we are acting outside the law and it is the work of the government to insist that actions are lawful and not otherwise. I am therefore, saying that if a committee of inquiry is appointed and we are able by it to clear the air and we are capable of restoring legality in the Management of Premier Breweries, then the game is worth the candle.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Mr Speaker Sir, I have an application to make under Order 19 of the Standing Orders—Notice of Motions: My application is based on Order No. 19 (b): *a Motion for the adjournment of the House or of any debate*. I am most humbly appealing to Mr Speaker, taking into consideration the condition under which we are working at present—everyone of us is sweating profusely including you, Mr Speaker, and I am seeking with the leave of this honourable House that we adjourn the debate on this Motion till tomorrow. That is my Motion.

Some hon. Members: Supported ! Supported !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! (*Interruptions*). Order ! Order ! Do sit down please. This Motion has been moved before, and I gave my ruling on that. I don't see why it should come up again.

Several hon. Members: The first Motion was on adjournment !

Mr Okekeizuagwu: The hon. Member moved a Motion for adjournment of the House but I moved for the adjournment of the debate. They are two different things.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! A Motion for the adjournment of the House or of any...?

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Debate. I am moving for the adjournment of the debate. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Order ! Order ! It is already five minutes to one o'clock by my time and we just have five more minutes to go for the morning session. If it is the intention of the House to adjourn debate, then I have to put the question.

Several hon. Members: Yes ! No ! Yes ! No !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! (*Continued Interruptions*) Order ! Order ! Order ! The first Motion was that the House adjourns today and I ruled on that. The second one is talking about the adjournment of—is it the House or debate ?

Several hon. Members: Debate ! Debate !

Mr Okekeizuagwu: My application is for the adjournment of the debate till tomorrow, and Order No. 19 (b)...

Mr Speaker: What stops us from meeting at three o'clock ? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Mr Speaker Sir, sorry, if the condition of this chambers will improve we wouldn't mind but we have no guarantee. I am sure every hon Member is now sweating profusely including Mr Speaker.

Mr Ngene (Nkanu West): The implication of adjourning the debate but not the House, is that we will take up the next item on the Calendar.

An hon. Member: No my dear !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! All right, let us decide on this.

Question, that the House adjourns the debate on Premier Breweries Limited, until tomorrow 15th April, 1980 put and agreed to.

Debate accordingly deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Tuesday, 15th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second and in doing so, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members who are sending copies of the Estimates to the

Clerk of the House should please put their names on the booklets.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Tuesday, 15th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 15th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDER
OF THE DAY

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON PREMEIR
BREWRIES LIMITED, ONITSHA

(14th April, 1980)

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion by the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*). In doing so Sir, I shall make my contribution very brief. By the argument in the debate of yesterday, it was clearly spelt out that this House is competent to set up a Legislative investigation into any Ministry or any Government concern. So that part of it is no longer in doubt. What I think we have to concern ourselves with today is to establish the propriety of investigating the activities in the Premier Breweries.

Mr Speaker Sir, in doing this, I shall endeavour to base my contribution on the face value of the content of a letter that was written and duly signed by the staff of the Brewery. This letter contains another letter from the Ministry of Industries dated 25th. From the said letter Sir, it is evident that it is necessary to probe into the allegations as raised by the staff, either to prove them right or prove them wrong. Like the lawyers say, it is not only that justice is done but that people must feel that justice has been done. We owe it as an obligation to the electorate to probe any allegation, at least to prove them wrong and defend the government. In the said letter Sir, the one that was written by the Ministry of Industry it will be found, in paragraph 2 of that letter that a particular individual has been asked to draw fifteen per cent. of the difference between his present salary and the initial salary.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! The letter you are referring to is your property.

Mr Ojukwu: Thank you Sir. I have that as my property but I am saying that from the

letter and from other sources it has been proved that there is allegation of mismanagement and we cannot take the allegation lying down. Ours is parliamentary democracy and something is fundamental to parliamentary democracy—collective responsibility. This collective responsibility makes it incumbent on this honourable House not to take lying down any allegation from any section of the public because it is on the mandate of the public that we are here. This is why, Sir, I consider it very necessary that this august House must set up immediately a Legislative investigation into the allegations, at least to prove the allegations false. Anybody who argues on the contrary, anybody who thinks that we can stay action, is either kidding with fire or playing with the sword.

I think we have an obligation and that obligation is to prove ourselves competent and worthy of being representatives of our people, worthy of being in this honourable House because there is an attachment and the attachment there is "honourable." The conscience of the public cannot be kept in obscurity all the time, it cannot be caged at all. It is not right, for instance, to pour vinegar into somebody's mouth and maybe with sword or gun you stand around him and tell him that that is sweet, that it is honey. If he looks around and he finds that his life is at stake, he will accept that it is honey in order to escape. But the truth remains that he will always remember you as a man of infamy. It doesn't matter what, because what he had down his throat was vinegar, bitter something, but because of power tyranny you compelled him to accept that that thing was sugar or honey. It may die down for some time but it will resurrect some time. When he regains his liberty he will tell the truth. So Sir, . . .

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): On a point of Order ! Standing Order No. 26. Mr Speaker, I think the hon. Member should confine himself to the debate.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order not upheld. The hon. Member is within the limits of the debate.

Mr Ojukwu: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I said initially that I will try to advance the argument that it will do us more good than harm to accept to establish an investigation into the goings-on in the Brewery. Mr

[MR OJUKWU]
Speaker Sir, I would like—yesterday most speakers cited the Constitution to prop the argument of the competence of this House to handle the issue, I shall, because I know every government or every party operates on two main documents, the constitution of the country and their manifestoes; as the movers and supporters have dealt extensively on the question of Constitution yesterday, I shall make reference to the manifesto of the N.P.P. to show that our integrity is at stake and that if we want to redeem our integrity we must fulfil our promises to the people, and our manifesto to the letter.

I would like to refer this House to the N.P.P. manifesto, of their aims and objectives. Page 1, item (e) and I crave your indulgence to read out...

Mr Speaker: Order! I think from now on hon. Members will keep their party manifestoes to themselves. They may advance argument from their manifestoes but it is not the property of the House. It will not be tendered.

Several hon. Members: Able Speaker.

Mr Ojukwu: In any case the essence of what I had intended to refer you to is that justice should be the watch word of the N.P.P. Government. This justice is not something that should be claimed that has been done.

When anybody or any group of people feel that they have not been treated fairly, it is incumbent on this honourable House to investigate the issue. A part does not make a whole. Even if ten, twenty, thirty people are aggrieved, you cannot dismiss them by just telling them to be silent. The ten may rise to twenty, twenty to forty, forty to eighty and they keep on multiplying until the whole lot will be lost.

So, with this, Mr Speaker, I urge this august House to set up immediately a committee to investigate. This will be fact finding committee to redeem the image of this party if we shall have any ticket for 1983 and I have my eye on 1983. (*Laughter*).

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): On a point of Order Sir! My point of Order is that the hon. Member who has the Floor appears to be canvassing for the 1983 election which is not in the general interest of the Legislators. (*Laughter*). We are here to satisfy the elec-

torate. We are here to satisfy the people of Anambra State. We do not owe one party ticket. It is not the duty of the hon. Member who has the Floor to tell us what will happen in 1983.

An hon. Member: Are you rejecting your Party?

Mr Speaker: The point of Order has no basis, (*Laughter*) and is not upheld. The hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should please round off.

Mr Ojukwu: I am rounding off. Thank you Mr Speaker. What I am saying is every party should try to establish credibility and because of that, we want the ruling Party in this State to establish credibility. We have gone with a blank sheet, now every party will have an antecedent and this is very very essential. It is for that that we want to prove to the outside world that we would not condone any mistake.

With this Mr Speaker, I support fully the Motion. Thank you Sir.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Floor. In doing so Sir, I like to differ on the presentation. In my candid opinion, this Motion requires no argument if it was presented in a cool, calm and mature atmosphere. Because everyone of us in this honourable House has ears. We have our ears to hear things, to hear rumour, to hear speculations and we have heard enough. Whoever in this House pretends not to have heard is merely pretending. We are here as mature leaders. We are being looked upon as leaders of the State. We shall behave and talk like leaders. We shall not come here to...

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Could the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) advance his argument please.

Chief Chukwuka: Thank you very much. Then I would say that I am supporting the Motion.

Sometime ago, a circular letter from the management staff was handed to hon. Members of this House and perhaps, to hon. Members of other National Assemblies, all complaining about some mismanagement in the Premier Breweries. It is our duty as leaders of the people to set up a panel to look into these allegations. The sort of panel we envisage or

[CHIEF CHUKWUKA]
anticipate to set up, shall not be a punitive one; it shall rather be a curative one. The Premier Breweries as everybody knows, needs some sort of surgical operation and we shall certainly apply it correctly and swiftly too, in order to heal and save the image of both the media, the Legislature, the Executive and the Party.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to tell hon. Members that any situation which this House is trying to create to find some sort of division in this House would not be in the best interest of the Members of the Assembly, the people we represent and the various parties we represent. This is not the sort of Motion that requires any division. It is something that should be tackled politely on the Floor of this House.

Let me request hon. Members to cast a second glance on the wordings of the Motion "That this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Committee of Legislators to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha and report within four weeks." When knowing exactly the position and the competence of Mr Speaker, one does not feel to oppose this sort of Motion. It is not giving powers to any particular committee to go and do whatever it likes. It is a request to Mr Speaker and this honourable House to set up a Committee of Legislators. If you, as I know, knowing fully the position of Mr Speaker and realizing his ability to perform this message; if you, realizing the task ahead and seeing that this action is an action that will be taken in the interest of every body concerned, you should not have been able to argue this Motion. It will be a unanimous message to Mr Speaker and then, he being a mature leader of this Assembly, knows what the people want. He will appoint and direct terms of reference that will reflect respect for every body.

So, I am saying that any attempt by anybody in this House to force a sort of division to reflect people from this area, people from that area, will be doing some disservice to this House. (*Interruptions*).

I am coming please! So, I am speaking with a red cap on my head. (*Laughter*).

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order Sir, Order No. 26 of the Standing Orders. I presume that this is not a House of Chiefs and so, any red cap Chief who is here should find his position in the next Chamber. Let the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) not intimidate this honourable House with his red cap Sir. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) merely called attention to the fact that he has a red cap on his head. He has not said that he is a chief or he is in the House of Chiefs. (*Laughter*). The point of Order is not upheld.

Chief Chukwuka: Thank you Mr Speaker for your protection. By saying the red cap, I think people might have the understanding that people in this House of Assembly realize we are elderly people. (*Interruptions*).

Thank you very much, I am continuing. I think hon. Members should be careful not to jeopardize contributions by hon. Members by raising unnecessary and frivolous points of order. (*Laughter*).

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): On a point of Order. Order. No. 26 (5). I think the hon. Member is using offensive words and he should be called to order.

Mr Speaker: Order No. 26 (5)—*It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.* Point of Order upheld. The hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Chukwuka*) may conclude.

Chief Chukwuka: Mr Speaker Sir, in conclusion I would like to say that what really matters in this House and what really matters to the public whom we are here representing is the contribution we give to this issue of Premier Breweries which is regarded as very serious and a national issue. National in the sense of the compact size of this State called Anambra State. If this Motion receives the support and adoption it requires, I think the ills of the Premier Breweries is as half solved. What the people really want to hear from us is our contribution on what we feel about what is happening outside. If you don't know, I like to tell you; there is clear campaign against the beer. But the position we are taking in this House, this position we are

adopting in this House today is certainly going to cure the beer, the brewery. It is certainly going to.

This is a situation where both the Executive and the Legislative arms found themselves in a system which is quite strange to them, a system which super-imposes ambiguity, ambiguity of powers and functions. So, this is the right approach that we are giving to it. Mr Speaker Sir, I don't want to belabour the issue, but I am appealing to the hon. Members please, to be calm, show maturity, show fine approach, show sense of responsibility; the duty you have to the public by approving and adopting this Motion, and we draw a careful terms of reference which will be quite curative and not punitive. Thank you.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this crucial Motion before this honourable House. First of all let me state categorically and clearly before this House that nobody here, I think, opposes the idea of investigating allegation into any Body or Corporation in this State. Let me also say that the allegation in the Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha, seems to be endemic. When the Board was dissolved, we were told that there was a sort of mismanagement. When the caretaker committee took over, we were told that there continued to be mismanagement. If this august House realizes the importance of this Premier Breweries to the economy of this State, and if the House realizes that the Constitution empowers us to investigate any form of mismanagement allegation, then I think it is proper that the House should set up investigating committee based on the Constitution to clear this allegation.

First of all, this thing is paramount to the people of the State. In the first place it will restore the confidence of the workers who have been complaining about it. In the second place it will exonerate those who may be free. In the third place, if anybody is guilty it will expose him to the public. Therefore, according to the Constitution and the power conferred on this House, any form of allegation brought to this House, the House has the right to investigate it. Two, this is a crucial step that this House is taking and I regard this particular Motion as

the beginning of a new era in this House. It is the beginning of a new era in the sense that since the House started this is the first time that there has been an attempt to investigate any form of corruption or anybody within the State, and if you go out or within this House you hear of corruptions here and there.

If we start correcting here, to kill the ill somewhere, I think it will help us to proceed further and perhaps within the three years we shall be here, we shall have gone a long way to remove some mismanagement or corrupt practices in the State. But Mr Speaker, let me sound this to this august House that we would like this investigation to be thorough and we shall do it in such a way that there will be no suspicion that A or B is being victimized; that this particular House is here to serve the interest of the State; and that this august House upholds the Constitution of this country. On this ground, Sir, I have the following points to raise.

The Motion as it stands, and I crave your indulgence to read it, does not stand the test of the Constitution; That this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Committee of Legislators to investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha and report within four weeks.

With your permission, Sir, I will use sections 97, 120 and 121 of the Constitution to prove that the Motion as it stands is not properly phrased, and therefore it is contrary to the Constitution of Nigeria. Therefore, if we are going to investigate it we must do it according to the Constitution of the country. With your permission, Sir, I read Section 97 (1) and (2) page 34. Section 97 reads thus—

- (1) *A House of Assembly may appoint a committee of its members for any special or general purpose as in its opinion would be better regulated and managed by means of such a committee, and may by resolution, regulation or otherwise as it thinks fit delegate any functions exercisable by it to any such committee.*
- (2) *The number of members of a committee appointed under this section, their term of office and quorum shall be fixed by the House of Assembly.*

[MR OPATA]

Mr Speaker Sir, I have gone through this Constitution, there is no part of it where it says that this House has the right to abandon this particular responsibility imposed on it by the Constitution and delegate it to any single person.

So, I am speaking about the term to request the Speaker who is one of us, to appoint a committee; these are the key words. The Committee of the Legislators is contrary to this particular section of the Constitution. Therefore, if we are going to appoint a committee, it will be a committee based on this particular aspect of the Constitution of the whole House; of the Members of this House to investigate the allegation of mismanagement in the Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha.

So, Mr Speaker, I am saying that according to this Constitution, the Motion cannot stand the test.

Secondly, some people may take refuge in section 120, but they should remember the word "Committee," and they should remember this aspect. Section 120 (1) is where some of them may argue and it reads thus:

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution a House of Assembly shall have power by resolution published in its journal or in the Official Gazette of the Government of the State to direct or cause to be directed an inquiry or investigation.

It did not Sir, spell out a committee nor tell the person to do this or that. Once the committee is there already, it is clearly spelt out how it should be done in this Constitution.

Section 121 (1) also reads thus:

For the purposes of any investigation under section 120 of this Constitution and subject to the provisions thereof, a House of Assembly or a committee appointed in accordance with section 97 of this Constitution shall have power.

And this committee to be appointed in accordance with section 97 of this Constitution, shall have power and he enumerated them. In subsection 2 of Section 121 of the Constitution, the power of the Speaker is clearly spelt out when there is an investigation of this aspect, and it reads thus:

121 (2) *A summons or warrant issued under this section may be served or executed by any member of the Nigeria Police Force or by any person authorized in that behalf by the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the State.*

This is where the duty of the Speaker lies. It does not lie in the other one. It is only when warrant is issued out to this and that, that the Speaker does this.

I am, therefore, saying that if we are going to investigate this, this Motion will go and a fresh Motion will come up, and that Motion will be a Motion calling upon this House to set up a committee to investigate the Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha. A term of reference will be given to that particular committee, starting from the time we heard of the first allegation, that is, the time the Governor took over and the new Government came into power till this material time when the new Management Committee had been in operation, because the allegation was there and it continued. Therefore, if we set up a Committee of the House, we can investigate this.

Finally, Sir, if we set up a precedence by setting aside the Nigerian Constitution in order to give one man the power to exercise the authority of this particular House in this respect, we shall be setting up a very dangerous precedence, because each and everyone of us took an oath to protect the Constitution of Nigeria. It is Premier Breweries today; tomorrow it may be X or Y or Z and so on and so forth.

Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity, and I am saying that this Motion will die and a fresh Motion calling upon the House to set up a committee, should come up.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! An issue has been raised by the last speaker. I will listen to one or two people, and I shall be able to direct the House.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to this all-important Motion. Before I proceed on my argument on this Motion, I want to make some points on a sort of legal issue raised by the last contributor.

I would like to refer hon. Members to the section he is heavily relying upon which is section 97 (1) of the constitution which says:

A House of Assembly may appoint a committee of its members for any special or general purpose as in its opinion would be better regulated and managed by means of such a committee, and may by resolution, regulation or otherwise as it thinks fit delegate any functions exercisable by it to any such committee.

The last contributor, as it were, seems to argue that it is wrong and unconstitutional for this Motion which reads:

That this honourable House requests Mr Speaker to appoint . . .

It appears he forgets the fundamental issue that the Speaker, as it were, signifies this House. The House of Assembly, is the legislative arm of this Government. We have three arms of Government in the presidential system. We have the Executive arm, the Legislative arm and the Judiciary.

In the Legislative arm, the Speaker is the chief Executive and in the Executive arm, the Governor is the chief Executive, and in the Judicial arm, the Chief Judge.

It is my most humble submission that the wording of this Motion does not in anyway infringe the provisions of our constitution, and in the alternative, I would request this most august House that it will be doing very big disservice to the people of this state and Nigeria as a whole, to try by either acts of commission or omission to kill this all important Motion on the alter of technicality. Those of us who were present yesterday saw serious moves made to stifle this Motion, but it was frustrated in the interest of fair play, equity and justice.

It is my most humble appeal that in arguing this Motion, we will look more at the substance and not at the shadow. This Motion by my own humble judgment, is well intentioned. It will be sheer pretence . . .

(Interruption).

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): On a point of Order. The Speaker wanted the constitutional issue raised by the hon. Member for

Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) to be disposed of. He said he wanted one or two comments.

Mr Speaker: That is why I say I want one or two comments, then I have to direct the House on the issue. If the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) had rounded off on that, he may take his seat so that others would contribute.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Sorry Mr Speaker, I did not appreciate that you restricted comments on this Constitutional issue.

So Sir, it is my most humble submission that the wording of the Motion does not in any way infringe the provisions of the Constitution and even if it does, it can easily be cured by an amendment.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North-East): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to say with respect that the Motion as worded is right in law and the proper section is section 120 of the Constitution and not section 97, nor the other section. The emphasis Sir, is on the word "direct" or "cause to be directed an inquiry or investigation," and what this section seeks to say is to urge the House to direct or cause to be directed and the House may, by resolution, direct the Speaker or cause to be directed the Speaker to institute an inquiry or investigation. So my submission is that section 120 covers the Motion properly.

Mr Speaker: Section 120 what?, sub-section what?

Mr Chinwuba: Section 120 as a whole because one has to read and interpret the section as a whole, because this section gives what it says in effect that if this House has power to make laws regulating the affairs of Premier Brewery, or if it has power to appropriate some money to run the company, then it can at the same time direct an inquiry. This can be done by the House authorizing the Speaker to set up a parliamentary investigation. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member should please round off.

Mr Chinwuba: So Sir, my contribution is that once this House resolves and directs the Speaker, that covers the law.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I have taken note of all the argument on the constitutionality of the House directing Mr Speaker to cause investigation or appoint a committee to investigate as being unconstitutional in the views of the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) relying heavily on section 97 and 121. I have also taken note of the argument brought up by the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) and the hon. Member for Anambra North-East (*Mr Chinwuba*). I am constrained to rule that section 120 (1) satisfies this particular Motion and the House has powers to direct through the Speaker or through any other body. (*Interruptions*). Order! Order! Yes the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) you were stopped because it was a legal matter, now you can make your contributions.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, as I was saying when I was abruptly cut short, it is my most humble view that this Motion affects the whole of Anambra State and in particular every hon. Member in this House. We are here as the keepers of the consciences of the people of Anambra State and we must prove beyond reasonable doubt that we are worthy of that trust. It is my most humble view that it will be sheer hypocrisy and pretence on our own side.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, Order No. 26(2) of the Standing Orders. I believe that the hon. Member who has the Floor now is talking on irrelevancies and preambles. We are not prepared for that. A lot of Members wish to talk on this Motion Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Much as I would want hon. Members to go straight to the point, I think they have the freedom to clear the grounds for their arguments. I would not uphold the point of Order.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Thank you Mr Speaker, I think as I was saying, it will be sheer hypocrisy and pretence for us to say that we do not hear of serious allegations being made about Premier Breweries, with particular reference to the distributorship of the product for the past five months. We are here to serve the people of this State, not our individual whims and caprices. I think it will only be fair and just if we make the people realise that even if

we are party to the malpractices, we are supposed to be above board, We have to have it investigated to know the degree of our involvement if any.

The intendment of this Motion is not to victimize any person or group of persons, and it is my most humble view that as it was rightly said yesterday, a clear conscience fears no accusation. If one knows one has no skeleton in one's cupboard, there is no reason one should be afraid of investigation. The Motion speaks of investigation, and it is fit and proper for allegations to be investigated. It is when the allegation is investigated and found false that the person against whom the allegation is being made, will be cleared. And if he is found involved, he would give explanations where necessary in order to get himself cleared.

So, it is my most humble view that we are not doing any person or group of persons any good by trying to suppress this Motion. According to the wording of the Motion, it is purely an investigative exercise, just a sort of fact finding to know if the malpractices are there. Therefore, it is my opinion that without wasting further time, this Motion should be passed in order to restore the confidence of the people of Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole on this august House of Assembly. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr S. E. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion on the Floor now. The aim is that I am urging the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it in his own interest.

(*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Obeta: Mr Speaker Sir, the aim of the Motion is to pull an individual down. I am saying it.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): On a point of Order. My point of Order is based on Order No. 26 (6) of the Standing Orders, because of the last statement of the hon. Member who has the Floor, that the intention of this Motion is to pull an individual down. I do not think this House is interested in any individual. An individual is too narrow for this House to debate on. We debate on matters that affect the whole State, not an individual. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I have taken note of all the argument on the constitutionality of the House directing Mr Speaker to cause investigation or appoint a committee to investigate as being unconstitutional in the views of the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) relying heavily on section 97 and 121. I have also taken note of the argument brought up by the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) and the hon. Member for Anambra North-East (*Mr Chinwuba*). I am constrained to rule that section 120 (1) satisfies this particular Motion and the House has powers to direct through the Speaker or through any other body. (*Interruptions*). Order! Order! Yes the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okekeizuagwu*) you were stopped because it was a legal matter, now you can make your contributions.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, as I was saying when I was abruptly cut short, it is my most humble view that this Motion affects the whole of Anambra State and in particular every hon. Member in this House. We are here as the keepers of the consciences of the people of Anambra State and we must prove beyond reasonable doubt that we are worthy of that trust. It is my most humble view that it will be sheer hypocrisy and pretence on our own side.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, Order No. 26(2) of the Standing Orders. I believe that the hon. Member who has the Floor now is talking on irrelevancies and preambles. We are not prepared for that. A lot of Members wish to talk on this Motion Sir.

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we are party to the malpractices, we are supposed to be above board, We have to have it investigated to know the degree of our involvement if any.

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So, it is my most humble view that we are not doing any person or group of persons any good by trying to suppress this Motion. According to the wording of the Motion, it is purely an investigative exercise, just a sort of fact finding to know if the malpractices are there. Therefore, it is my opinion that without wasting further time, this Motion should be passed in order to restore the confidence of the people of Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole on this august House of Assembly. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr S. E. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion on the Floor now. The aim is that I am urging the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it in his own interest.

(*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Obeta: Mr Speaker Sir, the aim of the Motion is to pull an individual down. I am saying it.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): On a point of Order. My point of Order is based on Order No. 26 (6) of the Standing Orders, because of the last statement of the hon. Member who has the Floor, that the intention of this Motion is to pull an individual down. I do not think this House is interested in any individual. An individual is too narrow for this House to debate on. We debate on matters that affect the whole State, not an individual. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: I uphold the point of Order and wish to ask the hon. Member for Igbo-Eze North (*Mr Obeta*) not to impute motives.

Mr Obeta: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I will continue. It is a pity that some hon. Members here have been telling us that we are acting on the rumour they have heard from here and there and some referred to the letters of some companies; letters which I believe are political. We have not heard from the public on allegations of malpractices in the company, except the letter from the company they are now referring us to. If we are really to act on rumours, about five months ago there was a circulation of pamphlet. That was a documental rumour complaining of malpractices in Nkalagu Cement Industry, the methods of distribution, the irregularities there and nobody tabled any Motion on that.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): On a point of Order! The hon. Member is anticipating, there is a Motion coming up on Nkalagu and that shouldn't... (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Anticipation has been mentioned.

(*Laughter*).

Order! The Motion on Nkalagu is coming up and hon. Members should not anticipate. The hon. Member for Igbo-Eze North (*Mr Obeta*) may continue.

Mr Obeta: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am saying that this honourable House should not indulge itself in bringing a Motion that will actually spark off trouble in this House. If we actually observed the method and the manner this Motion was brought into this House, we will accept that it is a sort of ganging up.

Several hon. Members: On a point of Order!

Mr Speaker: Yes, let us listen to the point of Order raised by the Chief Whip.

Chief Whip: Mr Speaker Sir, Order 26 (6) of the Standing Orders says:

No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.

I think the hon. Member who has the Floor is imputing bad motives.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Honourable Members should kindly maintain the usual cordial atmosphere on debate and no attempt should be made by any hon. Member to arouse unnecessary ill-feeling. Honourable Members should please watch their words. I believe there is no ganging up in this honourable House. That point of Order is upheld, and the hon. Member for Igbo-Eze North (*Mr Obeta*) should please watch his words.

Mr Obeta: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am saying that if we are to investigate malpractices in this State, it should reflect in other corporations of this State. And the Mover of the Motion insisted only on the distribution of beer, how it is being distributed, the quota that is got and the quota that is not got. There has not been any other case like the case of employment in that industry, whether it reflects the State character and whether it is geographically spread, it is very silent over that except on beer distribution.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is my intention to oppose this Motion vehemently and it is not in the interest of this House if we continue bringing a Motion, if somebody is injured somewhere he should come to move a Motion that will please himself only in this House.

Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North-East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion. In doing so, I would like to say before this honourable House that we, as matured representatives of the people, should view whatever we say in this honourable House objectively. We should not be subjective in whatever we are doing, otherwise we are not true representatives of our respective people.

Those of us who drink beer will agree with me, this is not being sentimental, that Premier Beer is one of the best in Nigeria, if not the best up till now, I must say so. But those of us who really come nearer to the marketing of the beer, will agree with me that it is now being rejected; not because it is not good beer, but because of bad management.

One of the things that really triggered off this Motion, I could see, will link up with the non-appointment of Board of Management to

[MR UMUNNA]

stream-line whatever is going on in the brewery. Why that delay should be on, I just don't know, but it is a matter for regret. The distributors are no longer on and we know that the method of distribution now is very unorthodox. People who cannot distribute beer, people who haven't got the resources, the money, the empties, the store, find themselves suddenly as distributors of beer and they can't do any other thing but to go and sell the coupon given to them to the real distributors who have the wherewithal to do the distribution.

At the initial stage, they were buying the coupons in the hope that the distributors would shortly be appointed: but no, to their utter disappointment, for the past five months, nothing of that nature had been done. Well, they have their own weapons. When people now come with their coupons, they say: "We are not buying. If you know you are going to sell this, I will only top ten kobo", which means a total loss, with the result that the reputation of the beer started going down.

In order to resuscitate the position of that brewery, I whole-heartedly support that a Committee of this House should wade into it; wade into everything about the management, the distribution of that beer, and come back to discuss the whole thing as a family, and find a remedial solution. We are not here to destroy the edifice which we have already built. I do not think that there is any Member here, whether he be of the Nigerian Peoples Party, the National Party of Nigeria or the sole Great Nigeria Peoples Party who will accept that an industry, which from the look of things, had always been very viable, will be destroyed by us.

I will pray the hon. Members to eschew rancour, to look into this thing dispassionately, get down objectively towards that investigation which may not be given undue publicity. All we are out to do is to cure whatever ill that may exist. Another thing that will be an eye-opener to the Executive is that the separation of power in our present Constitution must be operated in the spirit of that Constitution. We of the Legislature have our own powers, they also have their own powers, and we are complementary. We are not here as antagonists. If we do things in the proper manner, the

Legislature doing its own job to the community and the Executive doing its own job to the community, there will be no friction.

I therefore pray this honourable House to set up a committee of investigation, not a punitive committee, to look into the affairs of the Premier Breweries, report and we will approach the whole thing in a dispassionate manner, and get the breweries running in a very smooth manner.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the chance to contribute to this Motion. I would like to thank the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) for raising this Motion, but he went as far as going to the Bible yesterday, (*Laughter*) to convert most of us, I have also to refer the hon. Mover of this Motion to the Bible; that Christ when He was tempted in the wilderness, the devil in trying to buttress his argument, quoted the scriptures. I am not saying here that the hon. Member for Awka Central is a devil.

(*Laughter*). Here, in the scripture, you will find in Matthew Chapter 4...

(*Laughter; Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I have already given a ruling on the presentation of the Bible. I said hon. Members should please reserve the Bible for the Sunday.

Could the hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*) please continue with his speech, but should please keep his Bible until Sunday!

Mr Onyefuru: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I have closed it. I thank the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*). He did a wonderful research, but, Mr Speaker Sir, what I have to add now is that the Motion is not all embracing. The Motion is equally ill-timed, and the constitutional aspect of the Motion has not actually been fulfilled. The hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) raised...

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker Sir...

Several hon. Members: Order what?

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Ugoh: Order No. 35. Mr Speaker Sir, the rules say that once a matter has been ruled upon in this House, within this session, no one amongst us is allowed to go back on that, except on a substantive Motion.

I beg to say that the contributor on the Floor is going back on the ruling Mr Speaker has already made, not with a substantive Motion, but parole. He should be stopped.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order is upheld. I have already given a ruling on the constitutionality of the Motion.

Mr Onyefuru: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I like to point out that this Motion coming out at this point in time is diversionary. We have something more important for the running of this government, and that is the budget. Now we have spent so many days on this Motion thus putting us back. The promises most of us made, including the hon. Mover of the Motion, require this budget for some of those projects to take off.

So, I pray this honourable House that the need to go into Premier Breweries is not a thing we should hurry. Four weeks to my mind are not enough to go through all aspects of malpractice, sharp-practice and maladministration. So, I am begging that this Motion, for the time being, be recouched for a future date. This House has in the past, had Motions that had to wait because of order of priority. So, I am asking the honourable House that we should not be detracted or distracted from the duty we have to the electorate.

I want everybody Mr Speaker, to understand that nobody is opposing investigation. Investigation is to clear the name of this House and the Government of the State, but to bring it up now, to my mind, will not hold water. So I beg the hon. Mover of the Motion to withdraw the Motion quietly.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion moved by the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*)—

That this House requests Mr Speaker to appoint a Committee of Legislators to

investigate the alleged mismanagement of Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha and report to this House within four weeks.

Mr Speaker Sir, before I go into the main Motion, I have to warn that any Member of this honourable House who opposes this well-intentioned Motion is not doing any good to any officer of the ministry concerned.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am also saying that generations yet unborn and people of this State whom we represent in this House will not forgive us if we kill this Motion because of this or that.

I am therefore supporting this Motion on the following grounds:

(1) on the Constitutional issue it has been clearly made known to this House that the procedure used in the appointment, sorry . . .

Chief Whip: On a point of Order. I refer the Speaker to Order No. 35. A decision has been given on the constitutional integrity of this Motion. There is no need for a repetition.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order upheld.

Akunne Sam Okeke: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. The other point I have to make is the public outcry about the non-appointment of the Board of Directors by the Executive since five months when the Board was dissolved. In fact, if anybody says that this Premier Brewery issue is not worrying him, it worries me in my own constituency and I have to say again that—Mr Speaker I will refer this honourable House to a statement made by a top member of the National Party of Nigeria from Nnewi Local Government Area, I don't want to mention names but that statement says that the Members of the Nigerian Peoples Party who control this House will be drowned in bottles of Premier beer. It is very serious. It is true that many of us are not fearing whether we shall come back in 1983 or not but I still say that we have to listen to the wishes of the people that we represent.

In fact, I am saying that it will do nobody any good if we do not go into this matter now and clear the air and appoint a committee to investigate the allegations of this Premier Breweries Limited, Onitsha.

AKUNNE SAM OKEKE

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say that in passing this Motion, it will be very, very clear that everybody including the Members of this House will be proud to speak in the public that they represent the people of the State adequately by clearing the air when there is a lot of rumours of mismanagement, mal-administration, corruption and so on.

Therefore Mr Speaker, I am happy that many Members who oppose this Motion have agreed that the Motion is good but they complain of timing. If they complain of the timing why not dispose of this Motion and face some other thing so that if we continue to say we go into the Appropriation or debate on the Estimate and leave this it means we are shunning our responsibility. Our responsibility is to show the public that our hands are clean and that we have nothing to hide. So anybody that is opposing this Motion will bear in mind that he has something to hide.

Mr Speaker, because the Motion is so well placed and so timely, I beg to support and to say that this Motion be carried.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West); Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, I am very much opposed to the Motion. My opposition to the Motion Sir stems from the points raised by the Mover of the Motion. Of course there is one other point which is basic to my opposition of this Motion and that is the way it came to be on the Order Paper.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Honourable Ngene, I have ruled you out on this issue twice yesterday and I must not like this to come up again unless you have other points to make.

Mr Ngene: Thank you Sir. Like I was saying when I was cut off, I am opposed to the Motion because of the issues raised by the Mover. If we can set our minds back to what happened yesterday, the Mover of the Motion started off by making reference to a paper which he alleged he wrote to the Speaker in connection with Nigersteel Company.

Chief Whip: On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is on Order No. 35. Yesterday when the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) was speaking, you gave a verdict to that effect, that he should

not read his so called papers that were with him. The hon. Gentleman . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! No dialogue, hon. Members. Address the Speaker.

Chief Whip: And today we are hearing something about that decision already taken by you. You were in the Chair. A ruling which you have already given; and somebody is bringing it up again. I think it negates Order No. 35.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) is yet to make his statement. The point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Ngene: Mr Speaker Sir, if I am allowed to speak, the point I was trying to make earlier is on what has prompted me to oppose the Motion and this is the point I want to make. I am opposed to the Motion because of the points raised by the Mover of the Motion. One of these was when he completely went into Nigersteel and I know it took the Speaker some time to get him back to Premier Breweries Limited.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! When an issue is raised in the House and Mr Speaker makes a ruling, you cannot refer to that issue again.

Mr Ngene: All right Mr Speaker. I still go back to my word to say that I am opposed to the Motion. One of the reasons why I am opposed to the Motion Sir is that the Mover, the first point he mentioned was on staff appointment. We were told in this House Mr Speaker, that one or two individuals who were the employees of Premier Breweries were re-assigned and from all indications we assume that that was what sparked off the move for the Motion.

Akunne Sam Okeke: On a point of Order. Order No. 26 (2)—

A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

The Speaker instead . . .

Mr Speaker: Order in the House! The honourable Member for Nnewi South, (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) should please make his point of Order.

Akunne Sam Okeke: My point of Order is Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. The hon. Member instead of confining himself to the Motion on the Floor went back to retrace

what happened yesterday which the Speaker has already ruled upon. That is Nigercem. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! The point of Order is not upheld. (Interruptions). Order ! Order ! I am sure the hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) would not be annoyed about all the points of Order. If I may crave your indulgence to also quote from the Bible, although I do not have it here—"With what measure you mete, you shall also be meted." (Laughter).

Mr Ngene: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker the point I wanted to make there Sir, is that the re-assignment of one or two individuals in the Premier Brewery is not enough for us to come here and tear ourselves. This House to my own mind Sir, . . . (laughter). This honourable House to my mind is too big to start debating the re-assignment and probably because of it move a Motion. I believe that the man who moved this Motion might even go to the extent of putting in a Bill for us to probably reverse the re-assignment of the two members of staff. But until he does that Sir, we will wait for the Bill. My own feeling Sir about this is that if the Mover of this Motion has felt that somebody was injured somewhere, why wasn't it proper for him to call on the Commissioner for Industries and Technology to answer a question ordinarily?

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. My point of Order is that . . .

Some hon. Members: Order what ? Order what ?

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Order No. 26 (2)—
A Member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto, and also when an hon. Member is contributing, it is not a dialogue between him and the Mover of the Motion, he should address the Speaker. So these are my two points of Order.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) may please round off.

Mr Ngene: Mr Speaker Sir, I would very much urge you to allow me more time, since this point of Order is also out of Order.

Mr Speaker Sir, like I was saying, I would have thought that if there was a sort of management action or whatever action somebody took somewhere affecting an individual in the Premier Brewery Limited . . .

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. I refer to Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders—irrelevancy. The Motion on the Floor never mentioned anything on appointment.

Several hon. Members: It did ! It did !

Mr Ojukwu: Allow me to die before you bury me ! And introducing the question of employment is whipping up sentiment. So let him base on the facts (*interruptions*) of the Motion. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Once more, may I appeal to hon. Members to maintain decorum in this honourable House. We have a very important Motion before the House and hon. Members should be allowed to air their views. The decision would be yours to make. The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) could continue.

Mr Ngene: I still want to make a special plea to Mr Speaker to allow me some time because they have interrupted me so much. Mr Speaker, the point I was trying to make there Sir . . .

Mr Speaker: Honourable Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) you have five minutes.

Mr Ngene: There was one other allegation made here in connection with this Motion and that is that the Interim Management Committee has been made non-functional, probably by the Executive's action. Mr Speaker Sir, my question about that is, if those people who are in the Management Committee are men of virtue why should they not really complain that they have been made non-functional. Have we heard of any of them resigning their appointments ? We have not. We know the person of the Chairman—somebody went as far as mentioning his name yesterday. If he has some onions and he knows that he is not allowed to function any longer why can't he resign.

An hon. Member: He is in Nigeria! (Laughter).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Ngene: Mr Speaker, we also heard of another allegation which talked of widespread corruption in the industry; because I would have very much loved the Mover of the Motion to at least give us a little idea as to the areas of corruption Sir, but he thinks that that is left to himself. I don't know if he is going to give us an idea because that would have very much helped to determine whether we are going to vote for or against the Motion. So I would very much plead that when he is going to round off his Motion—the debate on his Motion, he would at least go a little bit into the various malpractices or the various corrupt practices or sharp practices in the company so that eventually, we will help to decide whether the Motion should go or not.

Mr Speaker Sir, I know that the debate on this has gone on for sometime now and like one hon. Member mentioned here, we have some other burning issues which we would like to look into. Some people in the rural areas want some water, some want roads, some want their markets to be built; all these things are embodied in the Budget and I would very much plead that the Question should be now put.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. Order No. 26 (11) of the Standing Orders. I would want you to invoke the Standing Orders so that I may summarize my speech.

Mr Speaker: Read out the Order:

Mr Nwofor:—Order 26 (11)—

Except when the House be in committee no Member shall speak more than once on any proposition before the House except in explanation if the Member then addressing the House chooses to give way or to a point of Order or, in the case of the Mover of a substantive Motion or of an order of the day, in reply, . . . so I want to reply.

Mr Speaker: Go ahead, read it down.

Mr Nwofor:

But any Member may second a motion or amendment without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate if he does so formally by saying "I beg to second". (Prolonged interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order Order! Yes hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*), you may summarize.

Mr Nwofor: Mr Speaker, I rise to summarize my case for the Premier Breweries and the allegation against the breweries is that two people are distributing the beer to the detriment of the general public and the people of Anambra State.

Everybody here says he wants an inquiry. Why drag your feet? So I submit Sir, that the point at issue is that the distribution of beer is corrupt. I was begged by the party not to mention names otherwise I would have mentioned their names. So, I am saying that the distribution of beer is corrupt and if it continues like this we are heading to the rocks. Anybody who calls this Motion a confrontation to the Executive is dead from the neck upwards. It is not a confrontation. It is a duty assigned to us as Legislators and we have only one duty now, to institute the inquiry. We took an Oath. This is a Legislature of men of timber and calibre.

Several hon. Members: Fire!

Mr Nwofor: I said Sir, that as politicians, our return ticket to power is complete achievement not to hush, hush corruption. It is complete achievement that renders one to power and any sentimental slip-off is a primitive instinct of man and it is a crude instrument in the hands of avaricious politicians to hide their weakness. Let them defend themselves when the inquiry is set up. If anybody is not guilty, he will be cleared by the inquiry. If anybody is guilty we bring him to book.

So Mr Speaker, I have not seen any case against this Motion. The Motion is well motivated and in the best interest of the people of Anambra State, and the interest of the government. It is our duty to ensure under Section 4 (6) and (7) of the Constitution that this State has a good government. So Mr Speaker Sir, having seen no case against this Motion, I urge this honourable House to give it an unanimous approval. (*Applause*).

And I beg that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! It has been proposed before.

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

Main Question put and the House divided by Roll call.

Ayes: 33 Noes: 42 Not Voting: 12

Ayes: 33

Akunne, J. O.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Chukwuka, C. E.
Chukwuka, G. B. C.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Enendu, G. A.
Ezenwa, A. N.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Igboka, G. N.
Ikeh, B. O.
Mbaso, L. A.
Morah, O. C.
Nnaeto, A. O.
Nwambeke, P.
Nwofor, F. C.
Nworah, D. C.
Obiekwe, I.
Odife, S. E.
Ogbuka, C. J.
Ojemeni, S. O.
Ojukwu, M. C. O.
Okeke, O. C. S.
Okeke, B. C. N.
Okeke, C. E.
Okekeizuagwu, M. A. C.
Okoye, F. N.
Okoye, G. R.
Onyido, S. I.
Ozoekwem, S. N.
Ugoh, O. M.
Umeaba, W.
Umunna, F. O.
Unigwe, F. B.

Noes: 42

Agbo, E. A.
Agbo, J. N.
Anyabuike, D. C.
Azegba, F.

Noes—continued

Didigu, S. O.
Ede, S. N. O.
Egbe, P. J. N.
Egwuonwu, M. N.
Ekuma, N.
Emehelu, C. O.
Eneje, J.
Eze, P. I.
Ezeugwu, M. I.
Iburu, N. A.
Idoko, B. C.
Igwe, F. E.
Igwe, M. O.
Ikeoha, D. C.
Itanyi, E. A.
Macduhu, E. J.
Mbah, B. O.
Ngene, D. O.
Nnaji, C. O.
Nwafor, A. N.
Nwobodo, N. O.
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Obuna, A. A.
Odo, A.
Ogbaga, A. U.
Ogbodo, S. J.
Okafor, S. N.
Okpaga, A. E.
Omeje, E. P. I.
Omeke, A.
Onyefuru, G. N. C.
Opata, C. U.
Osita, R. A.
Ottah, A. O.
Udeani, H. C.
Udeorah, S. J.
Ugwuokpe, W.
Unabia, P. U.

Not Voting: 10

Agballah, O. P.
Alor, S. N.
Emodi, F. C.
Njoku, L.
Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

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And I beg that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! It has been proposed before.

Anambra State House of Assembly Debates

365

[Roll Call]

15 APRIL 1980

[Roll Call]

366

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Main Question put and the House divided by Roll call.

Ayes: 33 Noes: 42 Not Voting: 12

Ayes: 33

Akunne, J. O.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Chukwuka, C. E.
Chukwuka, G. B. C.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Enendu, G. A.
Ezenwa, A. N.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Igboka, G. N.
Ikeh, B. O.
Mbaso, L. A.
Morah, O. C.
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Okoye, F. N.
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Ugoh, O. M.
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Noes: 42

Agbo, E. A.
Agbo, J. N.
Anyabuike, D. C.
Azegba, F.

Noes—continued

Didigu, S. O.
Ede, S. N. O.
Egbe, P. J. N.
Egwuonwu, M. N.
Ekuma, N.
Emehelu, C. O.
Eneje, J.
Eze, P. I.
Ezeugwu, M. I.
Iburu, N. A.
Idoko, B. C.
Igwe, F. E.
Igwe, M. O.
Ikeoha, D. C.
Itanyi, E. A.
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Okpaga, A. E.
Omeje, E. P. I.
Omeke, A.
Onyefuru, G. N. C.
Opata, C. U.
Osita, R. A.
Ottah, A. O.
Udeani, H. C.
Udeorah, S. J.
Ugwuokpe, W.
Unabia, P. U.

Not Voting: 10

Agballah, O. P.
Alor, S. N.
Emodi, F. C.
Njoku, L.
Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.

No voting—continued

- Nwafor, G. C.
- Obah, M. C.
- Ogbuagu, F. M. O.
- Okonkwo, L.
- Okoye, V. C.

Question accordingly negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do

now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday, 16th April, 1980

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday, 16th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.50 p.m.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 16th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji). There will be meetings of the Committees as listed in the Calendar and I wish also to direct that the Committee on Agriculture and Food Production will be meeting in my office immediately the House rises.

There is also another announcement. Members who do not belong to any Standing Committee should submit their names to the Clerk today. Also Members in only one Standing Committee should indicate that to the Clerk.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Functionaries of the House

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move the Motion standing in my name which reads thus:

That this House gives full recognition to the functionaries of the House as provided in the Constitution and the Standing Orders of Anambra State House of Assembly as distinct from party functionaries.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have no malice in moving this Motion but I know that a stitch in time saves nine. Before our trip to America, we thought that only the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the leaders of the political parties, the Whip and Chairmen of various Committees are recognized in the House as functionaries. But unfortunately, when we visited America, I did not see what is called Whip in the five States we visited or stayed in. So I wrote to several State Assemblies in Nigeria. I even wrote to the Federal House, through the Speaker, to know whether they have anything like Whip. From the reply I got to this my humble letter, I understand that they have the Speakers, the Deputy Speakers and what they call the Leaders of different parties in the Legislature.

Now Mr Speaker, it is very, very unfortunate that one who does not know will make mistake from time to time and when he makes that type of mistake, we may call it a mistake of the head. I know many hon. Members will say it was me who nominated some hon. Members as Whips. But when I come to know that the Whips are not functionaries of the legislature with regard to the presidential system, I pray that we make correction as early as possible to avoid more conflict.

Now Mr Speaker, you can verify very well that in the present Standing Orders, these names I made mention of now are all reflected in both the new Standing Orders and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. So I don't want people to say, yes, Anambra State is supposed to know and they continue making mistake.

So I pray that you use your good offices and better understanding to recognize the following as the functionaries in this august House as stated in the Constitution.

- (i) The Speaker of the House.
- (ii) The Deputy Speaker.
- (iii) The Leaders of each political party in this House.
- (iv) The respective Chairmen of various Committees.

With this, Mr Speaker, I don't want to take long, I beg to move the Motion.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): On a point of Order Mr Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Point of Order on who?

Mr Okoye: On the House. It is Order No. 26 (4) and I quote. *It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.*

What this Motion is calling on this House to do is to ask us to rescind the decision which we have taken during this current session. It will be recalled that we were given guidelines and there we were told that the Whip and all the rest of them are not obtainable and still we took the decision by a resolution of this House in this current session. So our hands are

[MR OKOYE]
 tied and we are not in a position to undertake or entertain a reconsideration for rescission under the circumstances, within the current session. It is therefore, time barred and you will only bring this up next session; that is, starting next October since we have defined the meaning of a session as meaning twelve calendar months.

This is my point of Order, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*) please read that portion of the Standing Orders again.

Mr Okoye: *It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.*

This is for a rescission but that we de-recognize what you have asked us here to recognize within this session, is time barred.

The Deputy Speaker: But this is a substantive Motion.

Mr Okoye: It is a substantive Motion but not for rescission.

The Deputy Speaker: I think that is what the Motion is asking for.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I think the hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*) is correct. The Motion under discussion is not to rescind our decision but to recognize our decision. It is a positive and not a negative part of the decision. So if the Majority Leader wants us to rescind that he should bring a Motion that can rescind our decision, before this comes up. That is what I am saying, this Motion is not the rescission of a decision. It is a positive action—'recognized party functionaries'. Look at it from that point of view, Sir.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to say that this is a substantive Motion in the sense that the hon. Majority Leader who has brought this, is aware of the fact that a provision of the Constitution approves a number of functionaries and the Standing Orders which all of us have passed provided the rest. If we should kick against the two which form the basis of our stay here, it means that we should regard what we are doing now as a sort of child's play.

So I regard this as a substantive Motion since it is in conformity with the Standing Orders and the Constitution.

I do not know exactly what people would want done in order to make it substantive.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Speaker Sir, this matter is clear. The question is not whether it is a substantive Motion. The question is that it is not a rescission and as far as the wordings of this Motion are concerned, it is improper. It cannot withstand the test of Order No. 4 of our Standing Orders, as it is clearly spelt out in that Order. That one calls for recognition but this one can only call for entertainment if it is only for the rescission of a decision taken. So it is improper. Thank you.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker Sir, I want to draw your attention to Order No. 20 (3), and when I was reading out my Motion I said that the Motion will serve everybody here as a stitch in time than to continue muddling things and with my position as the Majority Leader, I can . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker Sir; the Order he referred to, Order No. 20 (3) has no bearing to his argument. We are arguing that his Motion is not rescinding to previous Motion and then he is referring us to Order 20 (3) which empowers him as the Majority Leader properly not to give notice. This is not what the last Speaker argued on. It has no bearing on his argument. That is my point of Order.

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*), who has said that the actual Motion should be to rescind the appointments of Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip. The Mover of the Motion may yet bring up a Motion to that effect and we shall debate it in this House. There is no point behaving childishly bringing things that are not material and which will not elevate the name of this House. The Motion has just spelt out actually what we know and it is offensive to Order No. 26 (4) as we have it in the Standing Orders here. So I think that in the interest of good debate, the Mover will have to withdraw it.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The position in which we find ourselves is this, that this House has given recognition to a number of functionaries, those not provided for in the Constitution or in the Standing Orders. What this Motion seeks to do is clearly asking us to rescind this decision by which some functionaries who are not provided for in the Constitution have been given recognition. I think it is a clear case of asking us to rescind that decision, not to continue recognizing functionaries that are not provided for in the Constitution or in the Standing Orders. So, I think the Motion is in order.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, I think that the House will have to agree with me that nobody quarrels with the Majority Leader in filing a Motion if the matter is proper but in this case it is not proper because in the first place the first decision of the House will have to be rescinded first. When it is rescinded, then a Motion should come up but now that the decision has not been rescinded, it shows that the Motion here is not proper and that is why I am supporting the hon. Members that have argued that this Motion be withdrawn until a Motion for rescission should have been filed in this House, argued and passed.

So, I do not see why some hon. Members, I am sorry, I am not imputing motives but we should be arguing like mature people instead of trying to flog a dead horse. So, Mr Speaker, I am praying that the Mover of the Motion be requested to withdraw it and if he likes, let him put a Motion for rescission before this Motion would come up. Thank you.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, I don't think that there is anything wrong with this Motion. In the first instance, it was the hon. Speaker of this House that announced the appointment of certain officers. This honourable House was not in a position to raise a voice either of consent or dissent both in the Constitution and in the Standing Orders. We have now found out that certain announcements made by the Speaker do not hold positions. When this honourable House was not in a position to say *aye* or *no* to these announcements, the House didn't say a thing.

Now that it is obvious that probably some of these posts or positions shouldn't exist I don't see anything wrong with the Motion. If we come for example to the positions of Chairmen of Committees, the hon. Speaker was vested with powers to appoint them. He did appoint them. There was nothing the House could do except to assent. We assented. Now that certain positions have been found to be inexistent, I think the hon. Majority Leader is in order to bring up the Motion that we recognize only those functionaries that are provided for in the Constitution and in the Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support this Motion, Thank you.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I suppose this House is turning to political jamboree. If this House did not give assent to the establishment of functionaries, it does not become proper for this House either to rescind anything, but the proper thing to do is if somebody has to impose any functionaries on us and it does require any Motion, this Motion has no relevance to the issue at stake. I have said that if we want to rescind because we had accepted, though the last speaker has said it was not brought to the Floor of this House, if it was not brought to the Floor of this House, this Motion should not come to the Floor of this House. It means no action had been taken. As simple as that, and with that, Sir, I think the Motion is to be withdrawn and readdressed. Thank you.

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I think we are indulging much in a battle of semantics. The Motion as it is here means the same thing as what I think it should be. It is an expression of words. There are certain functionaries as they are spelt out both in the Constitution and the Standing Orders which the Mover of this Motion wants us to recognize or not to recognize. Whether this was a decision as some people say which has been accepted or not, there are decisions which should not have been accepted or there are functionaries that are said to be non-existent, it becomes incumbent upon this House to delete or to remove such functionaries as are not provided for both by the Standing Orders and the Constitution. So I think we simply do not have to waste our time feeling that this Motion has to be withdrawn, reworded and then be brought forward again.

[MR OKPAGA]

Mr Speaker Sir, I think we can continue.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to argue on the lines adduced by the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) and the hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti West (*Mr Didigu*). I want to combine the two lines of thought and to say that this Motion is unnecessary. If the Speaker made an announcement here and we started acting on this announcement and that is all the authority we had, if it is later discovered by the Speaker and his officials that these announcements are improper he should take executive action and correct these things himself and come here and make announcement to us.

That being the case therefore, this Motion suggests that the announcement made by Mr Speaker, being the authority, is now what we are going to rescind and not the decision of the House. If you follow this line of argument therefore, Mr Speaker Sir, it becomes unnecessary that we shall even be thinking about rescinding because we did not, as a matter of fact, specifically resolve these appointments on the Floor of this House. In that case, therefore, the question of rescission does not arise.

What I am saying is that the Motion as it stands does not communicate very much to me as an individual. I am very sorry to say so, because if a Motion asks me to give full recognition to the functionaries of the House, I don't know what it means myself. Because already we recognize them fully, and to ask us to give full recognition to the functionaries of the House does not communicate much to me as an individual.

Secondly, Mr Speaker Sir, I have searched the Constitution, and I am convinced that it says nothing about the leader of the majority, or minority or other party, so that the authority based on the Constitution does not stand. In my view, the question of the leader of minority, majority or other party is a question of convention which we are trying to observe. Convention is part and parcel of parliamentary life. So Mr Speaker Sir, I think that the request that this Motion be withdrawn, consultation begun behind the scene and fresh announcement be made to us is the solution to the question.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): Mr Speaker Sir, in my opinion I do not believe that this Motion is asking us not to recognize all the functionaries that we have recognized formerly. But what it is strictly asking us is to recognize the functionaries that are provided for in the Constitution and Standing Orders of Anambra State House of Assembly as distinct from party functionaries. So it is not saying that we should not recognize party functionaries, but we should recognize them as such and recognize the other party that is approved for in the Constitution and the Standing Orders as they are provided in the Constitution. So I do not agree that the Motion is asking us to rescind the former decision that we had agreed on.

Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise first to say that the Motion standing in the Majority Leader's name has no direction. It has no direction. The Mover has not pointed out where the conflict exists. Is there a conflict of management, or functionaries in the House *vis-a-vis* that of the Constitution and Standing Orders? He should have made it clear, vividly clear to the Members. Thirdly, I believe the Leader of the Majority is not abreast with parliamentary procedures and proceedings, and Section 86 of the Constitution reads thus:

(1) *There shall be a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of a House of Assembly who shall be elected by the Members of the House from among themselves.*

(2) *The Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly shall vacate his office—*

(a) *if he ceases to be a Member of the House of Assembly otherwise than by reason of the dissolution of the House;*

(b) *When the House first sits after any dissolution of the House; or*

(c) *if he is removed from office by a resolution of the House of Assembly by the votes of not less than two-thirds majority of the Members of the House.*

I don't see a conflict in the Constitution as he is trying to say, as it regards the functionaries. We are all aware as some of us who travelled to the United States of America are aware

that there is what is called convention. Convention involves true usage. They have parliamentary leaders, they have Whips, and it would boil down to the fact that it appears, and I don't want to believe and think that our trip to the United States is a waste of funds because we emulated the presidential system which talks of leadership of party and whips. Yes it will be a waste of funds if we went to America and somebody coming back to say in this honourable House, that some other functionaries are not recognized in the United States of America I think it is a waste of fund and I do not want the public to have that.

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): On a point of Order. My point of Order is Standing Orders No. 26 (2)—Irrelevancy. I think what we are discussing is whether this Motion came in a right way or not, and not the way they practise things in America.

The Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, what we are now arguing is whether the Motion will stand. This is the basic thing, whether the Motion will stand. Nobody is debating it yet.

Chief Whip: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. (Laughter) Point of Order, yes.

An hon. Member: On everybody?

Chief Whip: Yes, information! Point of Order! Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it on the Speaker?

Chief Whip: No, on the House. I know my parliamentary procedure.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, go on please.

Chief Whip: The point of Order is that if a Motion is moved and seconded it could be debated. There is an Order—Notices of Motion, Sir.

Several hon. Members: Order number what?

Chief Whip: Relevance—Order No. 31 of the Standing Orders.

The Deputy Speaker: No. 31 what?

Chief Whip: 31 (1)—Amendment proposed to any Motion or Bill... (Interruption).

Several hon. Members: Let him read it!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Order No. 31 deals with the closure of debate.

(The House was thrown into temporary confusion as several hon. Members rose up to speak at the same time.)

Chief Whip: Mr Speaker Sir, I know if you permit me, there is a section of the Standing Orders which says that if a Motion is moved and is seconded, that Motion is out for debate.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! It has not been seconded.

Chief Whip: The hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti West (Mr Didigu) seconded it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! As far as I am concerned, nobody has seconded it. What we are now doing is to establish whether this Motion shall stand.

Chief Whip: With that, Mr Speaker, I beg to take my seat for the moment, since nobody has seconded it.

(Laughter).

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Speaker Sir, I think what the Motion seeks is subtraction by substitution. By this I mean it is not in agreement with Standing Order No. 26 quoted. Order No. 26 (4) of the Standing Orders is asking about subtraction, that is, rescission of the Motion. It is not talking about adding something to it, but subtraction alone. But according to this Motion, he wants to remove something and add something to it; to remove something and then put something back. Order No. 26 of the Standing Orders is only talking about moving something, that is, the first appointment should be rescinded, and not receded and then replaced at the same time. So, he has to do the rescission first, and another time make the amendment. Because of this, he has got to withdraw the Motion and substitute it with the one of rescission. That is how I see the Motion.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I do not think that on the face of it, there is anything improper with the Motion. If there is anybody who is saying, there was a Motion that was moved and carried, let him refer to the *Hansard* and tell us the date and wordings of the Motion in question. I am

[MR OGBUKA]
not aware that there was any time we passed a Motion about functionaries until along the line being suggested.

If that is so, people may raise doubts about the contents of the Motion, and I have my doubt about its soundness. But as to whether it is proper on the Order Paper, it is.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I think we have contributed enough on this, and I hold that we are trying to make it ambiguous while in actual fact it is not ambiguous. There are two things, the rescission of any decision is a different thing quite distinct from what is in the Order Paper. It is left for the House to decide whether this Motion will be debated. But it is wrong to think that it is seeking the House to rescind any decision taken, because, as far as I know, there has never been a Motion establishing any of the party functionaries. So, it is for the House. May I therefore know if there is any seconder to the Motion?

Several hon. Members: Which Motion?

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): Mr Speaker, I called for the Order, what is your ruling?

The Deputy Speaker: That is Order No. 26 (4) of the Standing Orders. I said this was introduced to make the Motion ambiguous while in actual fact it is not. Your point of Order is not upheld.

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to second the Motion.

I stand to second this Motion which reads thus:

That this House gives full recognitions to the functionaries of the House as provided in the Constitution and the Standing Orders of Anambra State House of Assembly as distinct from party functionaries.

Mr Speaker Sir, really when we were drafting or amending the Standing Orders, it was stated that someone will move a Motion and it will be seconded before the Mover elaborates on it. So, if the Mover has elaborated on it, then I will give my own support.

The Deputy Speaker: Go on with your debate.

Mr Agbo: I am of the opinion that there are so many functionaries in this House of Assembly including the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader, the Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip and the Chairmen of Standing Committees. (*Applause*). Amongst these functionaries, some of them are provided by the Constitution and the Standing Orders of this House of Assembly, many others were created by the House. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are provided by the Constitution, the Majority and Minority Leaders are provided by the Standing Orders of Anambra State, Chairmen of Committees are also provided by the Standing Orders of Anambra State. Apart from these functionaries, others are not provided in the Standing Orders or the Constitution. So, I am of the opinion that though we have not yet debated the Estimate for 1980, it appears that the functionaries which are not provided by the Constitution and the Standing Orders were given a bit of remuneration in the Estimates and it will be a waste of public fund to provide extra remuneration to . . .

Mr D. C. Anyabuiké (Awgu East): On a point of Order. Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders—Irrelevancy. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is that the hon. Member who has the Floor is talking about Budget and so many other worthnots, forgetting that what this Motion is seeking for is the recognition of functionaries of the House, including the Speaker and the other party functionaries.

The Deputy Speaker: I will advise the hon. Member for Isi-Uzo Central (*Mr Agbo*) to restrict himself to the Motion.

Mr Agbo: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am saying that those functionaries that are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Orders should be fully recognized by this honourable House. All the necessary amenities that are required for such functionaries that are contained in the Constitution and the Standing Orders should be given to these persons, and that the other functionaries artificially created by this House should not receive extra benefits or reward. So, once we recognize those created constitutionally and in the Standing Orders, we should give them the necessary benefits.

Those ones created by a political party should be looked after by the party that created it and not from the public fund of the people of Anambra State. So Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): Thank you Mr Speaker, I stand to support the Motion on the Floor and in supporting the Motion, I will like to urge the hon. Members of this House to pass this Motion without much debate, because the Motion speaks for itself.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, I think the question is that the Question be put so that we know whether the Motion will be debated or not.

The Deputy Speaker: When the Motion was seconded and there was no objection, it is implied it has been accepted.

Mr Omeje: Mr Speaker Sir, as I was saying, I should like this very honourable House to pass this Motion without much debate because the Motion is very plain and clear. It only asks us to accept the rules in the Constitution and in our own Standing Orders, that we should recognize the functionaries of the House and know them as the functionaries of the House of Assembly, and those functionaries for the party should be regarded as the functionaries of the party. So, I don't see why people should have some misunderstanding about this very Motion. If a functionary is appointed by a party, there is nothing wrong for us to regard that person as party functionary, but hence there are some functionaries . . .

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Point of Order! Order No. 30 of the Standing Orders. May I crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker to invoke Order No. 30, that the debate be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: Is that seconded?

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Yes, it is seconded. Mr Speaker Sir, I am seconding this Motion that the debate should be now adjourned to enable the leaders of this Assembly to consult properly and advise the House on what should be . . . I mean that the leaders of this Assembly should look at the substance of the Motion and direct us properly. I am supporting this Motion because I feel that it is wasting our time to continue dilly-dallying

over it. We need consultation and when they finish the consultation they will bring the proper thing to us for adoption.

Question, that Order No. 30 of the Standing Orders should be applied to this Motion, put and the House divided by Roll Call.

Ayes: 33

Azegba, F.
Chukwuka, G. B. C.
Didigu, S. O.
Eneje, J.
Eze, P. I.
Ezeugwu, M. I.
Iburu, N. A.
Idoko, B. C.
Igboka, G. N.
Igwe, F. E.
Macduhu, E. J.
Njoku, L.
Nnatubeugo, C. A. L.
Nwafor, A. N.
Nwafor, G. C.
Nwofor, F. C.
Obah, M. C.
Obeta, S.
Ogbuka, C. J.
Ojemeni, S. O.
Ojukwu, M. C. O.
Okafor, S. N.
Okeke, B. C. N.
Okeke, C. E.
Okoye, V. C.
Okpaga, A. E.
Onyefuru, G. N. C.
Onyido, S. I.
Opata, C. U.
Ozoekwem, S. N.
Ugwuokpe, W.
Umeaba, W.
Umunna, F. O.

Noes: 22

Agballah, O. P.
Agbo, E. A.
Agbo, J. N.
Anyabuike, D. C.
Chinwuba, R. A.
Chukwuka, C. E.
Ede, S. N. O.
Ekwealor, B. A.
Ezenwaka, T. N.
Itanyi, E. A.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to request that my Motion comes up tomorrow, first thing tomorrow.

Many hon. Members took the Floor.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Are you standing up on what I have ruled on? I have ruled on that.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader: Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 17th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment.

Thank you Sir.

**Let Us Benefit from that Visit to U.S.A.
by Some hon. Members**

Mr. H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing that I have to remind all those who

travelled to America to make all they learnt available to us, so that we are not put in confusion tomorrow. If they succeed in telling us nothing they should regard the money they used for the trip as money being owed to the House.

Many hon. Members: Nobody is doubting that.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members are requested to find their Draft Recurrent Estimate from the Clerk's Office for necessary amendment. The staff of the Ministry of Finance will be here to effect necessary amendments. The emphasis is on the Draft Recurrent Estimate.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow Thursday, 17th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 17th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: We are sorry for the Speaker's informal entry this morning. The Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, I understand, was involved in an accident and therefore could not come this morning. It is deeply regretted.

Motion

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): Mr Speaker Sir, it is a pleasure that I am being recognized at this early stage of this meeting and I hereby pray this House to move a Motion standing in my name.

That the Chairman of Social Welfare, Youth and Culture Committee uses his good offices to persuade the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture to go into the details of the incidents which are now happening in Abakaliki and Ishielu Local Governments. That the business of this very committee should be to persuade the Commissioner in-charge to send a campaign team to this particular local government area in order to enlighten them that the way and manner twin babies are being killed and slaughtered . . .

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): On a point of Order Mr Speaker! Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders—irrelevancy. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to take a serious objection to the Motion being moved by the hon. Member who has the Floor, in view of the fact that his language is offensive as far as I am concerned. I happen to come from Ishielu in Abakaliki zone. It is not to my knowledge that twin babies are being killed in Abakaliki. If anybody hears a rumour . . . (*Interruptions*). His language is offensive that is what I am saying.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! As a matter of fact, much as I understand the feelings of the hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*) and others from Abakaliki and Ishielu in particular, I do not think that any offensive word has been used so far. If the word slaughtered aches the ear, that is natural but I don't think that it is intended to offend.

I suppose what the hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*) has in mind is with all good intention. I think it is public property now that there is something happening somewhere in our State. If his views will be accepted by the House, it should be looked at with all maturity and good intention.

Mr Odife: Well Mr Speaker Sir, this team will go into this local government area . . .

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker Sir. Inasmuch as I believe that if there is any case that affects the welfare of humanity, that it should be brought to the Floor of this House, I object to the very procedure we are adopting now, because the matter on the Floor is not a petition and according to the Standing Orders only petitions could come like this. If you go through the Order of the Day it is not there.

Mr Speaker: That's all right hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*). What you want to say is to raise a point of Order that it is not in the Calendar and therefore should not be debated?

Rev. Prince Nwafor: That is right Mr Speaker.

Question, That the matter be dropped, put and agreed to.

REPORT FROM THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE

Order of Precedence Bill, 1980

Chairman Judiciary Committee (*Mr R. A. Chinwuba*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to present the Report of the Judiciary Committee on the Order of Precedence Bill. This Bill is intended to restore discipline and respect to human dignity in our society. I proceed to read the report.

On 9th April, 1980, the Judiciary Committee met to examine the various provisions in the Order of precedence Bill, 1980 referred to it after Second Reading by the House of Assembly. Order of precedence is a very sensitive issue everywhere. In ordinary organizations it is a reflex of the line up, therefore status, seniority and authority of the functionaries. It is intangible but it is highly emotive, especially where there is reason to suspect that there is deliberate manipulation to calculated purpose. Not to

give one the one's proper place in the order of precedence is to deny the one's right and recognition in the scheme of things and it is hurtful to the ego. Even the professed enlightened and liberated minds hardly forgive such offences. The matter is even more serious in government.

For the above reasons, among others therefore, the committee did not limit its sources of information to the knowledge of its members but decided to invite people from both inside and outside the government to proffer opinions and advice on the subject. Those invited were:

Mr Paul Egbogu—Secretary to the Government,

The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice,

Mr V. N. Muoneke—Permanent Secretary,

Barrister Chukwuma Ene — Private Legal Practitioner, and Mr C. O. Akpangbo—Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association, Enugu.

(This is in accordance with Order No. 46 and in compliance with instruction given by this honourable House). Mr Muoneke appeared before the committee and richly advised it from his experiences obtained locally and in the diplomatic service of the former Eastern Nigeria. The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Mr Akpangbo were unable to be present personally but both of them submitted opinions in writing. The original Bill and the opinions of these gentlemen, together provided the basis of the committee's deliberations and eventual recommendations. (You have the old Bill. You can look at it).

Title: This has been amended to encompass the Order of Precedence of public officers and their proper appellations. The amended title may appear less elegant but it leaves no one in doubt that the law deals with both aspects, one no more or less important than the other.

Enforcement: In the light of the Nigerian experience, section 4 of the original Bill should not be left as it is, without coercive effect when an act of serious discourtesy is committed to

any public officer in disregard of the prescribed order of precedence. Enforcement Clause 5 has therefore been recommended. (If you look at the attachment, you will see Clause 5).

Manner of Address: From our information of what obtains in most places practising the presidential system of government the committee recommended that only the Governor should be addressed as "His Excellency the Governor" while the Deputy Governor should be addressed as "His Honour the Deputy Governor". The distinction was in any case considered desirable, perhaps necessary. When, however, in acting capacity, the Deputy Governor may be addressed as His Excellency.

Only elected persons, and I repeat, only elected persons to the legislative Houses in the country should be addressed as Honourable, excepting members of the higher bench in the Judiciary who by tradition are entitled to the appellation for life.

Other Respects: The original Bill referred to the committee and the draft Bill submitted by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice are very close to each other generally, but the latter should be preferred for its higher grade drafting and comprehensiveness. The amendments suggested above have been incorporated.

In view of the foregoing, the Judiciary Committee has recommended for adoption by the Committee of the Whole House, the amendment Bill attached hereto as an Appendix.

Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, the object of the Bill as I said earlier, is to provide for Order of Precedence and matters connected thereto and to restore discipline in our society.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the report on the Table. (*Prolonged applause*).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the report be accepted and deliberated upon.

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Question, That the report be accepted for deliberation, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The House will now resolve into a Committee of the Whole House to look at the report.

REPORT FROM THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

A Report from the Judiciary Committee on Order of Precedence Bill, 1980—CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, this report as laid down has been carefully written by the committee. This Order of Precedence is very important for there has been in the past misunderstanding everywhere.

When on Saturday last week, I had the honour of representing this Assembly at the burial of late Senator Joseph Tarka, there were conflicting Orders of Precedence. Where in the programme of events Legislators were placed before Commissioners and other bodies, when the Governor of the State got up to deliver his funeral oration, he placed his Commissioners before Legislators. So once the Order of Precedence is defined and accepted by this House, I think a lot must have been achieved, because I observed too that when the President of the Senate who represented the Government of the Federation at the burial ceremony got up to deliver his oration, he placed his Senators above the Ministers after which he turned to Members of Legislative Assemblies everywhere in the country.

So, Sir, we of this Assembly as I have said earlier have suffered in the past untold humiliation and nobody will quarrel with us, rather praises will be showered on us for doing the right thing at the right time because if you look at the Bill as amended by the committee, I don't think anybody is cheated. The three arms of the government are well placed and represented.

Mr Chairman Sir, this Bill does not require much flogging and I implore the whole House to consider it purely on its merit without much ado because nobody is actually cheated.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): On a point of Information, Mr Chairman Sir.

The Chairman: Yes hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*), I would really want to take a point of Order not a point of Information.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Well, I think that the hon. Member is debating on the Bill but the matter before the House is the report on the Bill. This is my observation, Mr Chairman Sir.

The Chairman: I see. You may resume your seat. We are deliberating on the report which also includes the Bill.

Order! Order! It appears we are mixed in the Gallery today.

Mr Unigwe: Mr Chairman Sir, thank you very much. I don't know, if I am wrong but I stand to be corrected. I thought that the amendment could have carried some provisions just in case Members of the National Assembly happen to be present at any function within the State and Federal Ministers also. There could have been a provision to accommodate them whenever they are available. With these few remarks, I beg to say that the report be accepted in full.

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): I wholeheartedly, Mr Chairman Sir, support this well done work by the Judiciary Committee, but there is one point which the last speaker mentioned; he mentioned that the National Assembly and the Federal Government are not taken care of, but I think that under Section 1 (3) of the Constitution, it is incumbent on the National Assembly to have their own Order of Precedence and where it does conflict with ours, theirs will bear precedence over ours. I think it is not proper for us to make a law binding the centre. It is within their jurisdiction to make laws that will affect the totality of Nigeria and with this, I think hon. Members, we do not need to waste time, we just have to ask that the question be put.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman Sir, I congratulate this Committee, but I have my observation to make and this observation touches on what has been our problem in working within this new system. That is that new wine is always put in old wine bag. What do I mean here? I want to refer to the first page of the report. The Committee said:

For the above reasons, among others therefore the Committee did not limit its sources of information to the knowledge of its Members but decided to invite people from both inside and outside the Government to proffer opinions and advice on the subject.

I want to crave your indulgence to read the names of those—you have seen the names of those invited and they said that these people are people who have got experiences locally and in the diplomatic services of the former Eastern Nigeria. I want to point out that the information herein referred to are information as it is practised in the parliamentary democracy and for us to copy those ideas would indeed mean mixing presidential system with parliamentary system. It is indeed regrettable that the committee said that much of what they did was based on the information gathered from these people. Inasmuch as I accept the gradings made, yet I see that if we continue like this obtaining information based on the past system, we would discover that ... (*Interruptions*).

Chief Whip: On a point of Order ! Mr Chairman Sir. Order No. 46, Public Hearing—I think it is properly constructed in simple language that a committee has a right to invite outsiders to air their views on any issue and the gentleman who has the Floor did not take cognizance of this Order.

The Chairman: I note that and besides in Anambra State *Official Gazette* No. 9, volume 5 of 31st March, 1980, this Bill introduced in the House of Assembly of Anambra State of Nigeria is published so that any person who has any comment on all or on any of the provisions may submit same to the Clerk of the House. This was gazetted, so hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*), I don't think that point will really apply.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Secondly, Mr Chairman, I think it is too embarrassing for us to find the names of individuals who testified being mentioned here. Of course, we may feel that it is safe because the issue is not controversial, but suppose the things herein are controversial, it would have been indeed embarrassing for the people to be brought to the Floor of the House.

The Chairman: If I may reply to the point raised by the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*), I would say that since it requires comment here, members of the public who come to committees and who wish to testify may do so. If they do not want their names to be published in the report they have every right to say so to the Chairman of the particular committee who will of course take that into consideration.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: With this Mr Chairman, I support the report.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I think this report actually is a result of diligence and hard work. It was very well written and purposefully very thoughtful.

There is just one area I want to comment on and that is the portion the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Prince Nwafor*) has just talked on. It is not true to assume that because these gentlemen mentioned who testified before the committee had something to do with the former Government of the then Eastern Nigeria therefore their opinions were necessarily of Parliamentary Cabinet System. In fact, they spotlighted, if I understood the report very well, the basic principle upon which the presidential system is run. That basic principle is separation of powers. If that is true, the Executive constituted the leadership of the Legislature, but the situation has now changed. Now the Legislature is completely distinct from the Executive. This is the point.

Well, the only constant factor is the Judiciary, the idea being to make it impossible for a kind of tyranny either of the individual or a small group by an oligarchy to emerge. In fact, the entire system is designed to ensure the liberty of the individual in the country or State.

Having said that, I will also like to remark that even the American Presidential System still has some evidence of the old British Parliamentary System. As a matter of fact, it is the British system that gave rise to the American system which is thought to be an improvement, and it came as a result of the experience they had when they were a British colony. Therefore I would not be surprised if you find one or two areas that are common to both systems. With these few remarks I like to support.

The Chairman: That is what I always call working down on what seems to be a very dry topic. Shall I ask that we go to the Bill, having had enough of this. So, Majority Leader, we leave off the preamble and go straight to the first schedule. The preamble will come later.



[THE CHAIRMAN]

We start with the Enactment Clause, that is, page one of the Bill. That is the amended Bill or the recommended amended Bill—the Bill enacted by the House of Assembly.

Mr Linus A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): On a point of Information, Mr Chairman. I know really by the time we finish going through the Bill, we may succeed in passing it as a law. The point which I wanted to speak on is in connection with the vital omission in the list given as schedule.

The Chairman: Honourable Members would be allowed in this particular one to make amendments and defend such amendments. So, we are on Enactment clause. Is there any amendment there?

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Yes, on "Short Title".

Several hon. Members: No. No. We are on Enactment Clause please.

Question, That Enactment stands part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause I —(Short Title).

Majority Leader: After 1980, I pray that these words be deleted *And shall come into operation on the . . . day of 1980* because it has not been in operation. I should like that we leave this for the meantime until when we all consider the Bill to be law, then we debate. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Several hon. Members: Leader ! Leader ! (*Prolonged applause*).

The Chairman: Order ! Order ! What is the amendment which the hon. Majority Leader wants to make ?

Majority Leader: I want the removal of this amendment I have made.

The Chairman: Which one ?

Majority Leader: *And shall come into operation on the days of 1980.*

Question, That the words proposed to be deleted be deleted, put and negatived.

The Chairman: Order ! Order !

Clause 2.—(INTERPRETATION)—any amendment ?

Clause 2.—(INTERPRETATION)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

The Chairman: Clause 3. (Precedence of certain Public Officers).

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Chairman Sir, in portion (b) after the following functionaries, Deputy Speaker, Leader of the Majority Party, Leader of the Minority Parties, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, I would like (d) and (e) to be deleted as we still have a Motion concerning the two functionaries.

Amendment agreed to.

The Chairman: Any more amendments on Clause 3 ?

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): Mr Chairman, I would like the words "(a) to (e)" to be amended to read "(a) to (c)".

Consequential amendment agreed to.

Clause 3.—(PRECEDENCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICERS) *as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 4.—(MANNER OF ADDRESS)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 5.—(Power of Enforcement).

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central):

Mr Chairman, I suppose that section is not complete. The penalty is not enough; one can violate one system and get away with it. I would, therefore, like to add as follows:

After (1) and (2), the third one should read:

"A person who fails to comply with (1) and (2) of Clause 5, shall be liable to a fine of one hundred naira or two months imprisonment or both.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman, I have an amendment, Sir, that is on "Power of Enforcement". In it, delete the words *rank of Inspector* and substitute the words *superior Police Officer*. That is, the whole thing should now be, *A Police Officer, not below the rank of a superior Police Officer . . . , because, there are so many Inspectors . . .* (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order ! Order ! We have to take them one after the other. There is an amendment proposed and I was writing that down. Could the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) please say that again.

Chief Chukwuka: I suggested that a person who fails to comply with Clause 5 (1) and (2) shall be liable to a fine of one hundred naira or two months' imprisonment or both.

The Chairman: Will that come as 5 (3) ?

Chief Chukwuka: Yes, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: There is some legal advice being given to the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Chukwuka*). I do not know if he will accept it; that is, he recasts it to read *a person who resists the enforcement as provided in 5 (2) should be liable*...

Chief Chukwuka: No, that is a different thing altogether. Resisting a Police officer is a different offence, Sir, I would rather like to say, *any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this law, shall be liable*.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Chairman, On a point of Order.

The Chairman: Is that on hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Chukwuka's*) amendment ?

Mr Didigu: Yes, Mr Chairman. I was suggesting whether it should not come in as Clause 6 under Penalty or Punishment.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, I am of the opinion that if the enforcement of this particular aspect of the law is restricted to superior Police Officers or Inspectors, in a circumstance where other Policemen are present without the Inspector or Superior officer, these other Policemen will be helpless, and we shall be worse for it. So, we should say *a Police officer can use no more than reasonable force*, and so on and so forth. Therefore, I am suggesting that we shall delete *not below the rank of Inspector*.

The Chairman: Is it on Clause 5 ?

Mr Ugoh: No, Sir.

The Chairman: Let us finish with that proposed by the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*).

Mr Ugoh (Njikoka South): Sorry, Sir, I thought we have shifted that one to be a different clause.

The Chairman: Some suggestions have been given and I would like the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) to say if he will accept that suggestion, so that we can then take on the earlier clauses before we come back to it.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Well I feel the suggestion is alright.

The Chairman: So we get back to clause 5 (1).

Clause 5 (1)— (POWER OF ENFORCEMENT).

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, I was going to say *not below the rank of a superior police officer*. My reason is that there was a crash programme of recruitment into the Nigerian Police and every sort of person is a policeman. I cannot imagine a function where all these responsible men will be there without a superior police officer being there. He is to give direction to other rank and file, but if we leave it open to read *any police officer*, as it is, it will be dangerous; they have no discretion these days.

An hon. Member: Some of them are mad.

Mr Ugoh: Sorry Mr Chairman Sir, I defended a case in which it was stated that a superior police officer should sign something like in the indian hemp case and that case, although I defended it, was thrown out because the thing was not signed by a superior police officer. It was a technicality, so we can come to an area or gathering where many policemen are but there is no superior police officer or an inspector; a sergeant can be in command of an area or a situation. In that case one will be helpless. I am saying that we make it a *police officer*. By this I mean anybody who has gone through the training as a policeman is supposed to be behaving like a police officer or police constable, whichever way one puts it.

Otherwise we may be putting ourselves in a tight corner. In a difficult situation, one will be looking round, calling a policeman to come and help, but the policeman will not, because he has not got the right. So, *police officer* simple and short, to be free from this entanglement.

Several hon. Members: We support that.

The Chairman: That is the proposed amendment is that *a police officer can use no more than reasonable force*, that is in 5 (1) after *officer* and before *can*; in line 2, the words *not below the rank of inspector be deleted and in their place to read* . . .

Several hon. Members took the Floor

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Mr Chairman, what I think is that when we delete *not below the rank of an inspector*, we can use no more, and so on down the line in its place. We can insert *at the scene*, so that it will read *any police officer at the scene*, then down the line.

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): Mr Chairman I do not think that that will be any good because at the scene, there may be only the Commissioner's Orderly and he is not likely to obey any other person when the commissioner is there. So, I think it is wrong. We better leave it as it is, that is *A police officer can use no more than*. So one can go to the station and invite anybody.

Mr Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, I am in total support of what the hon. Member for Enugu South (*Mr Obuna*) said, because a police officer who is not at the scene could be invited to the scene and he will still be capable under the law to enforce, but if he is restricted by this restrictive clause, he would come there only to be shackled by this our making. So I support that we leave it loose that way without the use of semantics and jargons capable of restricting us out.

The Chairman: Let us take the vote now after the word *officer* and before the word *can*, in clause 5 (1), the words *not below the rank of inspector* be deleted to read *A police officer can use no more than reasonable force to enforce the provisions of the Order of Precedence*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (1) (a)— *as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

The Chairman: Any amendment on clause 5 (2)? Any more amendments on 5?

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwe*): Mr Chairman 5 (2) reads: *No such officer, acting within the provisions of the Bill shall be liable either criminally or civilly for anything done or omitted to be done while exercising powers under the Bill provided he believes reasonably he has power to act the way he did.* There was a suggestion made by an hon. Member here about penalty.

The Chairman: Clause 2 is empowering police officer, safeguarding him.

Clause 5 (2) — *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Another Clause, that is, Clause 6—Penalty. The new clause should read thus: *Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this law shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100 or two months imprisonment or both.*

An hon. Member: One month.

The Chairman: How many did you say the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*)?

Chief Chukwuka: Two months. *Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Law shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100 or two months imprisonment or both.* (Interruptions).

The Chairman: Order! Order! For this new clause to be added, we will adopt the normal procedure.

Clause 6—(PENALTY)

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Law shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100 or imprisonment for two months or both.

Question proposed.

Several hon. Members: One month! It is too much!

The Chairman: Order! Order! I will refer hon. Members to Standing Orders 48 (8):

New clauses may be offered before the schedules of the Bill are considered. When the Member offering the clause has concluded his speech the title of the Clause shall be read by the Clerk and the clause shall then be deemed to have been read the First time. The Question shall then forthwith be proposed, "That the clause be read a Second time" and, if this is agreed to, amendments may then be proposed to the new clause. The final question which must be proposed is "That the Clause (or the clause as amended) be added to the Bill.

Question, That the Clause be read a Second time, put and agreed to.

Clause accordingly read a Second time.

The Chairman: We can then make amendments.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Chairman, I will like us to add "Any person who fails to comply with all or any of the provisions." I want us to add "all or any" of the provisions of the Law. "All or any."

The Chairman: Yes, on that amendment?

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): I don't seem to support this particular amendment; it makes the Bill very cumbersome.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, the only little thing that we may add to satisfy the two suggestions will be "any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this law." "any of the provisions . . ." Any could be one, it could be many. So which ever way you look at it, it will still catch. So, "any of the provisions of this law."

An hon. Member: Mine is on a different angle. I would like the word "both" to be expunged because it appears too punitive.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Chairman, I believe in my humble opinion that it is only one provision. The Bill seeks to enact a Law of Precedence, so that it is only one provision. I don't think any of the provisions will appear there because the whole thing is an entire provision. For that sake, I am fighting the inclusion of "any of the provisions." So the Motion should stand as before.

The Chairman: On the amendment of "or any of the provisions"?

Chief Chukwuka: On the amendment to that first line. I am suggesting that we put "any person or persons who fails to comply with any of the provisions . . ."

An hon. Member: "Or persons," there can be more than one.

Chief Chukwuka: There can be a group of persons. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Let's finish with one and we can then take other things. The original amendment is "any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Law." Now the proposed amendment is "any of" because the original clause read "any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Law."

What we are deciding on now is whether to add *any of* or to leave it as *with the provisions of this law*.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be inserted, put and agreed to.

Engr. S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I was suggesting that between the words *person* and *who*, the words *or persons* be inserted.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, respectfully, I beg to differ, because even if a number of people is infringing the law, each and every one of them is committing the offence separately. Therefore, there cannot be any joint liability. They can only be liable or guilty severally. (*Laughter*).

So, I am suggesting that the wordings be left as they are.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti West (*Engr. Didigu*) want me to put the Question on that?

Engr. Didigu: No!

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Chairman, I am in agreement with Clause 6, but I should think that the penalty of ₦100 or two months imprisonment could be considered very big. I agree . . .

Several hon. Members: No!

Chief Chukwuka: Wait please, I am entitled to my opinion, and I am trying to sell it to all of you. (*Laughter/Interruptions*). Many of you will buy it.

Mr Chairman, I am saying that . . .

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) please address the Chair.

Chief Chukwuka: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I think that imprisonment of one month will be enough for a respectable person who is so dignified enough to enter the platform where all the hon. Members, Commissioners and Judges of High Courts are sitting.

So, a maximum of two months imprisonment is, in my own opinion, too high. So we leave it at ₦100 or one month imprisonment or both.

Thank you.

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Mr Chairman, I will like the word *both* to be expunged because, in my opinion, it appears that the penalty seems to be too punitive.

Amendment negatived.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Chairman Sir, I would rather like the words *two months* expunged and in its place be inserted *one week*.

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Onyefuru: Because one week with the bed bugs is enough punishment for anybody who would appear in a gathering like ours.

Thank you.

Amendment negatived.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): Mr Chairman Sir, much as I know that it is not proper for one to contravene the law, the law-makers will also be reasonable. I will like us to give the magistrates some discretionary powers by saying *not exceeding* rather than being blunt, saying ₦100 or two months. Let us say not exceeding, so that the magistrates will then look on the whole provision...

Several hon. Members: Yes! Yes!
(Applause.)

The Chairman: So that the Clause reads—
Any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this law, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ₦100 or two months imprisonment or both.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6—as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Chairman: We shall now go to the schedule.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): In view of the amendment we made earlier on precedence of certain public officers, I think it will be proper to delete *Chief Whip* and *Deputy Chief Whip* on the Schedule, so that... (Prolonged interruptions).

The Chairman: Order! Order! We are on the First Schedule.

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu-Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Thank you, Mr Chairman. On the First Schedule, I will suggest that the *Deputy Speaker* comes up to No. 4. He comes immediately after the *Speaker of the House of Assembly*. If you leave him where you have him here, there is the tendency to tell him "My friend, you won't come up". That is when the Speaker is unavoidably away. If the Speaker is unavoidably absent from a particular function...

Several hon. Members: He takes over. The Deputy Speaker takes over!

Mr Ogbu-Nwobodo: It may be difficult, so why not put him immediately after the Speaker.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubengo (Udi North): Mr Chairman Sir, if you look at the scheduling here you find the Governor and the Deputy Governor. It should have been the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Judge and the Judges of the High Court. If you look at the three arms of the Government the Governor and his Deputy, the Speaker and his Deputy, the Chief Judge and his Deputy. In other words, Mr Chairman, what I am saying is that the Deputy Speaker should come immediately after the Speaker.

Question, That the Deputy Speaker comes immediately after the Speaker, put and agreed to.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Chairman, my own appeal or suggestion is that in as much as in most functions of the State the Members of the National Assembly are always present, if a provision is not made for them it will be a sort of embarrassment on the occasion and therefore I am saying that Members of the House of the State Assembly and the National Assembly should go together, i.e, No. 7. Members of the House of Assembly and the National Assembly should go together.

Chairman Judiciary Committee (Mr R. A. Chinwuba): Mr Chairman, this point that was just raised was also raised during the committee meeting but we have no powers to make laws that cover persons who are not within our competence. We cannot make a law to cover the President of America or somebody...

The Chairman: Let me just ask the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee a question. How does your last statement relate to No. 4 in its entirety?

Mr Chinwuba: They are resident here.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): I talked when the hon. Member for Nnewi East (Mr Unigwe) raised this point. I refer this honourable House to Section 1, subsection 3 of the Constitution:

If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

The National Assembly will make law or laws for the nation and we make laws in the State, as long as it does not gainsay the National Assembly's law. It is consistent that we should take the National Assembly law first before ours. And if there is any area where ours conflicts with theirs, theirs will supersede ours. That is Section 1, subsection 3. So I think we should delete that.

The Chairman: Order! Order! Let me offer some suggestion for your consideration. Up till now, the National Assembly has yet to settle down to make any law on Order of Precedence and we always have the confusion on where to place Members of the National Assembly. Assuming that they don't make the law, how do we place them. You find that legislators for instance are always wanting, well there has been an occasion, I have attended a function where the Senator says he is higher than the Deputy Governor and he refused to get up for him. I think it will be necessary for us to make provision for them in our State until they make their own law which places them. I will like to hear views on this.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Chairman Sir, I support the group that said that we should leave the National Assembly alone. I am happy you mentioned yourself that the Senators really want to come if possible before the Governor. So if we come to group them here, to say No. 7—Members of the House of Assembly and National Assembly or wherever you place them here, it is likely they are not going to accept it. So let us make this, you know, for Anambra State. When

they come let that be their problem. That is my suggestion.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): I am completely in support of the suggestion of the hon. Member for Ihiala South East (Mr Nnaeto). If you look at the whole thing, we have not taken account of the President here. Suppose the President is around we know where he will fit in (*Laughter*); or the Vice-President. So we can as well ignore the National Assembly.

The Chairman: I suppose that is a popular opinion. Anybody saying anything to the contrary?

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Chairman Sir, even if we don't place them but as I have said earlier, they mentioned Members of the National and State Assemblies, they go together.

Now these Senators are the problem we have. So Sir footnote should read—"provision should be made to accommodate Members of the National Assembly."

Several hon. Members: President first.

Mr Unigwe: I am addressing the Chairman.

The Chairman: Order! Order! Yes.

Mr Unigwe: Mr Chairman Sir, to avoid confusion whenever they are around, and they are always around, there should be a provision for them somewhere. It might be left with the protocol to know where to sit them especially the Senators and the Ministers of the Federal Republic.

An hon. Member: What about the President?

Mr Unigwe: The President is known. His position is defined. The Speaker of the Federal House, his position is defined.

The Chairman: Okay!

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Chairman Sir, I agree with the last speaker I don't see what we lose by making provision for the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. After all they belong to States of Nigeria and invariably they do come home to these functions. So, I really see that to avoid ambiguity they should come under Schedule No. 7—Members of the National Assembly or the House of Assembly, because if we don't cater for them, confusion will still come in the future. Thank you Sir.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman Sir, for us to take on the National Assembly is courting trouble and we are not competent because if we are going to include them it will require a total rehearsal of the Order of Precedence. So the best thing to do is to cut them off until the National Assembly is ready with its own Order of Precedence, by then we can merge.

I will just ask that the Question be now put.

Mr A. U. Ogbaga (Abakaliki North West): Mr Chairman Sir, for us to take care of guests in this Bill is not in order. Most of us are aware of our own positions and when you begin to consider men of the National Assembly, we shall also have to take care of other guests.

Question, That Members of the National Assembly be included in the First Schedule put and negatived.

The Chairman: More amendments?

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Chairman Sir, I would like No. 10 to go to No. 9, and the State Special Advisers No. 9 should read Commissioners and Commissioners of Police full stop! And under No. 10—State Special Advisers...

The Chairman: The honourable Chairman of Judiciary Committee, what does Commissioners of the Government of the State stand for in the definition? Does it include Commissioners in the Judicial Service Commission and the State Schools Services Commission and all that?

Chairman of Judiciary Committee (Mr R. A. Chinwuba): No, they are no Commissioners.

The Chairman: Because those are also addressed as Commissioners.

Mr Chinwuba: They are not provided for.

The Chairman: Alright! That's a common parlance. The hon. Member for Ishielu West's proposal is that No. 9 should read Commissioners of Government and Commissioner of Police.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): Mr Chairman Sir, I notice that in No. 13, we have the Judicial Service Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Legal Commission, but we have forgotten that we have State School Services Commission and the Local Government Service Commission.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): No! It has been abolished.

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): It is this very No. 13 that I wanted to talk of. I would like No. 13 to read *Chairman and members of the Commissions in the State* in order to bring in other Commissioners that are not in this list.

The Chairman: He has raised an issue that there are some Commissions that are not in this list.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Mr Chairman Sir, my own is on No. 8, though it is an observation really. I think that the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs...

The Chairman: Order! Please let us finish with No. 13. The proposal is that No. 13 should read *Chairman and members of Commissions*. I want opinion on this.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): These other ones he wants us to bring in are not in the Constitution so we have no room for them here.

Mr F. O. Umunna (Onitsha North East): I am afraid, even though they are not in the Constitution, they are established by law. And you find when you are treating expenditures that they also enjoy statutory salary, so I think they should come in. What I would say is that we may just say *Chairmen and members of Statutory Commissions*, they are all treated by statute.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): May I refer you to Section 178 (1) of the Constitution:

There shall be established for each state of the Federation the following bodies, namely:

- (a) State Civil Service Commission;
- (b) State Council of Chiefs;
- (c) State Electoral Commission; and
- (d) State Judicial Service Commission

Mr Umunna: The Constitution I know is the highest Law of the land but apart from the Constitution we do make laws of the land and we have laws establishing some other Commissions and once you have done that, then it is in statute. It is not only those established in the Constitution that do exist. We have a Local Government Service Commission, it is established by Local Government Law. We have the State Schools Services Commission, it is established by whatever law it is. And they all enjoy statutory salaries when you take up the estimates. You don't restrict them to those contained in the Constitution.

So, I am afraid, if you establish a Commission by law it is as good as one established in the Constitution. After all after having the ones in the Constitution you still make laws based on the Constitution to establish them.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Enehelu): Mr Chairman, even though I am not a lawyer I am in agreement with the hon. Member for Onitsha North East (Mr Umunna). My understanding of Statute is that anything statutory is something created by statute. Law is statute so I don't know—these bodies are legal bodies. In fact they are established by law.

The Chairman: Let us decide on this. I think we have had enough. In No. 13 we should have *Chairmen and Members of Statutory Commissions*. The hon. Member for Onitsha North East (Mr Umunna), I suppose that is the amendment on the amendment.

Mr Umunna: Yes.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Chairman, one thing that bothers me with regards to this amendment is that if we lump it together like this and say *the Chairmen and Members of Statutory Bodies*, we cannot say it is certain whether the employees of those Statutory Bodies of the Commission come in here.

If we spell it out to say *Chairmen and Members of the Statutory Commissions*, it seems to me to make more definitive sense than to say *Chairmen and Members of Statutory Bodies* but again it is, I don't know how we can bring that on but it looks to me that . . . okay, I think to make it all embracing these two words "Statutory Bodies" and "Statutory Commi-

ssions" will in that wise. . . I think I will agree with the hon. Member for Anambra North East (Mr Chinwuba) because it is not only Commissions that are legal bodies. I think I am in agreement with my learned brother.

Question, That the words proposed to be deleted be deleted and the words proposed to be inserted be inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): On No. 10 please. Mr Chairman, I wish we add in number 10 *the Head of Army* maybe the General or Brigadier replaces *Commandant*. What we have here is . . .

Many hon. Members: They are in barracks. (Laughter).

Amendment negatived.

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): Mr Chairman, I would like between No. 8 and 9— "Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs" and "Commissioners of the Government of the State and Special Advisers," between the two to be inserted "Chairmen of the parties in power in the State.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Mr Chairman, I would like number 8 to read number 9 while No. 9 should read No. 8 because it will really mean that the Commissioners' position is far below that . . .

Many hon. Members: It does not matter to us.

Amendment negatived.

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Chairman Sir, I want us to be realistic and practical. I have been attending functions and I know that we never miss our Lord Spirituals and Temporals. So, I am suggesting that between one and two, "My Lord Spiritual and Temporal" be added.

The Chairman: Before what please?

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Excuse me.

Several hon. Members: Before what?

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Sorry. Amendment still. That between numbers one and two, "My Lords Spiritual" be added.

Amendment put and negatived.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Nine and ten. I will want ten to read nine and nine to read ten.

Many hon. Members: No!

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Chairman Sir, I don't know that there is any State where one doesn't have a lot of military installations. So, I am saying that instead of providing for Commissioner of Police alone, we should say the "Commissioner of Police and Head of Military Installation in the State". (*Laughter*). Please allow me to talk.

The Chairman: That is decided. Shall we listen to the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr. Opata*).

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Chairman Sir, Please I want to make a little correction on the last suggestion by the hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Nwafor*) that "My Lords Spiritual" should come immediately after number five, that is, where we have the Chief Judge. Then, if we have Bishop or Archbishop, it comes immediately after that.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): I am directly opposed to having anything to do with *Spiritual and Temporal*. My reasons are these. We are getting so many mushroom churches here and there that once we create a room for anything *Spiritual and Temporal*, we shall have no reason to oust the *Odozi Obodo* priest from joining where the Archbishop of Cantabury fits in. The best thing is to remain silent on that. That is my argument.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Chairman Sir, the presence of this category of people is not unknown, and we have been having them in our midst. The number notwithstanding, we should take care of them, and I really support hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) that these people should come immediately after number five. So, whether it is *Odozi Obodo* or Ministry, they should be given due respect and this House should recognize them for what they are. Therefore I pray that they be inserted as proposed.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Chairman Sir, I know that many hon. Members are laymen here. Now there are some churches that go episcopal and the moment you take care of those churches, you have covered areas that should be taken care of by this Bill. For example, the Roman Catholic, the Anglican and the Methodist churches.

Many hon. Members: What of others?

Rev. Prince Nwafor: In others, they do not have bishops, and so since it is going to be "My Lord Spiritual", the idea of African traditional religion or *Aladura* does not come in.

Mr F. M. O. Ogbuagu (Njikoka North West): Mr Chairman Sir, I think in my mind, we should completely exclude religion in respect of this, because we always know that it is around, and by the way, when we say, *My Lord Spiritual*, whom do we refer to? The pagan in the village is spiritual and we have no reason to exclude him because the pagans command a substantial population. The prayer houses also command a substantial followership much more perhaps than the established ones to which we accord recognition. So in my mind...

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): Point of Order, please. Prayer houses don't attend parties, and...

(Interruptions).

The Chairman: Order! Order! The point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Ogbuagu: Mr Chairman Sir, to my mind, once they are not provided for in the Constitution, they are not in any way accorded official. The word is *official* recognition. Within the scheme of government, there is no vote for the spiritual, and we deliberate here on things that we can control. We cannot control religion. There is no provision for circular law here. We make laws for only those areas we can control, and we don't control these people. Therefore I think they have to be excluded. When they come, we can put them somewhere. When the time for prayer comes, who ever is the chairman will use his discretion.

Many hon. Members: That is all right.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Chairman: Any more amendments on the First Schedule?

Many hon. Members: No!

Mr S. J. Ogbodo (Enugu East): Mr Chairman Sir, let us take care of Chairmen of local government councils. That is as regards number thirteen. I want them to be included.

Many hon. Members: Ehee! Ehee!

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Amendment put and negatived.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Chairman Sir, I like further to speak on number 8, and I will like through Mr Chairman, to get hon. Members to be very objective in their reasoning over this my short speech. Our contention always has been the struggle over who comes first between the hon. Members and the Commissioners.

Now, having established our position in No 7, I do not see any justification in Commissioners going down to No. 9. After all, Commissioners make the Chiefs and the Council of Chiefs and appoint the Chairman. I do not see how an employee should. . . (*Interruptions*) sit first before his employer.

So, I am craving the indulgence of this honourable House to, please, get the Commissioners to No. 8. Be very objective hon. Members.

Mr Chairman, this is my amendment.

The Chairman: Order! But No. 8 is Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs.

Chief Chukwuka: It does not matter, Mr Chairman. The question is to give somebody honour where he deserves it.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Chairman Sir, before somebody becomes the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs, we must all know that he has been brought forward by his people to represent them. In fact, they must have appointed him their Chief. Even, the government must have recognized these Chiefs. Then in addition to these two recognitions by his people and the government, he has been selected from all the other Chiefs as the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs.

I think he holds precedence over the State Commissioners.

Thank you.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Chairman, I think it is no longer really necessary battling again to pull up the Commissioners from where they stand.

First and foremost, if we recognize what we are really doing, we have already taken the Governor and the Deputy Governor. The Governor is the head of the Executive and all the other functionaries there, are all people helping him to do his job.

We have taken our Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. All of us as hon. Members of the House, are all people working as legislators and we have taken the Chief Judge and the Judges. They have all taken their own positions. I do not think it is really important to start removing the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs. In fact, if we want to go into a little bit of our own natural traditional method of ruling, the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs should even come before the Governor.

So, I do not see any reason changing this precedence at all. I am of the opinion that we leave it as it is.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South) Mr Chairman, what I am saying is, we have to realize that chieftaincy is an institution.

An hon. Member: A village Chief?

Akunne Sam Okeke: Not a village Chief. I am not referring to all Chiefs. If not for the fact that hon. Members of this House of Assembly are elected people from their own constituencies, I would have even considered that the position of a Chief and the Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs at that, is much higher than that of the Commissioners and the Governor.

So, I am saying that the position as it is placed here in the schedule, is very, very good. The Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs should come before the Commissioners. Even the Commissioners themselves know that. In ordinary functions, they realize that the Chiefs are much higher than they are.

So I ask that they be left as they are.

Question, That No. 9 of First Schedule substitutes No. 8 and that No. 8 becomes No. 9, put and negatived.

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu-Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Mr Chairman, I am suggesting that in Line 2 of No. 9 after the word *Advisers*, we add, and *Special Assistants*. This is taken care of by Section 177 (3) of the Constitution and I quote—

Any appointment made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be at the pleasure of the Governor and shall cease when the Governor ceases to hold office.

I am saying that the Special Assistants should come along with the Commissioners of Government and . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Amendment negatived.

Question, That First Schedule as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Second Schedule.

Question proposed.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Chairman, my first amendment is on No. 2—The Deputy Governor.

I remember that during our tour of America, the hon. Speaker had occasion to ask how the Deputy Governors were addressed and the answer was "His Excellency". Well, I do not see the propriety in adopting "His Honour". I think, we should know our Governor as "His Excellency" as well as the Deputy Governor. Even the President of the country and the Vice-President go so together.

Question, That on Second Schedule, Column 2, line 2, the words, "His Honour" be deleted and in their place be inserted the words, "His Excellency", put and agreed to.

Mr S. J. Ogbodo (Enugu East): Mr Chairman, I want us to delete Nos. 10 and 11 because we do not . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Question, That Nos. 10 and 11 be deleted, put and agreed to.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Mr Chairman, to conform with what we are

doing, I am moving that No. 7 becomes No. 4.

The Chairman: Actually it is consequential.

Chief Chukwuka: Mr Chairman, another omission I can see is that they remembered several functionaries, but they failed to insert some very important functionaries, that is, the committee chairmen. They should have said . . . (*Interruptions*). Wait now, listen to me.

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Chief Chukwuka: It should have been "hon. Mr Chairman".

The Chairman: Let us have the amendment being proposed by the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*).

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): I say it is an omission and I want a fresh insertion before the "leader of Minority".

(*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! The hon. Member should please let us finish with the Second Schedule, thereafter he can bring in what he wants to put in. Any other amendment?

Chief Chukwuka: No please.

Mr Chairman: Well, as there is no other amendment, Second Schedule is closed. Was the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) suggesting that another number be added? All right, what is the number?

Chief Chukwuka: On the Second Schedule Mr Chairman, I am suggesting that the "Chairman" be known as "Honourable Chairman".

The Chairman: Chairman of what?

Chief Chukwuka: Chairman of Committee; like Chairman of House Committee. It is necessary.

The Chairman: No provision is made for it in the Bill.

Chief Chukwuka: That is why I am saying there is an omission, and I wonder if you can ask the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee whether he does not think it necessary; but I think it is necessary.

The Chairman: Is that the popular view of the hon. Members?

Several hon. Members: No.

Amendment put and negatived.

Second Schedule.

Objects and Reasons, *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Title.

(Mr Speaker, resumed the Chair).

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The Majority Leader should please report to the House.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to report progress made in the Bill standing in my name, and I am happy that the whole hon. Members considered it fit to be enacted as law, and with that, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be read the Third time and passed.

An hon. Member: I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to. Bill read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment, and in seconding the Motion, I would like to use this opportunity to bring to the Floor of this honourable House that it sounds as a menace, ear-ache and eyesore that at this present time, I repeat, at this present time, inhumanity to man is still going on at Ishielu Local Government in Abakaliki. It is a pity that this local government is totally represented by hon. Members, and I could not understand why the bell of christianity has not echoed and penetrated into the ears of these natives.

I am appealing through this honourable House to urge the Chairman of Social Welfare,

Youth and Culture in the company of the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Youth and Culture, combining all the hon. Members in that area, to go into this very primitive area to educate them and ring the bell of christianity to them, because the method in which twin babies are being tortured and killed indiscretly is very appalling, for they call it an abomination.

It is a duty of this honourable House to rectify this. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Mr Speaker, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to use this forum to call on the Federal Government to make thorough investigation on the embezzlement of 5.6 billion naira. In fact, I have in mind emphasizing that some poor fellows in the society . . .

Mr G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Point of Order. This is Motion for adjournment. For information, what the hon. Member who has the Floor is saying is not important.

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member should please sit down.

Mr Udeani: Like I was saying when I was interrupted, the poor fellows in the society who are starving for want of food, while in search of such food, making use of whatever material they would require to scare their victims away in order to collect few naira from them to eat, are publicly executed by firing squad. But this time, the whole country has been economically strangled by the embezzlement of that huge amount. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! There is a Judicial inquiry to that effect.

Question, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday, 18th April, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 18th April, 1980

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to verify why Order No. 30 of the Standing Orders which I used about two days ago, with regard to the Motion on the Order Paper, failed to come out today. Fortunately, the Bill on Precedence which we deliberated on yesterday has taken care of it fully, that is, with regard to the Motion, but I still want to leave it on record. I don't want history to blame me or blame any of us that we know what is right and forget to say it is right or that we know what is wrong and say it is not wrong.

I told you earlier when I was moving the Motion that I have no malice towards anybody but I want to recognize the conventional position of anybody within his own party and the functionary set up in this Assembly, as we may not be the last to be here. Any time, one may go away and another man will represent him from his constituency. Mr Speaker Sir, I don't know how that comes about but if you can give us another time with regard to Order No. 30, of the Standing Orders then I can take another date. Please that is all I want to move.

The Deputy Speaker: You are the Mover of the Motion; it is for you to request whether it can be taken up today or deferred.

Majority Leader: I pray, Sir, that as it has been overtaken by events, it should be left to the House to help me determine. Well as the Leader of the House, I don't want to mislead the House so I should like that we have a conclusion today to get it reflected in the Hansard of the House.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Are we supposed to be having a dialogue with the Leader this morning?

Majority Leader: I have requested the Speaker that I should like it to be taken up this morning.

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I think as the Leader of the Majority Party of this House has rightly said, this Motion I think, just lapsed naturally because it has been taken care of in our deliberations of yesterday. Since what he was seeking to do in the Motion had been taken care of and treated yesterday, there is no need bringing it up and wasting the time of this House. I think for the interest of the whole House here, the matter had been taken care of and there is no point bringing it up again, in my opinion.

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I think since the Motion is not on the Calendar, or on the Order of the Day, if the Leader so desires, he may fix another date for his Motion so that we do not start debating what is not on the Order Paper. Thank you.

Majority Leader: On a point of Order!

Several hon. Members: Order No. what?

Majority Leader: My point of Order, Mr Speaker, is Order No. 20 (3) of the Standing Orders. I never wanted to call the hon. Members or otherwise but I wanted to explain my view with regard to my Motion. I requested the Speaker to give me a guideline but if he cannot, I want that Motion to be deliberated on today and get done with.

(Several hon. Members took the Floor)

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The only guideline I can give you is to refer you to Order No. 18 (3) of the Standing Orders. That can help you.

Majority Leader: Mr Speaker Sir, that is why I used Standing Order No. 20 to substitute Order No. 18 (3) so that, with Order No. 20 (3), I think I am free to request that the Motion be debated today.

The Deputy Speaker: I wish to obtain the consent of the House that the debate on the Motion as suggested by the Majority Leader should be resumed.

Question, That the debate on the Motion, as suggested by the Majority Leader, be resumed today, put and negatived.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Observation Sir! We were referred to Order No. 23 of the Standing Orders and reading Order No. 23 to the end . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Who said 23 ?

Mr Ekwealor: Order No. 20 (3) reading to the end, we find that even the Leader of the Majority or Minority needs a day's notice.

The Deputy Speaker: But I said Order No. 18 (3) of the Standing Orders.

Mr Ekwealor: But the Majority Leader is relying on Standing Order No. 20 (3).

The Deputy Speaker: We are already applying it, I repeat the question.

Question, That debate on the Motion be resumed today, put and negatived.

Majority Leader: I do request for a division Mr Speaker. As today is Friday and we have little or no time to spend, I should request that the Motion comes up on Wednesday.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker, I would like to know the job of the Business Committee ?

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*), is not recognized.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Mr Speaker, the Majority Leader requested for a division and upon that he has also requested for another date, without withdrawing the other one. Where are we now ? (*Laughter*).

Majority Leader: Please Mr Speaker, it is a slip of tongue. I requested for a date because on yesterday's Calender, it appeared very well but events prevented the debate from holding yesterday.

The Deputy Speaker: He is requesting that it should be deferred.

Question, That the debate be deferred, put and agreed to.

Debate accordingly deferred.

The Deputy Speaker: He has to arrange with the Business Committee and give them the date he wants it to come up.

PAPER

Report of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Government of Anambra State for the year ended 31st March, 1977.

Chairman Finance Committee (*Mr A. O. Ottah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to lay on the table of this honourable House, a Report of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of Anambra State of Nigeria for the year ended 31st March, 1977.

The Deputy Speaker: I wish the House to formally accept the Report.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central) Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the Report of the Auditor-General, 1977 be accepted for scrutiny and necessary action.

Mr S. Jim Ogbodo (Enugu East): Mr Speaker, I rise to second.

The Deputy Speaker: Now that the House has formally accepted the report I wish to say that I will apply Section 117 of the Constitution. According to Section 117 of the Constitution, the report, therefore, stands referred to the Public Accounts Committee of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Minority Leader (*Ogbuighoo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn to enable Members get ready for the Estimates.

Honourable Members to Note

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment to enable the Standing Committees start work on the 1980 Budget. I would like to refer Members to the announcement made by Mr Speaker a week today, in which he assigned relevant Ministries to the relevant Standing Committees.

I will also request all Chairmen of Standing Committees to note that we expect them to deliberate on the Estimates from now to Friday next week, and then turn in their reports on Monday of the following week to the Finance Committee. We would then let you know later-

[MR NGENE]

on when the Finance Committee will deliberate on the Estimates of all the Ministries and turn in its Report to this honourable House. It is at the stage of the Report having come from the Finance Committee that we will go to the Second Reading of the Bill dealing with the 1980 Budget.

We also intend that the Second Reading will be allotted ten clear days in which Members will be given the opportunity to talk on the various issues raised in the Budget speech. But for now, we just want to alert Members that we expect we will be coming here every morning all right, but much of the work now will be in the various Standing Committees.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Open these Drainages

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I speak in support of the Motion for adjournment. In doing so I will draw the attention of the Enugu Local Government Council and the Ministry of Health to the appalling condition of gutters in the town, especially along Owerri Road, Asata.

I will not be surprised that if care is not taken, people may start suffering from epidemics from that side of the township. It is not only Owerri Road, but when one looks through most of the gutters, one would discover that rubbish, used empty cans and other things, are used to stop the gutters, and this prevents water from running down through the drainage lines already provided. This is the responsibility of the local government council to clear these drains and make sure that the inhabitants of the city are free from things that will cause epidemics, because epidemics do not respect anybody. It could touch us here.

Several hon. Members: It will not touch me!

Mr Mbaso: It could affect a number of other places. So it is my humble suggestion that they should look into this.

With this I beg to support.

Well done Law Enforcement Agents

Mr P. Nwambeke (Abakaliki East): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to support the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, I wish to commend the law enforcement authorities at

Abakaliki in general, especially, the policemen at Iboko.

Recently, the stealing of cows became very rampant in that part of the State. Last Wednesday, the Police recovered not less than ten cows from the Cross River State. All these cows were stolen from Abakaliki. I wish the authorities to continue with their good work.

Thank you.

Help these Fire Victims

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, I wish to inform this honourable House of the fire disaster which took place in one of the biggest markets in my constituency. This market is in the heart of a food producing area in Abakaliki. The fire took place when the market was in session, and it burnt down all the sheds, market stalls, including the school premises that day, that is, the school near the market.

This market serves all the parts of this State, and the neighbouring States, that is, Imo and Cross River with foodstuff. So I am using this forum to call on the Ministry of Local Government and the Abakaliki Local Government to come to the aid of the unfortunate victims of the fire disaster.

I want also to use this forum to inform the Abakaliki Local Government Council to come to the aid of Eda community on the road construction which is taking place right now. In fact, they are constructing a road of about thirty kilometres through community effort. So they want the Abakaliki Local Government Council to come to their aid, by constructing culverts and bridges and lay laterite along the road there.

So, Mr Speaker, with this I wish that the Question be now put.

Release Results of Interviews

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to use this forum in supporting the Motion for adjournment to appeal to the Local Government Teachers Service Commission to release the result of the interviews for the appointment of auxiliary teachers before the schools reopen on the 28th of this month. I am appealing to the Government to do this immediately because we are crying over low standard of education,

while the Government through this contributes to the falling standard of education.

If you go to our primary schools now, a teacher could be assigned to take up to four classes at a time, and you can consider the plight of the children in those classes.

So with this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg that the Question be put.

Work Should Start on Nenwe-Oduma Road

Mr D. C. Anyabuikie (Awgu East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to contribute my own views on the Motion for adjournment.

I want to use this chance to crave the indulgence of this honourable House through the Speaker to remind the authorities of the Ministry of Works or whosoever that is concerned, through whom Nenwe-Oduma Road had been awarded on contract, that no work has been done on that road. The two bulldozers proposed for use by the Ministry of Works on that road have been lying idle there and the only person, one of the caterpillar drivers who is there, instead of doing this work, he diverted into doing work for various communities through hirings. So I am using this opportunity to appeal to whoever that is concerned to make sure that this work shall continue instead of allowing both caterpillars there to lie idle. I wish also to remind the authorities that the rainy season is almost at hand and that place is very swampy, that during the rainy season work there will cease and it will take the next twelve months before anything is done on that road again.

So with this Mr Speaker, I support the Motion for adjournment and move that the Question be now put.

This is False

Mr M. I. Ezeugwu (Nsukka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I wish to draw the attention of this honourable House to the erroneous and damaging statement contained in the *Daily Star* of Friday 18th April, 1980 titled "The unwanted houses". The second paragraph of this report has it that the Members of this House had earlier rejected the twenty-seven thousand naira houses as unfit for human habitation. I would want that impression corrected because I can't really remember this honourable House rejecting the Ekulu houses on the basis that they are not good for human habitation. That error I will urge this honourable House to see that it is corrected.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Give us More Facts

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to refer to the information given to this House by one hon. Member yesterday during the Motion for adjournment of killing of twins at Ishielu. I wish to state that the hon. Member should try as much as possible, since he has got the information, to give us facts and figures. He should make it available to this House for necessary action. If not I don't think that we should make this House a town union or anything of such. I will not, in fact, be pleased if the matter just dies on the Floor of this House like that without finding out what really happened. It is a serious matter.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till Monday 21st April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.20 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 21st April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: The Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters will meet in room 103 when the House rises this morning. Also I wish to inform the House that all the Standing Committees should arrange to meet as soon as the House rises this morning to put finishing touches to their programme, for the Budget.

This announcement really concerns those committees that are gazetted already. If your committee is not gazetted for today, then the Chairmen must get all Members to look at the Budget. And for the rest of the week, unless something makes the House direct otherwise, the House will convene in the mornings to say the prayers and break into committees to consider the Budget. Every morning, this will be the procedure.

Mr S. N. Alor: (Njikoka Central South): Mr Speaker Sir, I wonder if we have enough committee rooms to accommodate these committees if we hold these meetings simultaneously.

Mr Speaker: Yes. I am sure there will be enough rooms in the legislative building to accommodate the thirteen Standing Committees. The Clerk of the House will help the Chairmen on this matter.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Mr Speaker Sir, further, most of the offices of the Chairmen are also equipped that they can take up the committees belonging to those rooms. For example, the Members of the Lands Committee can be comfortably accommodated in room 02.

Mr Speaker: I am sure you have taken this opportunity to invite the Members of the Committee on Lands and Survey to meet in room 02. *(Laughter)*.

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): I would be anticipating difficulties if the committees start to sit simultaneously as Members may

belong to different committees. For example, a person can belong to two or three committees; I wonder how the committees would sit simultaneously without making the Members . . .

Mr Speaker: These are minor problems. There are always problems in everything you do, you have problem in getting the microphone to speak. *(Laughter)*. The Chairman would take care of that.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): Mr Speaker Sir, if somebody wants to give evidence before a committee, how does he do that ?

Mr Speaker: Any hon. Member wishing to give evidence before a committee can either contact the Chairman of that particular committee directly or through the Clerk of the House.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Member for Nnewi South West (*Mr Mbaso*) suggested committee offices, in case an office accommodates two committees, how do we go about this? The Committee on Social Welfare is in room 01 as well as the Committee on Health. So I beg your leave to ask the Committee on Social Welfare to meet in room 01. Thank you. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: That is all right. That means the other committee will have to use the other committee room.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, it is a follow-up question to the one asked by my hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*), about giving evidence or so. Does this also apply to outsiders like the members of the Executive? If we want someone to come and give us some more information or explanation on the Estimates, will that be all right Sir ?

Mr Speaker: I had earlier said that committees wishing to extend invitations to particular members of the public or organizations or to any arm or group of the Executive arm should feel free to do so through the Clerk of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo Petrus Agallah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move that the House do now adjourn till 10 a.m. tomorrow to enable the respective committees meet. Thank you.

This is false

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak and in seconding the Motion for adjournment, I wish to use this forum to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the erroneous impression created recently to the effect that this honourable House lacks leadership. I wish to use this opportunity to re-emphasize that this House has a very effective, responsible and responsive leadership and any attempt by any person or group of persons to undermine its integrity will be stoutly resisted.

Several hon. Members: Say it loud !

Mr Okekeizuagwu: It was also said that Members of this House are worthless and that we feel that we have some powers under the Constitution to appoint committees of investigation. I must say that this is not correct because we are not feeling that we have the powers. The Constitution is very specific on this issue and it is my humble appeal that Members of this House will try, as far as possible, to see that we give ourselves the respect we deserve. This is because it is very painful that some Hon. Members are being used against the collective interest of the Members of this House and the State as a whole and that does not augur well with the welfare of Anambra State.

Thank you.

Continuous sitting is Necessary

Engr. S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West) Mr Speaker Sir, I want to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to the fact that if we are to meet the 181 days minimum requirement of the Constitution for sittings, through this year, we have to sit continuously all the days of the week and the weeks of the months till the 12th of September, 1980. This takes into cognizance the public holidays that come in-between. For this reason, Mr Speaker, I am wondering whether this House can ever go on recess before September 12th. I don't know what we shall do about it but I want to draw the attention of this House to that fact.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to support.

Payment of fees should be Scrapped

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment till tomorrow 10 o'clock, I have to call the attention of this honourable House to the fact that sometime in the past, two or three months ago, people cried about the high fees in our hospitals because the public that we represent did raise a hue and cry that much money was being paid in the hospitals and during that time too, the Government of the State, the Executive, made a statement that a committee had been appointed to look into these payments especially in the ante-natal section of the hospitals where pregnant women pay ₦30 before they could be attended to.

But recently, Mr Speaker, I went to the hospital with a relation and to my utter amazement the card which was formerly 10k, one naira is being paid for it, without any medicine. The medicines that are given to the patients are being paid for these days. So, I wonder if the Ministry of Health is looking into this matter because we were told that these payments in the hospitals were imposed by the last Military administration, that this government will bring a sort of remedial measure.

So, I am appealing to the hon. Speaker that word be passed to the Executive to see that something is done in order to alleviate the poor rural people from paying these hospital fees especially, payment of medicines that are given to them.

That Closure of I.M.T.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I want to speak in support of the Motion for adjournment and seize the opportunity thereby to make a comment on what is happening in the Institute of Management and Technology (I.M.T.).

Mr Speaker Sir, it is the responsibility of this House of Assembly to take judicious note of any issue of public importance which concerns taxpayers and the public very closely. I want to say that closure of institutions, arising from the mere fact that students demonstrated has been happening in this country. It is wrong in a democratic system—peaceful demonstration is

[MR OGBUKA]

allowed. By the weekend when the students of I.M.T. demonstrated, there was no report in the Press or in the Radio or even by rumour that there was any violence; there was any demolition of property. There was no harm to human beings but that I.M.T. students had cause to protest against whatever they disliked. I felt that what was necessary was for the authorities to call the students to discussion and not just close down the institution.

I want to condemn most unequivocally, most vehemently and without any doubt, or second thought that the closure of I.M.T. is not the best step to take in the circumstance. I do hope that in future it will be realized that the use of Police to run institutions, closure of post-primary institution because students have demonstrated is not the best thing. We do not say that students should not demonstrate, while it is wrong for students to resort to violence. In this case there is no evidence that students of I.M.T. resorted to violence. So closure of the institution is simply because it is not wanted—they should demonstrate and I don't think that peaceful demonstration is not part of democratic process. Thank you, Sir.

Mr G. N .C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. In support of the Motion for adjournment, I like to say that I agree with the hon. Member for Idemili East (*Mr Ogbuka*) who brought up the issue of I.M.T. the events of last week, some of them appear a little volatile and thank God that nothing really has been set ablaze. But I want to take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to remind ourselves that this part of the world, some years ago, went through hardship and for anybody or group of people to support any form of demonstration at this time, in any form, whether it is violent or peaceful at the moment, is most uncalled for.

Now if we go deeper into the demonstration, there is more than meets the eye. I don't think it is our place to agree with the students for whatever their demand was, but I am praying everybody here to remember yesterday. This part of the world went through the crucible and I want to remind all of us present that those that live in glass houses should not throw stones. We should try our possible best to educate our people, both students and those businessmen around us that

there is hardly any time for any form of disagreement. This you all know. Let us not beg the issue. Speak the truth and shame the devil. So please, I am begging you that we should try to educate our people. We are Igbo, we are Nigerians and therefore we should do everything peacefully and understandably too. Demonstration or no demonstration, let us please look inward and ask ourselves a big question.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, may the question be now put.

The Report was Undermining

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I have to bring to the knowledge of this honourable House a statement made on the Floor of this House sometime last week to the effect that twins were being killed in Ishielu in Abakaliki Local Government Area.

I want to say this because I would want to know when this House has become a Law Court to try murder cases. I think it is not. I know for sure that an hon. Member in this House and Chairman of a committee by way of recommendations, said that this House is not a House for morals. I do not know whether we are now moralizing. I think it is the duty of the police to investigate cases of murder. (*Interruptions*).

I think, Mr Speaker I am protected.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Ishielu Central (*Mr Okpaga*) has the Floor.

Mr Okpaga: Thank you Mr Speaker. I was saying that it is the duty of the police to investigate cases of murder or other cases. If it was really found out that people were killing, be they twins or any other human beings, I am not in a position to condone evil. I am saying that the proper channel should be taken. The report should be made to where it should be. And those people who should investigate should do so and if it is proved true, then the law should have to take its course.

I am saying that this report was made here not in good faith, nor has the person any sympathy for a section of this community. Whether it is true or false, I am saying that it was definitely a fun created in scandal. It was particularly made in order to relegate a certain section of this community. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Okpaga: There are quite a number of places in this community where worse crimes had been committed, but they never went beyond newspaper writing.

Many hon. Members: Onitsha !

Mr Okpaga: Quite a number of places have killings here and there. Corpses are found lying on the streets, towns and villages and nobody has ever dared to bring it to this House to be investigated.

I do not know why this House has to be a court of law. I am saying that . . . (*More interruptions*) I am saying Mr Speaker, that this type of report ought not to have come here. If investigations have been made and proved true, they should go where they should. Thank you Mr Speaker.

U.N.T.H. to Relax this Policy

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I want to use this opportunity to call on the U.N.T.H, Enugu, to the deplorable inhuman treatment given to pregnant mothers brought from the local government areas. I think that this honourable House has been crying that hospitals are not scattered or built in most of our local government areas. The idea is to ensure that people who are ill are cared for while serious cases are taken to where well-qualified doctors will look after them. But I got the biggest shock of my life two weeks ago when I took a pregnant woman to the Specialist Hospital, Enugu, only to be told that the woman should be taken to other maternity homes because, according to them, the woman never registered with them. I think actually that people should be helped; it is the people who come from the remotest part of this State that should be given attention, realizing that they registered with their local maternity homes. In emergency cases when the local maternity homes can no longer cope with the problems, these qualified doctors have to attend to them instead of telling such women that they have not registered. After all, death does not know who has registered and who has not. Therefore, it is bad and equally inhuman if these women should not be helped.

If the women are rushed to maternity homes which have less qualified doctors and without sufficient equipment, it means such women have been asked to go and die. And that is what

it in effect means. So, they should actually revoke such embargo because it is very inhuman and segregatory. It appears it is only the people who live in the township that are benefiting from the services of the U.N.T.H.

So with this Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr Speaker: We will have just two more speakers.

When are these Bills Assented to

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I would like really to know, because I quite remember when we were giving an account of our stewardship you mentioned that a number of Bills were passed here. I would like to know how many of these Bills had received assent and how many had not.

I don't know whether there is a way of informing us, possibly through the *Official Gazette* when they had already done that. I mean when we have got the assent, otherwise it will simply be passing Bills and we don't even really know whether they have reached the end or not. This is in support of what the hon. Member for Aguata West (*Mr Okeke-izuagwu*) called castigating or casting aspersion on the leadership of this House. It means that there may be a *cul-de-sac* some where blocking the product of this place. If we could really read between the lines, this is something that aches my mind. Thank you.

O.E.C. is no Good

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): I want to use this medium to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Works, the Maintenance Unit serving at Abakaliki Zone that the construction work on Abakaliki/Afikpo Road being done by O.E.C. Group of Companies is being condemned by the entire public and I am with the people who condemn the work.

We don't understand whether the company is doing construction or maintenance work. The company does a small distance today and the next day the entire work disintegrates. I don't understand whether it is because the company wants to deceive people of a particular area or that such an area has nothing good to be served for.

I am appealing to the Ministry to recommission the road and send away that company. The company has nothing good for

[MR UNABIA]
the people. The company should have worked at least to establish a rapport with the State, but this type of work being done there now is nothing but an eyesore.

It is also my sincere appeal that no money should be paid to such a company, otherwise it will be regarded as misappropriation.

The government should, (*Interruptions*) as much as possible stop patronizing the quacks.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: Order !

Let's watch It

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to something which I consider very serious.

Within or without the House, a serious attempt is being made to dribble this House into disowning itself. And I am really surprised that we do not see things from the right perspective—from the surface value of things and whenever something is brought up, the excuse we hear from people is that there is more in it than meets the eye. With that, we are brain-washed automatically without going into the root to find out facts. I am very,

very afraid that with this sort of impression, our coming here is just a waste of time. There is no . . .

Several hon. Members: No ! No !

(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Ojukwu: Mr Speaker, am I protected ?

Several hon. Members: Fire ! Fire !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ojukwu: I made a statement that is just subjunctive. So whoever the cap fits, let the person wear it.

Therefore, I am saying that we have to . . . (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Resign !

Mr Ojukwu: We have to be more serious over issues that will be discussed on the Floor of this House in the interest of the integrity of this House.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday 22nd April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members should please take note of the following corrections on committee meetings on the Calendar. We have found it necessary to stagger the time of meetings of the committees because of inadequacies in staffing of the committees. We don't have enough staff to man all the committees meeting at the same time.

Committee on Lands, Survey and Town Planning will now meet at 4 p.m.

Education, 4 p.m.

Information and Publicity, 4 p.m.

Local Government, 1 p.m.

Social Development, 4 p.m.

Trade and Co-operatives, 4 p.m. and for the special committees whose meetings were also gazetted, the Chairmen will please find some convenient time to hold the meetings; but meetings of Standing Committees should take precedence during this particular period for purposes of the Budget. Meetings of Standing Committees should please take precedence over Special Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow 10 o'clock to enable the committees get their job done.

We should watch our Words

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I would like to comment on a number of developments within this House of which it is my intention to issue a warning to us all. I heard an hon. Member put to us a parable which says that "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones". I pondered over this in my house, trying to think out to whom that sentiment was being expressed. I failed to see, because in my under-

standing, this House has been meeting very amicably with the exception, of course, of the unfortunate event of last week, which in my mind is natural. The thing is that it is not unexpected, because even brothers do differ in certain things. House and wife do differ, in certain domestic matter and when things of this nature. . .

An hon. Member: It is husband and wife not house and wife.

Mr Okeke: Sorry! Sorry! (*Laughter*). Husband and wife do of course at times have cause to differ and when we are in a family of this House of hon. Members, knowing each other individually and collectively, assigned the specific purpose of keeping peace, engendering developments in our respective localities and constituencies, what behoves us is of course to gear our efforts towards peace and harmony and by all means try to avoid sentiments that will provoke deep thoughts and perhaps make us have wrong interpretations because if one is left to think deep over this parable I have just quoted one interpretes out certain things rightly or wrongly. So I am warning that this kind of thing should stop, we should always watch our words when we are making expressions in this House. I have nothing against the hon. Member who made this comment but I just like to put it out to hon. Lady and Gentlemen here that as people chosen through a common ballot and assigned to one duty we should always watch our words, like our Prayers say "let us do only those things that will unite us".

The next thing Sir, is the development of yesterday in the Institute of Management and Technology which aches my mind too. It is very unfortunate it happened. The people of the East we always know are peace-makers. In the history of Nigeria since 1960 when we attained Independence, the people of the whole Eastern States have never been known to cultivate disunity or disharmony or anything that will tend to arouse disunity. It happened yesterday that a number of our boys and girls decided to behave like brutes and the government had to react. I think the reaction was in good faith designed to quell what should have been something calamitous.

[MR OKEKE]

The leader of the students body, Mr Gidempa, I heard it over the radio, said that they are not on the side of the rebellious students. That was my guiding principle in making this statement. I am asking all of us here, who have wards, who have students in that school, to check them; they are our own brothers and sisters. We should be mindful of what we do. There are things we should achieve through peaceful demonstrations and petitions or appeals without resorting to vandalism or acts of provocation as was the case yesterday. It is unfortunate it happened.

Now, I am asking the Executive through the Speaker not to prolong this period of suspension of classes. We should do all things possible to make these children return to school in good time to face their studies. The time for their examination is nearly at hand and to prolong this kind of unwanted holidays will be inimical to the purpose for which that institution was set up.

One other thing Sir, is that we should recall what disbanded the first regime. We are all

adults, we all know exactly why the first regime failed. That, to my mind, was because some people thought that they alone were Nigerians no other person belonged. They were taking the law into their hands and were overdoing things. We should check on the intelligence of the masses.

So, if we are going to rule, if we are going to lead our people, we shall always try to give true leadership with our people following us. The leaders and the led should all know what their responsibilities are without exposing themselves to extra activities—doing something that will show a sort of I don't care attitude. Be you the leader, be you the led, you should mind yourself. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to warn!

Question, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House adjourns till tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 23rd April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Meetings

Mr Speaker: The meeting of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning has been postponed till Monday to enable Members complete their assignments. Also, the Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters will not meet today. They will meet on Monday at 1 p.m. Economic Development Committee will meet at the same time as previously scheduled. Only the date will change. The Finance Committee will meet in the chairman's office as the house rises now contrary to what was gazetted.

Minority Chief Whip

I have been informed that the National Party of Nigeria, has elected the hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr C. U. Opata*) as the Chief Whip of the minority parties. This is with the consent and approval of Members of the minority parties, that includes the Great Nigerian People's Party (*Applause*). Order! Order!

Order of Precedence Bill

The Order of Precedence Bill which was passed by this House, was published in the national dailies and it has been brought to my notice that some of these dailies put the wrong descriptions down on their papers. The Deputy Governor of the State is to be addressed as His Excellency, not Your Honour as some of these news media published. The Deputy Governor of the State is to be addressed as His Excellency and for the benefit of those Members of the Press and the public who do not know, the Constitution has it that all references due to the Governor are also due to his Deputy. Also the Deputy Speaker comes after the Speaker and not after the Judges as was erroneously published. I will appeal to the members of the press to please get the correct things, the final decisions of the House published and not the committee report or the mid-way report on any deliberation.

An Appeal for Calm

Honourable Members, a lot of things have happened in our State within the past few weeks and I wish to seize this opportunity to make an appeal for calm. We are all in honour bound to live up to the pledges we made to the electorates, to see that peace and tranquillity reign in Anambra State, to see that progress is brought to the people of this State. Development of the State is our watch word.

I want therefore, to appeal very strongly to ourselves, everybody in the Government to exercise restraint in speeches and actions. I want also to seize this opportunity to assure hon. Members of this Legislature that the House of Assembly derives its powers from the Constitution and the powers and the limit of the powers of the legislature are all entrenched in the Nigerian Constitution and there is no doubt whatsoever as to what the legislature can do or cannot do, as these are clearly spelt out in the instrument of government which we call the Constitution. Therefore, hon. Members should exercise some restraint when perhaps, people question their constitutional rights, as it only highlights the problems which I have continuously stressed that a lot of people who ought to know do not know about what we are in—the Presidential System and Constitution of the country which spells out what we are to do and what we are not to do. I thank you.

Tour of Projects by Works and Housing Committee

Further announcements. The Committee on Works and Housing will be undertaking a tour of projects of the Housing Development Corporation in Enugu today, to appraise for themselves the job being done by that unit of the Government in order to enable them deliberate objectively on their Budget proposals.

ADJOURNMENT

Minority Leader (*Ogbuigboo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning in order that the committees can continue with their Budget debates. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: I know everybody has something to say on the Motion for adjournment. Well I will appeal for calm. (*Laughter*). I want to say that we can just take two. Just two. (*Interruptions*). Order! Order!

Prince F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so Sir, I have one or two observations to make.

In the first place, I thank Mr Speaker for calling for restraint, otherwise, most of us could have exploded.

Several hon. Members: Eh? Eh? (Laughter).

Cost of Treatment at U.N.T.H.

Mr Unigwe: And this couldn't have been to the interest of this State as a whole. I do believe that negotiation enables us to realize common interest while we compromise complete interest. We are aware of our powers in Section 120 of the Constitution and in the concurrent list, page 104, Item K, numbers 25 to 27. Sir this is by the way.

Secondly Sir, I have to talk on personal observations or personal experience of what has happened in the U.N.T.H. I went in there on the 16th for a check-up. The Consultant gave me a note for certain tests. To my utmost dismay, I went to the X-ray section, only to be told that there is no wallet. X-ray wallet! Not even the films but X-ray wallet prepared here in Enugu. They said I should repeat on Monday the 21st. On Monday, I went back to be told, "No wallet". I had to go to the Administration to find out why, I was told an L.P.O. has been prepared and has been forwarded to the printer some few weeks ago and nothing has been received. Wallet for X-ray! Sir, you can imagine the fate of an ordinary man in the street. Today,

I have gone to pay ₦12.50 to do the X-ray outside because I can afford it. What about an ordinary worker on level 0-something to cough out ₦12.50 for X-ray which is his or her right? Sir, I am calling on the Federal Government to lift the ban on . . . (Laughter).

An hon. Member: Wallet!

Ban on Private Practice

Mr Unigwe: Excuse me. To lift the ban on, "P.P." by Medical officers, private practice by Medical officers, because since the ban was placed, there hasn't been any improvement. You go down to the hospital, you can't see a doctor. There are a lot of people! And I can't imagine myself jumping the queue because, I am an Assemblyman to go and see a doctor. You go there, you wait for two, three, four hours or for the whole day before you see a doctor but when there was "P.P.", you go to a consultant, he will prescribe for you and you go and buy your drugs. As simple as that. So Sir, this ban on "P.P." should be lifted without further delay. Thank you very much Sir.

Several hon. Members: Put the Question! Put the Question!

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 24th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.25 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 24th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: As hon. Members can see from the Calendar, most of the Committees will be meeting, and I think Members should be given time to prepare for the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till Monday 28th April, 1980 at 10 a.m. to enable the committees go through the Budget, and to let the Members of the Nigerian Peoples Party prepare for the convention taking place in Imo State.

Thank you.

Neglect of School Buildings

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to second the Motion for adjournment, and in doing that, Mr Speaker, I have to draw the attention of this House to the apparent neglect of the school buildings blown down by tornadoes in the local government areas.

These buildings were blown down by tornadoes and the school authorities reported to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Local Government concerned, but up till now nothing has happened to those buildings, and by Monday, the school children will resume and no one can then conjecture where and how they will commence schooling by Monday and we are getting into the rainy season.

It is my humble appeal that the Ministries concerned or the authorities concerned will expedite action towards the reconstruction of these school buildings that were blown down by tornadoes some two and a half months ago.

Fair treatment in the Promotion of Teachers

Further, Sir, there are reports coming from some of these local government schools, not in the metropolis here, that the recent promotions given to teachers were either not complete or discriminatory. There are a number of teachers belonging to the same cadre; probably, they were employed the same day and they had the same rank, the same status, but during the promotions, most of them were left out without any reason. It is my humble appeal also that the authorities concerned will look into these lapses, and then make sure that what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. Because if some people in the same cadre, the same status, the same rank are promoted, leaving others without any justifiable reason, then there may be bitterness and rancour in the schools, and the school business will be hampered because nobody will ever like to work under strained and stressed atmosphere.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I say what I have here in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I want to say that it is most unfortunate that nothing I have said in this House has ever been reported the way I said it. (*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members: You don't use the microphone! You don't speak loudly enough!

Incorrect rendering of Speech

Mr Okpaga: I don't know whether it is because the people who do the reporting are not attentive or it is intentional. I don't want to say it is intentional, but I am trying to say that I believe I don't mumble words. Last time I said we were indulging in a battle of 'semantics' and it was reported a battle of 'finesse', a word I have never met before. I don't know what that means. (*Laughter*).

The need for more Board of Internal Revenue Sub-Offices at Local Government Area

Any way, having said that, I want to draw the attention of this House to what is happening in the Board of Internal Revenue in Ishielu Local Government Area.

An hon. Member: Again?

The staffing problem is very acute. There

[MR OKPAGA]
are areas in the local government areas which need sub-offices. There are no such sub-offices because there are no people to man them. This results in tax-collection being less than it should have been. I am therefore appealing to the authorities of the Board of Internal Revenue to expedite action and make sure that the remote areas of the local government areas have sub-offices where people could be posted for tax collection. With this I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and move that the question be now put.

Several hon. Members: No!

W.A.E.C. and ₦3,500 Levy

Mr G. A. Enendu (Idemili North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I beg to use this forum to call on the Commissioner for Education and perhaps the Chairman of Education Committee of this honourable House to look into and find out exactly the role the West African Examinations Council is playing in some of the schools in Anambra State. We all know that after the last West African Examination Council's examination, results of some schools were withheld because of what they called Expo. Soon after that, letters were written to those principals that their schools have been blacklisted for three years, that no examination will be taken in those centres for three years. They did not stop there. Last week I received a copy of a letter purported to have come from the West African Examinations Council saying that these schools so blacklisted, each of them will pay ₦3,500 to West African Examinations Council so that they will send external invigilators to come and supervise the next West African Examinations Council's examination.

Very good. The point I am making here Mr Speaker is that this huge sum of ₦3,500 was shared among the children that will take the examination even though these children were in Class IV when the actual offence was committed. The actual people that committed the offence in Class V then have left the school and since the punishment will continue for three years it means that those children in Class III now will come to Class V and pay the same amount. This is the point I am making. I regard this as jungle law where somebody will be made to suffer for an offence he did not commit. So,

I will like the Commissioner for Education to dive into this matter. If it is necessary that this huge sum should be paid, then the government should take the responsibility not the children who did not commit any offence. Mr Speaker Sir, with this I beg to support.

Water Shortage and Blackout in Abakaliki

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I will like to call on the Anambra State Water Board to come to the rescue of the people of Abakaliki township. For quite over two weeks now, these people have been without any water. And it is worse to hear again that at the same time when there is no water there is also power blackout. They have now neither water nor electricity and it is a township where there are some small-scale industries. So I am calling on the Water Board to see to it that water is given to these people as everybody knows that water is so vital to life. Mr Speaker Sir, with this I beg to support.

Deplorable condition of Ibiam Street

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing this, I have to call the attention of Enugu Local Government Council to the deplorable condition of Ibiam Street, Uwani, Enugu. At the junction of Awolowo/Anyaeibunam and Ibiam there are gulleys and these gulleys have formed riverlets which make movement very difficult. The earlier the council gives attention to this place the happier the inhabitants will be. So, I ask that the Speaker will convey this my message to the council so that action will be taken immediately. With this I support the Motion for adjournment and ask that the question be put.

Fees charged in Rural Health Maternity Homes

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I wish to call the attention of the Ministry of Health to the high rate of fees being charged by the Ministry with regard to rural health maternity homes. Last weekend when I was at Aguata, I had time to go round some of the maternity homes, those at Uga, Nanka and

Ogbu. In fact during peak periods the rate of births in those maternity homes usually number between 10 and 15 but it is surprising that when I went to one of the maternity homes there was only one birth recorded for two weeks I could not even see the nurse in charge of the maternity home. Paying those workers in those maternity homes, I say, is a waste of public fund because there is no productivity.

There is no gainsaying that health care delivery is one of the essential social services the government is bound to provide for the governed and any government that neglects it, is bound to fall. So I say that the Ministry of Health has urgently to see to the review of the rates of fees being charged in these rural health maternity homes with a view to easing the burden on the rural population. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg that the question be now put.

Death-traps set on our roads by the Nigeria Railway Corporation

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you very much Mr Speaker for allowing me to support this Motion for adjournment. In doing

so, I will like to call the attention of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to the death-traps they set on the roads. If anybody goes along Zik Avenue he will see where they removed something and provided a ditch about six feet by three feet. Every evening six or eight vehicles must jump in there. The ditch has been existing for over fourteen days now. Anybody who passes along that road will see what I am talking about. So it will be appreciated if this House will help us, through the Speaker at least to make it possible for people to pass on this major road without a death-trap.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker, I beg to support and beg 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 this House do now adjourn till Monday 28th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.30 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA
Monday, 28th April, 1980
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: If we look at the Calendar we will discover that it is full of committee meetings and most of the committees are involved. The committee meetings start at 11 a.m. and so I do not think we should waste time in the Chamber. We will be brief and then retire to the Committee Rooms.

ADJOURNMENT

N.P.P. Convention in Imo State

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move that the House do now adjourn to enable the committees do their job very, very well and in moving this Motion for adjournment I heartily welcome the Nigerian Peoples Party members who travelled to Imo State to attend the convention. I thank all of them who found time to attend to see that the party is working well. Thank you.

Police Maltreatment to Drivers

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to second the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so I would like to inform this House that the drivers' union both here in Anambra State, Bendel State, Kwara State and Plateau State have gone on sit-down strike. They are demonstrating against the ill-treatment given to them by the Nigeria Police. They have refused to ply the roads and have even chased out those that have tried to carry down foodstuff from the Northern side to Anambra State and because of that the cost of foodstuff will be going higher. I would like to appeal to the government through the Speaker to intervene before the situation grows worse. With this I second the Motion for adjournment.

Hostility by motor park touts in Cross River State

Mr P. Nwambeke (Abakaliki East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I want to inform this House of the ill-treatment given to the people of Anambra State by the Cross River State, especially the traders. They do

this simply because most of the traders who go there are Igbos. Every driver who goes there, when he gets to Obudu market, the largest market in Ogoja, he is asked to abandon his car for the natives to load for him. After loading, they will only give the driver whatever amount they like and take the rest and share among themselves. If you drop your bag on the ground you are made to pay for the ground. I do not think they are behaving like Nigerians. It is unfortunate that this is an NPN controlled State . . .

(Interruptions).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nwambeke: Where the slogan "one nation one destiny" is a household word. It is unfortunate that they do not practise what they say.

I am begging the House through the Speaker to ask His Excellency, Governor Clement Isong to rise to the occasion and control these boys who practise these nefarious activities. Thank you.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I want to use this forum to call on the Commissioner for Works to expedite action to ensure that all the roads that could not be used during the last rainy season are worked upon right now. I have in mind the Uduma road where it was promised work would have started on the 8th of October, 1979 but nothing has been done up till now. I know it is the same all over the State. It is better that all the roads that could not be used during that rainy season are worked upon now so that the people who inhabit the areas will be able to make use of the roads during the coming rainy season. With this Mr Speaker, I beg 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 this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Tuesday, 29th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday 29th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I wish most respectfully to appeal to all of us to join hands in seeing that calm reigns in this State. Honourable Members have responsibility to the State, through their constituencies, to see that people show restraint in whatever they do now.

It has been brought to my notice that there have been waves of demonstrations either going on already, or planned to go on later. In my candid opinion, this is not in the best interest of the State, and I appeal to all hon. Members to use their positions to bring about an end to this drift. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 30th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehele): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I wish to take this opportunity to really deplore what I think is a sad development. I have in mind committee meetings.

The Economic Development and Planning Committee was to meet yesterday at 4 p.m. but unfortunately, we could not form a quorum. I do not think that this is in the best interest of this Legislature. It was gazetted; it was in the Calender and it was just surprising that Members did not turn up and so the committee meeting had to be deferred.

So, I am using this opportunity to, please, request Members of the various committees to be alive to their responsibilities.

With this, I ask 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 this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 30th April, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.35 a.m.



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 30th April, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: In addition to whatever assignments the Public Accounts Committee has, I would like that committee to hold a brief meeting with me tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in my office to organize the programme for the recommendation to the House of salaries of certain Executive bodies of the Government.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday 1st May 10 a.m.

Extend amenities to remote
areas of the State

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Mr Speaker Sir, in seconding the Motion for adjournment, I have to bring to the notice of this honourable House that sometime ago, this House went on recess, and during the recess, hon. Members were asked to tour their constituencies in order to report back to this House their findings. After the tour of the constituencies, Mr Speaker Sir, it was announced in this House that reports should be submitted to the Clerk of the House and many of us did so I have to say that up till now, we don't know whether the Speaker or the Clerk has communicated the findings or what we discovered during the tour to the house.

I have to mention, Mr Speaker, that during the tour of the constituencies, personally,

I found that this government pays more attention to Government institutions nearer the headquarters with the result that if you go to the remote areas, the rural areas, you see that the people are suffering especially as regards the secondary schools that are situated in the remote areas. I have to cite that in my constituency, Nnewi South Constituency, there are secondary schools so affected particularly the Girls Secondary School, Ezinifite at the boundary of Anambra and Imo States. The distance from that school to the nearest hospital is about thirty-five kilometres and this school is due to have a van to transport children who are sick to the hospital. But, Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say that even if this school is not up to two years, the remoteness of the area entitles them to have a van, and so I am appealing to the Speaker to communicate to the Ministry of Education to take cognisance of the remote areas in order to help them.

I have to say also that in the rural areas, some roads and bridges that are damaged are overlooked even though the local government councils have given them some grants. I appeal that the Government of the State takes care of these areas so that amenities will be spread to the hinterland.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: As soon as the budget exercise is finished, it will be possible for the House to take together the constituencies' reports as submitted by hon. Members.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow Thursday 1st May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.25 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 1st May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to see the Chairmen of Committees on Industry and Technology, Public Utilities and Finance in my office immediately the House rises.

The Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Finance should sit this afternoon and not this morning. The usual time is 4 p.m. This is necessary because if they sit now, they may not get official reporters to cover their proceedings.

ADJOURNMENT

Stick to Deadline

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday 2nd May, 1980 at 9 a.m. and in moving this Motion for adjournment, I pray to join with the Speaker in requesting the respective committees to see that they stick to the deadline and get their reports on the Budget ready. I thank those who have been spending their time mostly in the evening in the deliberations. Thank you.

Declare May Day a Public Holiday

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, first of all, I have to congratulate the workers of this country on the May Day celebration and I will at the same time appeal to the Federal Government to declare this day a work-free day as is being done in other civilized countries. To buttress the argument, Mr Speaker, workers are supposed to be at the rally at 8 o'clock this morning and it might not end till about 10.30 a.m. or 11 a.m., half the working hours is gone. Therefore it is better declared a work-free day instead of haphazardness in the business.

Unavailability of Telephone Services

Secondly, Sir, for the past three or four days those of us who are using telephones will notice that you cannot get anywhere outside Enugu. I investigated the issue and discovered that a wing of the Ministry of Communications, they call themselves the technical staff, are

on strike and they plugged off certain gadgets that connect different parts of the country. I do not know whether it is country-wide but I limited my investigation to Enugu alone to find out why this has happened for four days running. Those of us who make use of telephone know the value and this notwithstanding, at the end of the month, the bill must come as usual.

In fact, I have been trying Lagos since last week but couldn't get it. I tried to get London and Germany and I was told the same thing. I couldn't get anything. Then I had to go to the Post and Telecommunications to make my investigation and discovered that these people are on strike, and unfortunately, I discovered also that they are not a recognized union. They should not suffer the ordinary man! If they have any grudge with the Ministry of Communications, it had better been treated than suffering the people. Everybody knows the importance of telephone in the business world.

An hon. Member: You are a Legislator!

Mr Unigwe: I am speaking for the business world. I am not doing business as a Legislator, but I am speaking for the business world. You cannot over-emphasize the importance of telephone. So, Sir, I would appeal to the Minister incharge of Communications to wade into the problem in his ministry and stop denying us this sort of moral obligation they owe to us. So, Sir, even though I have asked on behalf of the workers for the May Day to be work-free as obtains in every other country, all the same they have to put in something to justify the work-free day for this is only on day. The significance is known to all of us. To those of you who don't know, it is quite significant to us. Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment.

Supply Fertilizer to Abakaliki Zone

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I stand to point out and to call also on the Ministry of Agriculture to start the supply of fertilizer to agents in Abakaliki Zone in particular, and the State in general. This is because all the food producing areas have such bad roads that unless that is done now that the rains have not crept in, it will really be very difficult to get this fertilizer to the farmers there because the roads will be impassable when the rains come, and

[MR IBURU]
if they are not supplied with this fertilizer, it means that food production this year will certainly go down and the masses will starve.

I am saying this in view of the fact that it started sufficiently early this year to rain and farmers who went into their farms early have got their farms going even to a point of overgrowing the fertilizer stage and fertilizer will be of no use to them if supplied after the crops cannot make use of them again. So I am calling on the Ministry of Agriculture to supply without further delay the fertilizer, more especially the fifteen-fifteen type to all existing agents in the State. Thank you.

Check this Erosion

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Thank you Mr Speaker for recognizing me. I stand up now to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I would want to use this forum to inform the Government that erosion has started to cause great havoc and menace to the people of Uzoigbo in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area. The upper side of the town has been washed away completely and gorges and barricades formed along the routes. The food-crops which have been earlier planted have been washed away. Some of the inhabitants have had especially their buildings carried away by erosion. The area is known for the supply of river-sand for the building of bridges. The people of Nsukka, especially those engaged in block industry have been stranded because of insufficient supply of river-sand. This has been caused by erosion blocking the route that people and the tippers used to get through. So, I am appealing that the government should do something immediately to tar the routes and thereby cause an immediate remedy to be done in order to check erosion in Ezuma. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Post more Auxiliary Teachers to Schools

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the authorities concerned with education to the fact that we have been crying about it in certain areas for a very long time. Auxiliary teachers are being recruited but up till now that schools have resumed, the auxiliary teachers particularly in Abakaliki Local Government Area, have neither been recruited once nor results published. There is no posting,

and you have a teacher managing over 120 children? It is a question of oral work with the children. There can be no written work for such children for a teacher to correct.

So, I am taking this opportunity to call upon the authorities concerned to speed up. It is a mark of inefficiency. Why should we take up nearly six months in recruiting auxiliary teachers? Why should it take such a long time? So the authorities should act now, paste the list of the recruited teachers and get those who should post them to do so. We want work done and we want our children to be taught properly. This is the last term of the school year, and if school children remain without teachers, how do we expect them to be promoted to another class in September. So, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Check Cassava Disease

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. In support of the Motion for adjournment, I would like to call on the Ministry of Agriculture again to remind them of the presence of a devastating cassava disease. If this disease is not checked now, this State would face famine. We all know the importance of cassava. It is a staple diet, well, one of our staple diets. I appeal to the Ministry to do something practical about this disease because in many local government areas, especially in my own local government, the disease is really causing much havoc.

Ministry of Health Central Workshop Oji-River

Certainly, Sir, I would like to call on the Ministry of Health to look into the central workshop within the Health Technology at Oji-River. This central workshop was established in the year 1965 by UNICEF. They have wonderful machines there for servicing vehicles but due to some reason known to some people, these machines are being neglected and are not being used. The result is that they are lying waste. We would like this workshop to be revitalized and revamped so that the much needed service would be given to the government of this State. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support and ask that the Question be put.

Outbreak of Cholera

Mr N. Ekuma (Ezza East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to inform the Ministry of Health that there is an outbreak of cholera in

Ezza Local Government Area. (*Interruptions*). They should not waste time to go there and rescue the people from death. This disease spreads with such speed that if care is not taken the whole area would be engulfed. So, I am using this opportunity to ask the Ministry of Health not to use their usual language "out of stock" this time, because I will not accept it. They should therefore do everything possible to see that the people are protected. With this, may I move that the Question be now put.

Construct Nenwe-Oduma Road

Mr D. C. Anyabuike (Awgu East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you so much for allowing me to air my view on the Motion for adjournment. I want to use this opportunity to remind the Ministry of Works and Housing that nothing whatsoever has been done on the Nenwe-Oduma Road which had been approved by this House for construction. As a result of this delay, we have got a lot of drought in my area for there is no water. But if this particular road is constructed, it will serve the entire constituency. I am therefore appealing to this honourable House to tackle this road because the rainy season is now drawing near.

The soil in that place is clayey and if there is rain, that road will be impassable. This road had already been approved and I don't see why its construction should be delayed. So, with this I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and I say, may the Question be put. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

A close look at the Calendar will show that the Business Committee is repeated. Professionals call that "Printers Devil". The meeting will be held in Room 101 at eleven o'clock.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Several hon. Members: House Committee!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! It is rather the House Committee and not the Business Committee. I said that the Business Committee was repeated, but it should be the House Committee. The House Committee should meet in Room 101. Then the Business Committee, I think, has a permanent place of meeting.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): In their office.

View Workers' plight with Sympathy

Mr Ngene: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, Sir, I would like to plead with this honourable House and all authorities to view the plight of workers with sympathy. An hon. Member had earlier spoken on the significance of today which is the May Day. I would very much plead with this honourable House because I know we have the Budget now placed before us. These workers have some problems, and I believe that if we are sympathetic to their cause, we can look into some of their fringe benefits and approve them without modifications.

It is not just stopping with this House alone. I am pleading with some of those who are employers of labour to appreciate the hardship in which many of these workers are placed today. It is becoming extremely difficult to have three square meals in this country because of inflation. What workers are paid have really become nothing, very meaningless in relation to the expenses they incur per month. So, Mr Speaker Sir, I would very much plead that when we scrutinize the Budget, that we look into their plight and where possible, if some fringe benefits have been curtailed, we plead with the Federal Government that these fringe benefits should be restored as soon as possible. Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

Omission of House of Assembly in the Telephone Directory

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, Sir, I wish to request the Administration of this Legislature to ask this House why there was no provision for this House of Assembly in the telephone directory which we got this morning. Secondly, I would also call on the Ministry of Works to sit up to its responsibilities. This is because nothing has been done up till now about most of the roads and bridges which were provided for in the last Supplementary Estimates. I have in mind the Ebonyi bridge and Enyigba-Norcap Road which may not be passable during this rainy season. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to sit.

Investigation on the State Library Services Board

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I wish to alert the hon. Members of this House on what is happening in the State Library Services Board. On the 11th of this month,

Several hon. Members: Last month please!

Mr Nwafor: On the 11th of last month, notice was issued, appointing a panel to investigate a serious allegation, of misuse of privilege against a senior member, or should I say the Sole Director of the Board, by a junior staff of the very Board. This panel was to start taking evidence on the 22nd of last month. Then on the 24th, another circular was issued by the Commissioner for Special Duties and Information in the Governor's Office who instituted the panel, suspending the evidence indefinitely.

Mr Speaker Sir, about eighteen senior and junior staff of the Board had written memoranda to give evidence before the commission in support of the allegation made. With this suspension, Mr Speaker, it appears that all these staff are now exposed to various forms of vicimization by the Board, but be that as it may. I am asking, through the Speaker of this House, that this is a twist of democracy in that special department, and I would like the Commissioner for Special Duties who boldly initiated this panel, to tell the public why he decided to suspend the inquiry or investigation indefinitely. With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Abandoned Road Contracts

Mr A. U. Ogbaga (Abakaliki North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I wish to remind the Ministry of Works and Housing of the conditions of roads given on contracts some two or three years ago. Many of these roads are now danger zones to vehicles. The State government, the local government, or the community do not care about these roads because they are on contract, but the contractors have abandoned them and no work is going on, on them.

The bridges and culverts are all broken down. It is very necessary that provision be made at least to put up the bridges as a temporary measure because the rains are now setting in. If the rains set in and nothing is done about these roads that are on contract, they will be of no use to anybody even to pedestrians because nobody can go across the bridges as they will be flooded by that time. I am therefore calling on the Ministry of Works to do something about these roads because they constitute dangers to the areas where they are. With this, I beg to support the Motion, and ask that the Question be now put.

Improper Selection of Auxiliary Teachers

Mr S. N. Ozoekwem (Ezeagu South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so Sir, I wish to inform this honourable House of what is happening in Ezeagu Local Government Area.

Mr Speaker Sir, I want to lay before this House the improper selection of auxiliary teachers which is going on in Ezeagu. I am humbly appealing to the authorities incharge of education to set an examination for those selected few at Ezeagu, for I have observed that a lot of them have no First School Leaving Certificates. Some of them borrowed theirs and it is quite unfair that while we are employing teachers who will teach our children, we pick those who cannot even read or write

Mr Speaker Sir, I am saying this to protect the interest of the whole country on education. It is better to order that there be a stop to this forthwith.

With this, Sir, I beg 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 this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday, 2nd May, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 2nd May, 1980
The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I wish to announce that all the Standing Committees dealing with Budget will be expected to turn in their Reports to Finance Committee through the Clerk of the House by Tuesday next week, that is the 6th of May. The Second Reading of the Bill will start on Wednesday 7th and will last for ten days so that will take us through 20th May and then the Third Reading may follow as from the 21st depending on circumstances. In order words the Finance Committee will be expected to report to the House by the 20th at the close of the Second Reading. The days to be allotted to the Third Reading will depend on our pace and shall be determined as we go on.

Any Standing Committee which for any reason may not be able to return its Report to the Finance Committee through the Clerk of the House will have to discuss that with Mr Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

Wake Up Premier Brewery

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till Monday 10 o'clock. In moving this Motion Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the present situation in Premier Brewery Limited, Onitsha. In that very Premier Mr Speaker, you can see that some lorries stay there for over a week with empty cartons for reasons best known to the management and staff of that Brewery. They make the present people who are allocated with few cartons of beer to be stranded without either off-loading the empty cartons and bottles or collecting the beer.

I think Mr Speaker, Sir, that if the staff are tired of working there or if they have any other motive with regard to the management, it would be better for them to resign.

(Prolonged applause).

Several hon. Members: Hear! Hear! Hear! I think the staffs are no longer happy with our government. (Interruptions).

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Majority Leader: I think it is high time they understood that the Anambra State Government has the power to probe that Premier Brewery or to sack any staff that is not prepared to comply with the system or being obedient to the members of the public and to the Government of this Anambra State. So with this Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and to congratulate our Leader for the round about turn.

(Laughter).

When the Motion came up for inquiry the Leader was in the forefront of killing the Motion not because it had no merits but because of some other extraneous reasons which was not explained to this House and I am happy Sir, that barely seven days after the Motion was killed the Leader of the Majority Party who is a powerful member of the society and a powerful member of the government has seen the sense that Nwofor and others are not rebels but . . .

(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members: Fire! Fire!

An hon. Member: Shame! Sit down!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nwofor: I am happy that the Majority Leader has made a point that the Premier Brewery is sick and that all those who want peace in this State . . .

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nwofor: All those who want peace in this State should ensure that any place where there is some element of sickness, the situation should be corrected. So Mr Speaker I do not want to belabour the point.

Operation of the Constitution

Secondly I want to draw the attention of this House to Section 5(2) of the Constitution. This section has been misconstrued throughout the whole Federation..

[MR NWOFOR]

It is a new constitution we are operating, and I am sad to report that in almost all the States of the Federation, the Executives do not know that their powers are limited by the constitution. It is important that this Section of the constitution, Section 5 (2) should be read by every Member of this House and every Member of the Executive.

An hon. Member: Read it.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! No dialogue. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) we have heard what you said about Section 5 (2) of the constitution. Please round off.

The 2.8 Billion Oil Gate Scandal

Mr Nwofor: Thank you Sir. Finally, I wish to bring to the attention of this House that one correspondent who helped in her small way to uncover the ₦2.8 billion oil gate scandal had her appointment unceremoniously terminated by the powers that be and I wish this honourable House to say unequivocally that we do not support corruption. Anybody who has any evidence to uncover this profusely scandalous embezzlement should be encouraged because very few governments in West Africa can have a national budget of ₦2.8 billion and because this young lady turned in a tape, she was sacked and I want this honourable House to say that we are not happy about this intimidation that is going on. Thank you Mr Speaker.

High Levy in Primary Schools

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to draw attention to the activities going on in certain schools here in Enugu. Sometime ago many schools were blown off by tornado and storms in Enugu. And the Enugu Urban Council came up with a comforting promise that they were going to look after those schools. Unfortunately certain schools in Enugu are now levying as much as ₦10 per pupil. I say this because one may have a parent who is just struggling to feed himself and family and that parent may have as many as six or seven children in the school and at ₦10 each he will be forced to pay ₦60 at a go.

I am therefore drawing the attention of the Ministry of Education to this matter to find out whether after receiving a subsidy from the local government council, the schools go on to levy the children as much as ₦10 each and

if that is the case, they will have to refund the money to the Ministry of Education or to the parents who contributed the money. Parents are being placed in extreme hardship. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Solidarity Matches Condemned

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for allowing me to contribute in support of the Motion for adjournment. Please Sir, this is a very serious affair going on within the State. This is not the only State in the Federation. We are now trying to give the world and Nigeria at large the impression that we are inadvertently playing into the hands of the enemy. From every corner you see a number of people roaming the street saying they are having solidarity match. What type of solidarity? Are we not solid? Are we not stable? Then what is the reason for all this sort of thing? Every day people in the rural areas will leave their jobs and take the risk of moving on the highways at this difficult time, to come to Enugu and start dancing. After dancing they go home again without anything.

This is really very much indicative of an unstable society. Our State is not a Police State and we cannot construe that as such. We know really the implications of any State turning itself into a Police State. The Federal Government may have an answer to that, and we would not like it. They may call for a state of emergency and we all go back home again. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker Sir, I hope I am protected.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member who has the floor should please make his point.

Mr Mbaso: So, Sir, what I am saying is that we should not be oblivious of the difficulties and danger ahead if we encourage this sort of roaming about the streets by people who say they are undertaking a solidarity match. We may for one reason or the other try to see some reason for that, but deep down in our hearts we know we are deceiving ourselves, and this will amount to what the old politician would call political jiggery-pokery. (*Laughter*). So, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till Monday 5th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.55 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 5th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ADJOURNMENT

Minority Leader (*Ogibuibo Petrus Agballah*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning to enable the Legislators pursue the budget exercise. Thank you.

Nnewi-Oba Road

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to second the Motion for adjournment. In doing this, Sir, I think it will be interesting to draw the attention of this honourable House to the fact that it is now over two months since the M.C.C. took over the contract of building Nnewi-Oba Road. It will be good fun to see that this road is under 13 kilometres but up till now the M.C.C. has not been able to do the scraping from Oba to Nnewi. They have come some 3 kilometres to Nnewi and there they are at a stand still. To worsen the situation, they have given instruction to some people living within and around to dig trenches in order to lay pipes to get water and after digging them, left them uncovered.

It is also very embarrassing that at the western end of the road, it is not only that clearing has been done, they are digging all the ditches, they have spread laterites, smoothed this and rolled it. One would have thought that if the workers, not necessarily the company, who are doing this job have nothing other than digging, they should have been doing the work in stages. They should have at least tarred the whole road that is going to be constructed and not to take part of it and put a final touch to the utter neglect of the other end.

I would, Mr Speaker Sir, urge this House to ask the Works and Housing Committee to make a trip and see things for themselves if there is anything to be done to find out. If the M.C.C. is not prepared to do this job then they will do well to give up the job. With this, I beg to second the Motion.

Legislators to Guard against their Utterances

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to support this Motion for adjournment and in doing this, Mr Speaker, I would like to urge hon. Members of this House to carry out an exercise at assessing public opinion. This, I suppose, will help them in guarding against the utterances they make both within this House and outside. The reason I am saying this is that it appears many of us are still confined within their ivory towers and for such people or hon. Members, I will ask them to get out of their ivory towers, for a change, travel by taxi, leave their cars alone, go into even palmy bars and discuss with the people by way of assessing public opinion. Do not detach yourselves from the people you claim to represent.

The reason I am saying this, Mr Speaker, is that I don't know how many of us appreciate the seriousness of government business. Government business is a serious task and that being so, it should not be made joke of. All I am saying is that I am expressing some surprise at a statement credited to an hon. Member on the Floor of this House, which statement for all intents and purposes tends to suggest the possibility of this State being declared a police State following demonstration of solidarity for this administration.

I think, Mr Speaker, the hon. Member who raised that issue must have borne in mind Section 11, subsection (4) in particular of the Constitution which with your permission, I will like to cite. It says *inter alia*:

At any time when any House of Assembly of a State is unable to perform its functions by reason of the situation prevailing in that State, the National Assembly may make such laws for the peace, order and good government of that State with respect to matters on which a House of Assembly may make laws as may appear to the National Assembly to be necessary or expedient until such time as the House of Assembly is able to resume its functions; and any such laws enacted by the National Assembly pursuant to this section shall have effect as if they were laws enacted by the House of Assembly of the State.

I think also the hon. Member who raised that issue must have been guided by the incidence of 1964 which involved the Western Region of Nigeria then, because of the crisis

[MR EMEHELU]
emanating from demonstration against the Government of that State at that time leading eventually to the declaration of the State of emergency in the Western Region. I don't think there is any such similarity existing here because this demonstration was solidarity demonstration.

The people are merely reacting, demonstrating their support for this Administration unlike what happened in the Western Region so that it beats me really for an hon. Member who belongs to this Administration to raise this issue and insinuate the possibility of the Federal Government acting under this section of the Constitution which I have just quoted to really declare this State a police State. But, Mr Speaker, he also forgot Section 11 (5) of the same Constitution which states as follows I may quote:

For the purpose of subsection (4) of this section, a House of Assembly shall not be deemed to be unable to perform its functions so long as the House of Assembly can hold a meeting and transact business.

I do not think we have come to a stage where this House has failed to operate or to transact its business. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Deputy Chief Whip: Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like really to draw the attention of all of us to the need for discipline. Majority of us here belong to the same party and like the hon. Gentleman who leads this party, the Right hon. Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe put it, we have come to a stage now where we should emphasize the need for discipline in this party. And as a matter of fact, if a Member of a Government Party is not happy that the government he represents is having a series of messages or demonstrations of support, then I think he should get out of that party. It is as simple as that.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Stop wasting our time!
(*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

An hon. Member: On a point of Order!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! There is no point of Order on Motion for adjournment.

Deputy Chief Whip: Thank you Mr Speaker, I will round off by sounding a note of warning and that note of warning is that Members should check their utterances not

only on the Floor of this House, but outside this House. With this Mr Speaker, I beg that the Question be put.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Nonsense! (*Interruptions*). We have to reply.

An hon Member: Is it a dialogue?

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Remove Customs Personnels from Anambra State

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Speaker Sir, I could remember it has taken some time since we passed a Motion in this House urging the Federal Government to remove customs personnel staying in Anambra State. Since passing the Motion, nothing has been done up to now. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Hear him in silence.

Mr Ojemeni: Since then, nothing has been done and the harassment continues along our roads. I think it is advisable for something practicable to be done to stop such embarrassment of innocent persons.

With this Mr Speaker, I support the Motion for adjournment and at the same time ask that the Question be put. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Question, That the Question be put, put and negatived.

(*Interruptions*).

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Divide the House!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! There is no division on a Motion for adjournment.

Another hon. Member: Divide the House, Sir!

Some hon Members: No! No!

An hon. Member: Repeat the Question!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow Tuesday 6th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday 6th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: There are some changes in the meetings of Standing Committees. The Committee on Industries and Technology will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 104 and not at 1.30 a.m. as shown in the Calendar. The Committee on Agriculture and Food Production will also meet at 11 a.m. in my office.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

Nsukka East Constituency

Mr A. E. Odoh (Nsukka East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for having given me the chance to second the Motion for adjournment and in so doing, Sir, I have some observations to make. I would like to make it known that Nsukka East constituency is the largest constituency in the Nsukka Local Government Area, both in size and in population. It is also one of the largest in the State.

Several hon. Members: True?

Mr Odoh: And the local government has never thought of that particular constituency. (Laughter). I would like to point out that ever since the Caretaker Committee took over that local government, they have never thought of my constituency except that one day, they came and introduced themselves to the constituency and asked the already law abiding citizens to be law abiding. (Laughter).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Odoh: I would like to make an appeal to the Executive, through this honourable House, that something is wrong somewhere and if the situation is not taken care of, it will deteriorate. I am very happy that members of the Project Implementation Directorate are there and I know very soon they will go down to Nsukka and I am sure they will ask for Nsukka East

and there is nothing going on there.

An hon. Member: Sorry! They will see for themselves.

Mr Odoh: When these people go there, they will find out that the principle of rationing does not at all exist in that local government. It is disheartening to note that some highly placed civil servants in the local government have vehemently refused to co-operate with the members of the Caretaker Committee. I have facts and figures.

Several hon. Members: Fire! Fire!

Mr Odoh: I shall not get into details. This may be as a result of political interest. I would like to point out that any civil servant in the world, after having served for over twenty-two years in a particular station and is transferred and he refuses to be transferred because of his godfather, has something to hide.

Several hon. Members: Fire! Fire!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Odoh: I would like the Local Government Service Commission to take note and if nothing is done about it, both the son and the godfather will be brought to this honourable House to have a chat with the honourable House. The constitution is clear on this. With this, Sir, I appeal to my constituency to take it calmly. They are already law abiding and I would like them to continue in that spirit because I hope the State will not forget them if the local government forgets them.

With this, Sir, I beg to second the Motion. Thank you very much.

Agulu-Nnobi Road

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Thank you very much Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Motion and in doing so Sir, I want to report to this House about a particular road in this State that has become a tantalizing ruse to the people. This road leads from Agulu in the Njikoka Local Government Area to Nnobi in the Idemili Local Government Area.

An hon. Member: Down to Nnewi in Nnewi Local Government Area.

Mr Ugoh: And so, the first contract for its tarring was awarded in 1965 to Micheletti. Micheletti succeeded only in building the

[MR UGOH]
culverts before the hostilities. Later on, it was reawarded to Divisional contractors who did little or nothing. Their contract was cancelled and reawarded in 1976 to Tektoniks. I think Tektoniks proved itself both incapable and incompetent to handle the job and this, in spite of the fact that fifteen per cent. mobilization fee had been paid to this company, nothing was done. On 4th August 1979, the contract to tar this road, a distance of about fifteen miles, or if I may say, twenty something kilometres was awarded to another company which is handling the job today.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am reporting to you that little or nothing has been done on this job even though it was scheduled that the contract should be completed before the rains this year should set in. The rains have come and little or nothing is done. I am reporting so that you may direct your Works Committee to go and see what is happening there.

If the contractor or the firm handling the road is not able to handle it, the committee may have to recommend to you that the contract be terminated and reawarded. But you see now the contract on that road has been bedeviled and the project has become a kind of will-o-the-wisp, a ruse and mirage. So I am urging this House to see what is wrong with that particular project. It is now going to twenty years since this contract has been awarded, reawarded and little or nothing has been done and see the traffic it commands. It would have been a very nice side track off Onitsha and a short cut to Nnewi and so on and so forth but nothing has been done.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, I am most humbly but sincerely asking you to ask or direct that this job be investigated. If the contractor has any problem let him report to you. If he cannot handle the job let us know so that we cancel the entire thing, otherwise we cannot wait indefinitely for him to continue taking the chieftaincy title and squandering the so-called mobilization fee or whatever you like to call it but the State cannot continue waiting indefinitely. It is not the blame of this regime. It is not even the blame of the previous regime but the contractors. The present one cannot eat his cake and have it.

So, Mr Speaker, I am urging that something be done now and quickly because the rains are coming and soon we won't know what to do.

So, with this, I beg to support the Motion.

Abuse of Power by Police

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I wish to use this opportunity to call the attention of the State Commissioner of Police to what I consider the fragrant abuse of power by the Nigerian Police stationed at Effium in Ishielu Local Government Area. These policemen engage in wanton detention of the law-abiding citizens of the area on allegations that border on land and marriage disputes. These people have the price of their freedom as long as they are able to produce what they call "bail money" and this amount ranges from ₦10 to ₦12 per victim. They don't even stop there. After collecting this bail money, knowing quite well that the cases are purely civil cases, they don't make them civil until they have collected their bail money.

They would demand what they call money for closure of case which ranges from ₦60.00 to ₦100 per victim. I am appealing strongly to the Commissioner of Police, Anambra State to draft in a group of detectives to go to Effium to investigate the activities of these men, whom I think are not playing the game according to the rules. It appears to me they have forgotten the rules of the game in the police force. And it is my intention that sanity should be enforced in their case once more. With this, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Hasten the Construction of Power House

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to contribute in support of the Motion for adjournment. May I please, Mr Speaker Sir, draw the attention of this honourable House to the proper requirement of electricity in this House. I understand actually that we have got a plant and the house is being constructed and nothing is being done to make sure that it is tested before the rain. By tomorrow we shall start the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and it may, as we have seen before take us to night and if we have no light, probably by any misfortune or design and the work of the Legislature is being disrupted in one way or the other, it would have the effect of delaying the proceedings here and we may be blamed by outsiders who do not know the reason for

our failure to complete the Estimates in time. I am humbly asking that serious attention be paid to the construction of the power house and make sure really that whenever we have power failure we get our own to serve us.

Already in some areas in the town we have been getting symptoms of power failure. Occasionally, whenever we start lacking water in some areas in the town we know that the danger time is approaching. Very soon it will affect the parliamentary premises around here and once it affects here the next thing is, occasionally, when we shall be having debate here the blackout will come. We are very lucky that this place is quite spacious otherwise one day there may be another episode of the Black Maria of Nigeria going on to the Black Hole of Calcutta and the Black Parliament of Enugu, so this we want to avoid by taking necessary prompt action.

With this I beg to support the Motion.

Landlords Provide Waste-bins

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I want to use this forum to appeal to the landlords in Enugu to endeavour as much as possible to co-operate with Enugu Local Government Management Committee. Under this entry Sir, the Management Committee should order these landlords to put up waste-bins in front of their premises. I have gone round some of these premises and to my utter distress these waste-bins have not been put. I am now appealing to them to co-operate with the Management Committee. They are doing it in the interest of the general public. I think some of our people take delight in contravening simple orders like this or simple instructions. It doesn't cost much to buy a waste-bin. As a matter of fact it costs about ₦10 or ₦15. It puzzles me why these people are refusing to put up waste-bins to enable the refuse collectors to collect and take away. So I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Management Committee to do something about it. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Congratulations

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this Motion and I would like to register my congratulations to the Works and Housing Committee... (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Ojukwu:... for not allowing themselves to commit the Budget by proxy and they have undertaken a tour of some of the local government areas which I hope they will carry to a finish. Our problem in the past is committing Budgets by proxy and at the end of every financial year it will be found that less than one quarter of the approved Estimates or expenditure would be lying fallow somewhere and nothing is achieved practically. I would also like other committees to emulate the Works and Housing Committee by going to see things for themselves. It is not enough to put things down on paper without putting them into practice. By this I hope we can ginger the Executive to be up and doing.

Moreso, Sir, like somebody has already suggested about the Agulu-Nnobi road which appears to terminate at Nnobi, it appears there is a concerted effort to frustrate the people within and around Nnewi Local Government Area. From the Onitsha side, like I mentioned yesterday, the M.C.C. came to a point and stopped there. Now from the eastern side too, this company that is doing Agulu-Nnobi-Nnewi road has gone as far as to Nnokwa, and there came to a full stop. I am afraid I will still urge the Works and Housing Committee to find out what is perhaps wrong with most of these contracting firms so that any group of contractors that is found incompetent should be terminated for better and more competent contractors.

My main aim is to congratulate the Works and Housing Committee, and to request other Standing Committees to borrow a leaf.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Nsukka-Enugu-Ezike-Ogugu Road

Mr S. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is my intention to use this forum to urge the Federal Government to take over the Nsukka-Enugu-Ezike-Ogugu road to finish up the construction of the road in order to link Benue State for the purpose of inter-State communication.

This road was approved by Col. Ochefu during his time in Anambra State, and the contract was awarded by Col. Kpera. The aim was to link these two neighbouring States, but unfortunately, the M.C.C that constructed the road ended it inside the bush between Anambra

[MR OBETA]

State and Benue State. It is now impossible for the State Government to go into another man's soil to finish up the construction of the road. It is now the entire responsibility of the Federal Government, otherwise, the aim of constructing the road is completely defeated. From Igbo-Eze to Benue State is not more than six kilometres, but we cannot travel from Igbo-Eze to Benue State directly except going back to take Obollo road which is a distance of about one hundred kilometres from that place to touch Benue State. So, many people have been deceived by taking that road only to end up in the bush. This is the first time of seeing a major road of that type ending up in the centre of a bush.

I am, therefore, saying that it is the actual responsibility of the Federal Government to see that the construction work on the road is resumed and finished at a record time.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Troubled Areas

Mr C. O. Emehelu (Enugu North): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to recall that not long ago, the hon. Minority Leader, on the Floor of this House, drew the attention of this Administration to certain goings-on in Udi Local Government. Also recently, the Project Implementation Directorate found as a fact that the Udi Local Government Management Committee and the Njikoka Management Committee were not performing very well. This also applies to Ezeagu Local Government.

I think it is now time to call on the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs to make haste and go into these troubled areas to sort out things, because this Administration has a duty to protect the interests of the people, and to enhance the welfare of the people we represent. I do not think the generality of the public will be happy with this Administration if we do not react to this kind of situation. As a matter of fact, the report of the Implementation Directorate is sufficient to lead to the sacking of these Management Committees so that our image will be redeemed.

With this, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be put.

Representatives of Ministries necessary in the House

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Thank

you, Mr Speaker Sir. I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very small thing, but a thing that really matters. There is no doubt that the parliament of the people is the organ that organizes the society. We come here and say so many things, but in the end those whom we are talking to may not get it as we would want them to get it. Very soon we are going to start the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I do not know how the ministries actually accept what we are saying. There is no impact whatsoever. There is a provision for these people to be here and those are their seats. Each ministry should assign one person to come to the Legislature either for a fortnight or a week to sit down and listen and watch what is said about his own ministry, then he goes back to relay it to his Permanent Secretary. It is only then we can have the impact of what we are saying. It is not when we have finished talking then a few may be relayed over the air and others may not, then it will take sometime before it occurs to them to refer to the Hansard to know what is talked about their ministry.

It is our duty to improve the society by our statements because we represent the people. We say what the people want and when we go to our constituencies they tell us their problems and we come to relay them here. It is the Executive, that is, the ministries that carry out these things that should be made to know what the people are saying. Therefore, it is important that they should be here; there is provision for them; they sit down there and listen and take note. At the end of a fortnight or so another person will be sent to replace the other person, and the people to be sent should be high grade officers who should really epitomize what is said about the ministry and give a real report back to the Permanent Secretary. So, I think we should bring impact to bear on the ministries if we cause their representatives to be here, otherwise, they do not care. They should send their people here and take back what is being said about them.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, I think it is our duty perhaps through the Speaker's office to liaise in a way to get the Commissioners to give this instruction. It is important. Some of them do not know what we say about the Commissioners until it is relayed on the air, but if they get their representatives here, then they will know

the feelings of the people of this State. They cannot know that unless they come to this Legislature.

Health Centre at Achara Ikwo

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Health to the marvelous work done by the Canadian Church Mission at R.I.M. Achara Ikwo. They have built a Health Centre which is in conformity with all the provisions for such a centre in the ministry. This centre has also been lavishly furnished. There is a provision for good staff quarters. I mean, everything about the centre is ready. But it is unfortunate that this place which is the nearest hospital in Obubra—about 50 kilometres away—that nothing has been done about the health centre and the whole work done there, the equipment and everything are lying waste in the house. So I am calling on the Ministry of Health to go to this health centre and see things for themselves, and see to it that this health centre is commissioned and work started in it so that the health and the lives of the people of Achara Ikwo and its suburbs will be saved.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Insufficient Cameras at N.T.V., Enugu

Mr P. Nwambeke (Abakaliki East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to use this forum to urge the Federal Government to provide adequately for N.T.V., Enugu for news coverage. I understand that N.T.V., Enugu has only three cameras to cover the whole State. This is very appalling. I do not understand why; I cannot know why the honourable House such as this one, the State's number one House in Anambra State, should not have one camera to cover its activities. I think this attitude by the Federal Government is not proper.

I do not know whether it is the same thing in other States or whether it is peculiar to Anambra State. They should be able to provide more cameras to the staff and give them the whole equipment they need for the

execution of their job. I am appealing through the Speaker to get the Federal Government to be up and doing.

Thank you and I beg that the Question be now put.

Black out at Abakaliki

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me an opportunity to speak. I wish to inform the public through this honourable House that for the past five days, there has been black out, (*Interruptions*) and we also suffer from water problem, but light is now more important and all the activities in Abakaliki that need electricity are now at a standstill. So I wish to use this forum to call on NEPA to be up and doing.

Give Marching Grants for Self-help Projects

Secondly, in Anambra State, from time immemorial, community development has always been given priority attention. So, people who embark on self-help projects should be helped. I, therefore wish to use this forum as well to ask that in this Budget, the State Government should make appropriate provision to give matching grant to any community that is embarking on community self-help project. I can cite as an example, my own constituency, i.e., Abakaliki South. They are embarking on various road projects which need government help. So I want to use this forum to implore that government should help those communities like Amachi, Ida, Ogbito-Amagu. They are embarking on various self-help projects which need government help.

I want also to draw the attention of Anambra State Government and Abakaliki Local Government Council to the fact that they should give their help. With this, Mr Speaker, I move 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 the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 7th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.55 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 7th May, 1980

The House met at 12.15 noon

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation
Bill 1980

Order for Second Reading Read.

Chairman Finance Committee (Mr A. O. Ottah): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move:

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the sum of ₦298,350,580 for the services of the Government of Anambra State of Nigeria for the year ending 31st December, 1980, and for other related purposes be now read a Second time.

I beg to move.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): I beg to second the Motion.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members will please note that the meeting of the Committee on Industries and Technology will hold at 1.30 p.m. in Room 104. In actual fact, the time is immediately after adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the fact that this Chamber is in darkness and the business of this House can, therefore, not go ahead, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 8th May, 1980 at 10 a.m. in order to continue debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, I have in mind saying that precautionary measures must be taken today to ensure that there will be no repeat tomorrow of what has happened this morning so that Members will be able to tackle this serious business of the House.

An hon. Member: What happened?

Mr Udeani: Are you asking? There is a situation where hon. Members are in complete darkness. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday 8th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 8th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, on the 6th of May, 1980, we received a copy of address presented to teachers at the mass rallies of the Association of Post-primary School Teachers, Anambra State by the state Chairman, Mr Mike E. O. Ononiwu, which address highlighted what they described as (Our Case with the Government).

The major grievances expressed by these teachers are:

- (i) Harmonization,
- (ii) Promotion,
- (iii) Leave Allowance.

The House will refer the matter to the Education Committee and will appeal to the teachers to exercise patience while the House Education Committee takes up the issue after the Budget exercise. It is hoped that the State School Service Commission would have been re-constituted so that the proper and effective bodies to handle the issue with the House Education Committee will effectively resolve the issue.

Honourable Members, I have received correspondence from the Principal Secretary to His Excellency, the Governor, to the effect that certain persons have been appointed to the following Statutory Bodies subject to the confirmation by this honourable House.

The persons are:—

Civil Service Commission:

Mr Ugwu N. Ujam	...	Chairman
Mr S. Ezenwata	...	Member
Chief S. A. Nwaroh	...	Member
Dr Anthony Nnaemeka	...	Member
Mr Fidelis Mbam	...	Member

Judicial Service Commission:—

Hon. Justice Emmanuel Araka	...	Chairman
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Mr Rob Iweka—	...	
Attorney-General/Commissioner for Justice	...	Member
Chief Igbonekwu	...	
Ekwueme	...	Member
Mr Pius Onwumechili	...	Member

Electoral Commission:—

Mr Patrick Omeje	...	Chairman
Chief O. O. Nweke	...	Member
Mr G. I. Nwokike	...	Member
Mr George Nwabueze	...	Member
Mr James Agbo	...	Member
Mrs Helen Okafor	...	Member
Mrs Kate Nwodo	...	Member

These appointments, in accordance with the provision in section 179 of the Constitution of the Republic of Nigeria will be subject to the confirmation of this honourable House. I hereby refer this matter to the Judicial Committee of the House who will screen the recommended Members of the various Commissions and report to the House by a Motion for final action.

The Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters Committee will meet in Room 111A by 1 p.m. today.

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to request:—

That part of Standing Order 64 (3) relating to adjournment of debate for not less than two days on Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill be suspended, to enable the House Committee debate on the Second Reading of the Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980 today, the 8th of May, 1980.

Mr Speaker, in making this request, you could remember what happened yesterday—the interruption of the House by the National Electric Power Authority and I humbly request that the quicker we tackled this Budget, the better for our electorate.

With this, Sir, I beg that this request be granted.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That part of Standing Order 64(3) relating to adjournment of debate for not less than two days on Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill be suspended, to enable the House commence debate on the Second Reading of the Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980 today, the 8th of May, 1980.

**REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE
ON ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA
APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980**

Chairman Finance Committee (Mr A. O. Ottah): Mr Speaker Sir, this Budget is for the 1980 financial year, that is from April 1st to 31st December, 1980 and it covers two major sectors, namely—

1. Recurrent Revenue/Expenditure, and
2. Capital Receipts/Expenditure.

Recurrent Revenue, Mr Speaker is ₦226.96 million and this amount is broken down as follows:—

A.—INTERNAL RESOURCES THAT IS INTERNAL REVENUE HEADS 2011-2081 IS ₦28.88 MILLION

From the individual heads under this sub-sector—which are of nine months only—we will observe that these anticipated revenue provisions are very realistic when compared with the figures for 1979-1980 and the actual revenue for 1978-1979 financial years.

B.—FEDERAL REVENUE HEADS 2091-2111 IS ₦198.008 MILLION.

This sub-sector is controlled by the Federal Government. We only depend on our share.

C.—RESURRENT EXPENDITURE—HEADS 2211-2491.

Out of a total recurrent revenue of ₦226.96 million, the sum of ₦40.08 million was screwed out, as a contribution to Capital Development Fund, thus leaving ₦12.57 million as a Statutory Expenditure and only ₦174.30 million for appropriated expenditure.

Going through this Estimate, one will observe that in respect of appropriated revenue provisions we expect a bare bone from the Estimate having in mind the creation of new Ministries/Departments and increases in establishments due to new administration. Out of the ₦174.30 million appropriated expenditure,

	₦(million)
Education alone has	44.20
Our Common Services	5.18
Health Services	12.75
Grants to Local Governments	54.35
<hr/>	
Total	<hr/> ₦116.48

From the above, we will understand that the remaining ₦57.82 million is shared between all the other Ministries.

Coming to Capital Budget, the receipts are ₦134.64 million. We anticipated this amount to meet up our capital project expenses for the very year.

Coming to Capital Expenditure, it is the same amount—that is, ₦134.64 million. With our meagre resources and our priorities in mind, these realistic draft proposals as we can see, centre on Education, Industries, Land Transport, Water Resources and Town and Country Planning.

Mr Speaker, Sir, all of those mentioned above claim ₦86.47 million out of the total capital budget outlay leaving ₦48.17 million for other Ministries from these heads of expenditure, you will notice that further increases mean bursting Government Treasury. In actual fact, capital expenditure depends on availability of funds.

Mr Speaker, without struggling too much over this draft proposal Estimate, I wish this honourable House to consider this budget proposal favourably because I am convinced that the hon. Members will handle the budget with maturity.

With this in mind, Mr Speaker, I beg to move. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Shall we have contributions from hon. Members?

Several hon. Members: Sure.

Mr Speaker: If nobody is talking then we adjourn.

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I crave your indulgence to second this Motion and to ask that I be allowed to make my contributions on a later date. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: The Motion for the Second Reading was made yesterday. Contributions are what we need now.

I wish to remind hon. Members that the number of days is limited and there is no likelihood of any extension. So hon. Members may want to say what they want to say on behalf of their constituencies now.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I stand to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill and in doing that I want to say that it is important that we do what we can to ensure that the Budget is completed, that we finish all we have to do and then pass on to the Executive their own side of the job for implementation.

The Budget, as we have seen, is a tight one and all of us are quite aware of the fact that His Excellency the Governor has been crying. (*Laughter*)... Protect me Mr Speaker Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Udeani: Crying out to the hearing of all of us in the State, over the financial position of the State and in view of that we have a very meagre sort of budget for this financial year. In view of that, we cannot afford to continue to waste time because the budget is not as fat as it ought to have been. We should do justice to it and then let work begin. All of us know that the rainy season is fast approaching and the work we promised to do for the electorate has to be started in some of the areas before the rains come disturbing.

I say this because if this honourable House performs its duty, it will escape the blame of the electorate who have been blaming the slow pace of work in the State as the making of the hon. Members. They say that the inability of work to start in the State is as a result of the non-passage of the Bill. Therefore, it will be better if we do our own job and then shift the implementation to the Executive. So, Mr Speaker Sir, I am saying that the earlier we are able to go through the Budget—giving it the scrutiny it deserves and passing it, the

better for us and without wasting a lot of our time, I am supporting the Second Reading of this Bill. Thank you. (*Applause*).

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Thank you Mr Speaker. In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill I have some observations to make. In the first place, the Budget really is more urban oriented than rural and it is a fact which is clear that the people we represent are mainly people of the rural community.

Secondly the areas that should have been taken much care of in order to reflect the people we represent have not been properly reflected. The major areas include: Education, Water-supply, Land Transport and Co-operative and Community Development. Also, Health should have featured much more prominently than what is reflected in the Budget. We understand really that the problem of our people is underdevelopment. The major aspect of it is Health. An appraisal of the Budget will show that little care has been taken of this. It is my suggestion that the aspect which concerns the rural people should be given much more attention than what is reflected in the Budget.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr D. C. Anyabuiké (Awgu East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In so doing Sir, I want to remember the old Supplementary Appropriation Bill which we have approved in this House to various communities but which has not been used to do any work. One typical example is the Nenwe-Uduma road, and so many other roads given on contract. After the contract was awarded it was reawarded to another contractor and nothing has been done. So I am craving the indulgence of this honourable House that any contract given after this Estimate has been approved, possibly that this House should establish a committee to supervise all the contracts given to people so as to make sure that the contracts are finished on schedule.

This committee, I am suggesting, will include even technicians so as to know the cost and the amount of money given for any construction in order to avoid fraud. It is also very appalling that most of the Health institutions already completed which could

[MR ANYABUIKE]

have served various constituencies in this State are yet to be opened and the Ministry of Health cannot give any justifiable reason why these Health institutions were not opened and everyone of us here knows that there is nothing we can do for our various communities than to achieve something that can alleviate their sufferings—something like Health institution or roads.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, my own opinion is that this Bill should be approved and a special committee should be set up to make sure that all the contractors awarded any contract in this State should complete it on schedule without delay. With this I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker: Shall we have more contributors?

Mr A. U. Ogbaga (Abakaliki North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1980. Just as an hon. Member has rightly pointed out that this Bill is urban oriented, I am completely of that view because a look through the Bill will show that most of the items covered there are more of furnishing some of the existing institutions which exist more in the urban areas. Take health for instance, there are some local government areas that have not got a general hospital and in the Capital Budget, we have just N5.8 million to provide general hospitals for six local government areas and other things that are covered in the Capital Estimates. This obviously, cannot do anything and we know clearly well that the first priority of man is good health. No one can drive on the road without good health. No one can attend to his duties without good health. So it surprises me how this item is not given top priority in this Budget. We know very well that a majority of our rural population does not have health facilities. Most of the health centres we have or general hospitals are sited in the urban areas. This is quite clear, but this has not been well covered in the Budget.

Our Education also is not well taken care of. The development of any area starts with education. So I am appealing to Mr Speaker to use his good office and adjust some areas to give priority to those areas that really need them. We know that the Budget is at a deficit.

Even then, some areas should be given top priority so that we can carry on well.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to associate myself with the supporters of the Appropriation Bill. In fact, the Bill itself cannot entirely be described as a tight one. For instance, in the Capital Estimates, we have over fifty-one road projects to be completed between now and December 31st, 1980. This is one of the promises we of the Nigerian Peoples Party made to our electorate and if we shall start to implement the promises we made, I think we are not only doing what we promised, but we are assuring the electorate that as long as the Nigerian Peoples Party controls the Government of this State, we shall always exhibit the ideology of the party that power belongs to the people and not to the ruler. If we will be able to provide the electorate both in the rural and urban areas with good roads, good drinking water, there is no doubt that they will feel that there is a change in the administration of this State.

I cannot so much agree with the last contributor that the Budget itself did not favour education. To the best of my knowledge, it is only in the Anambra State Budget that we have provision for the establishment of an immediate university which definitely will be commissioned before September this year. With the establishment of the University of Technology at Enugu and Awka, I feel the government must have considered education as one of the most important problems that need our urgent attention.

During the electioneering campaign, the UPN members promised the country free education at all levels.

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu-Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Talk of NPP!

Mr Macduhu: Definitely, this would not have been possible because as of now in the UPN controlled States, education has not become completely free at all levels. But in Anambra State, though one of the poorest, we have been able to establish a university within the first six months in office. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Which university?

Mr Macduhu: I also observe that the College of Arts and Science at Oko was . . .

An hon. Member: A university !
(Interruptions).

Mr Macduhu: Mr Speaker, I need your protection !

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti North (*Mr Macduhu*) has the Floor, please no heckling.

Mr Macduhu: I also observe that in the Budget, a special amount of money was provided for the expansion of the College of Arts and Science at Oko. The Governor on presenting the Budget here promised the State what he called, a Selected Bursary Award. He made it clear to all of us that at least from now teachers' salaries will be paid in time. He went further to say that all the allowances due to them have to be paid with immediate effect. I think it is usually said that the onus of proof lies with the prosecution. It is left for us here to put all these proposals into real practice. It is left for us to determine whether the fifty-one roads already existing in the budget will be tackled or not.

I was at Otuocha the other day and I saw great changes from what the roads used to be say from June, July, or up to October last year. When the Governor was presenting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill last November, I think the Ifite-Ukpo-Otuocha road was one of the roads he promised would receive immediate attention.

Somebody was saying the other day that the contractors handling the Nnewi-Oba road are not effectively doing what they are supposed to do. I believe that this is not the blame of the Executive. The contract has been awarded, it is left for the contractor handling the project to complete the project as agreed.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will suggest that the present budget should receive our unanimous support and approval. The sooner we do this the better it will be not only to ourselves but to the electorate that voted us in. If we can, between now and December 31st 1980.

An hon. Member: *Kuolunia aka.*

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. I object to hon. Members interrupting other hon. Members who have the Floor. It makes the whole House rowdy.

Mr Speaker: Your point of Order is upheld. Honourable Members should please control their emotions. The hon. Member for Igbo-Etiti North (*Mr Macduhu*) may round off. Every hon. Member has only twenty minutes.

Mr Macduhu: Mr Speaker Sir, in conclusion I will also like to suggest that since it was included in the budget that fertilizers will be provided for our farmers in the villages, the sooner we pass this Bill the earlier these fertilizers will be made available. Usually some of these farmers receive what can be called grants for fertilizers towards the end of September or October. We all know that April, May and June make up the actual planting season particularly in this State and if anything in the form of grant or loan should be given to farmers it must be given within this period.

As I have earlier said I pray that we give this budget a unanimous support and approval and with this Mr Speaker I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: More contributions. Honourable Members should please contribute to this debate now and not on the last day everybody will complain that he has not been called. You are free to talk on the budget as it affects your constituency.

An hon. Member: Those affected.

Mr J. Eneje (Ezeagu Central): I am grateful Mr Speaker for being allowed to offer my little contribution on this debate. From the on-set I noticed that there is a provision made in the budget for rural roads, bridges and culverts to the tune of ₦1 million. I can argue with anybody that in the three constituencies that make up Ezeagu Local Government, that we have no culverts on our roads and that makes it very, very difficult for anybody to go to our local government office from the 9th mile through Imezi Owa. One getting near to Ajali, that is the river from which the projected water-supply for Enugu Urban is proposed to start, from Imezi Owa to Ajali through the local government head office is a very difficult road to pass. I would like that particular road to be remembered when we pass this Bill.

Rural development project, equipments and rural works unit: On that heading there is a huge sum of money amounting to about ₦250,000. There is nothing like development in our area unless by self effort. One getting



[MR ENEJE]

down to Awha will see that the school and maternity home built there came out of the community's sweat, likewise those built at Imezi Owa and Mgbagbu Owa. And that of any place in Ezeagu Local Government is built out of the community's manual labour. So that if development of rural areas apply in this scheme I think it is worthwhile that Ezeagu should not always be relegated to the background. The same thing applies to markets in the Ezeagu Local Government Area, as well as development and identification study and design that will take about one hundred and fifty naira and so many other things which I cannot at the moment speak of.

As Ezeagu is one of the youngest local government areas in Anambra State, I believe that if the budget is passed, it will take good care of Ezeagu Local Government.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am urging through this Budget debate that Ezeagu should always be remembered in the implementation of all the rural projects proposed this financial year by the Anambra State Government. All the Commissioners should be advised to remember that Ezeagu is one of the most thickly populated areas in Anambra State, and that being so, Ezeagu should always be remembered in the sharing of amenities.

At the moment, not even a single Federal institution is sited in Ezeagu Local Government Area. All the secondary schools in Ezeagu were built by the local communities without any government aid. In respect of roads, there is no good road at Ezeagu Local Government Area. There is no good motorable road leading to the traditional Ezeagu home, Olie-Owa which also is in the Central Constituency of Ezeagu Local Government Area.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I may add more but not now. I beg to support.

Thank you.

(Interruption).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker (Mr C. O. Nnaji): Mr Speaker Sir, in absence of further debates on the Bill, I move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday 9th May, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Settlers in Farm Settlements

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing that, I want to call on the Federal and State Governments to convert all the farm settlements in the State into urban communities, that is, autonomous urban communities, because the settlers cannot be regarded as rural communities but urban communities. This is evidenced by the fact that the settlers are made up of people from different towns. When they settle in the farm settlements they have no right to contest elections in their villages, because they are meant to live in the farm settlements and develop them for ever and ever.

An hon. Member: Amen!

Mr Okafor: And those settlements become their own homes. Therefore, if we convert the settlements into autonomous urban centres, then the villagers or settlers will be able to participate in the affairs of government without going back to their respective places. Again, without the existence of urban councils in the farm settlements, the collection of revenue is always difficult because there is no authority to collect revenues there. They borrow officers from the neighbouring towns to supervise and collect rates and taxes from the settlers. But if we convert the settlements into urban communities, then they can hope to have their own local government councils, and if possible chiefs to take care of the affairs of the farm settlements.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the Motion for adjournment.

Mr Speaker: There are about six of you ready to support the Motion for adjournment. What you want to say, you should have said during the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

Honourable Members, I crave your indulgence to make the following announcements:

- (a) The Local Government Tour Committee should meet today at 4 p.m. in Room 121;
- (b) Members of the Finance Committee should retire to their usual meeting place as soon as the House adjourns;
- (c) Members of the Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters Committee

should remember to meet in the Speaker's office now;

- (d) The Agriculture Committee will also meet in the Deputy Speaker's Office.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Friday, 9th May, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 9th May, 1980

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria
Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read.

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Reading of the Bill enters the second day today. Honourable Members who wish to contribute should indicate.

Mr S. J. Ogbodo (Enugu East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1980. In supporting the Motion, I will like to go straight to Head 2751—Manufacturing and Craft. On that Head, that is, the Credit Scheme for Small-scale Industries, a sum of ₦500,000 is mapped out. Looking at this small amount being mapped out for this scheme, you will see that the money is a meagre one and I will like this money to be increased so as to boost our Small-scale industries in this State. Formerly they were not helping the Small-scale industries but with this Appropriation Bill for 1980, provision is made for them and I believe that this small amount would not go anywhere in helping them.

Another Head is 2851, that is Town and Country Planning. I would like the Commissioner for Works to help us.

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): On a point of Order Sir. We are on Second Reading and not the Third where the details should be discussed. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member who has the Floor should please confine himself to the general merits of the Bill. Point of Order is upheld.

Mr Ogbodo: On Town and Country Planning, I would like the State Government to lay emphasis on Enugu, being the capital city. There is a place in Enugu in fact the centre of Enugu being the capital city, that

is called Ogui Urban Area. For quite a long time, nothing has been done to the people living there and they are suffering. I believe that this amount being mapped out for developing urban centres, that is Enugu and Onitsha, is too meagre. I believe that this time, steps should be taken in a way to help these areas because coming to these areas, you will see that they have not got any road.

On any feast day, if you go along that side, you will see that it is really the heart of Enugu and that area being a slum and again being the centre of the capital city, I believe it is a very shameful thing for this State to leave the centre to be a slum. I believe that with this amount being mapped for development, the government will help to build roads, that is access roads linking this area with the rest of Enugu. Again if this road is built it will link Ogui Urban Area to Ogui Road, then coming through Okwuosa Avenue. If a road is mapped out from that area to Okwuosa, Avenue it will help.

Another Head is 2851 (b), that is the amount mapped out for development of markets in local government areas. I believe that the amount allotted to this Head is too small. I would like this amount to be increased so as to help in establishing markets in all the local government areas. Take for example, coming into Enugu, you will see that Enugu has not got sufficient markets. Every person goes to the main market but in other developed areas, every ward is supposed to have its own market where people go and buy all their essential goods for cooking instead of going to the main market being where people go to buy in wholesale.

So, Sir, with this, I support the Second Reading.

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to associate myself with the previous contributors in support of the 1980 Appropriation Bill, Second Reading. In so doing, I want to say that the Budget Speech by His Excellency the Governor though not elaborate was masterly and to the point. In my contribution, I would like to look at certain areas covered by the budget, the first of which is loan to farmers. A handsome sum of ₦3 million was set aside for lending to farmers through the supervised agricultural credit scheme. This is laudable but I have to warn here that the three hundred farmer beneficiaries,

as indicated in the speech, who have to benefit from this loan should be drawn from real rural peasant farmers who produce the bulk of the food crops and not those who pull long cars along tarred roads and those who have Abraham for a godfather but produce little or nothing for the masses of this State. Mr Speaker Sir, I have in mind rural farmers in Abakaliki area generally and in Ishielu Local Government Area in particular as those who will have to benefit from this loan. As an hon. Member said here sometime in his own contribution to this debate, farmers should get these loans early enough during the planting season when this money will be effectively utilized.

Another interesting aspect of the Budget speech that needs appraisal is the formulation of a doctrinal approach for the development of the rural areas. This is a right step in the right direction. Hitherto government projects have always been sited in the urban centres to the utter neglect of the rural communities. If by this present arrangement, the almost forgotten rural areas are remembered, then government has started implementing its development of rural areas as contained in the manifesto and electioneering campaign speeches.

The second aspect I want to talk about is the chieftaincy institution in this State. Provision has been made in the budget for the payment of chiefs who will be appointed into the Council of Chiefs when the time comes. It is a boom to the chiefs and welcome to the public, but here again, I have to sound a note of warning that those chiefs who abandoned their sacred positions in search of political heights and recognition and for financial benefits at the expense of those who fought the grim battle during the hectic electioneering campaign period should not, I repeat, should not see the Council of Chiefs as members. For one cannot eat one's cake and still have it. The practice of fathers eating sour grapes and children allowed to sit on the edge is ungovernmental. I am not suggesting any stringent measures against anybody, I am only saying that the natural law is for people to reap where they have sown and not otherwise.

The third one is Education. Apart from the fact that the size of the budget tallies with the financial restrictions of the State, there are some communities, I suppose that are not

adequately covered. There is a provision for the expansion of existing, and construction of new high schools. The areas covered by this are not specified. I therefore have to use this forum to remind the Anambra State Government that there is an existing new secondary school in my constituency being built by the Okposhi Ehek community. An assistance to the community by the government to make this school take off during the next session will be ideal, welcomed and encouraging to that community. The Ministry of Education should also take note of this.

The fourth aspect is Health. There is also provision for equipment of new general hospitals. I want to remind this august Assembly that there is a general hospital at Ezzangbo in Ishielu Local Government Area. This general hospital is the most ill-equipped in the State. The hospital has no basic facilities, it has not even been fully completed, there are no drugs, no resident doctor. Serious cases are referred and taken to Abakaliki General Hospital for lack of everything. If the general hospital like that of Ezzangbo is sub-standard, then the aim for which it is built is defeated. I believe that as soon as this budget is passed and I know it is going to be passed within a few days from now, the Ezzangbo General Hospital will get a face-lift.

There is also a provision for the construction of new general hospitals. My constituency, Ishielu Central, is perhaps the only constituency in the whole State where there is no dispensary, no maternity home not even to talk of a general hospital. The State Government is hereby duly informed of the situation and I pray them to site one of these new hospitals in Ishielu Central when the time comes.

The last aspect I have to touch is Land Transport, otherwise known as roads. The budget covers the construction of about forty-three network of roads touching nearly all the places in the State except, as usual, Ishielu Central.

While appreciating the financial constraint of the State Government, I would like to say that nobody would like to acquiesce in belonging to a group where or who can benefit only when it is superfluously surplus.

[MR OKPAGA]

I am calling on the State Government to take responsibility for the construction of a road from Okwomgbo market to Agala in Idoma area of Benue State. This is about a 22 kilometre road which connects two agricultural areas of Ishielu and Benue State. It is sufficiently short and the economic importance of these roads cannot be over-emphasized.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nnewi South West (*Mr Mbaso*) should take the seat appropriately allocated to him. The hon. Member for Ishielu Central (*Mr Okpaga*) should continue with his speech.

Mr Okpaga: Thank you Mr Speaker. As I was saying, the government has to do something and immediately too to undertake the construction of this road—Okwomgbo/Agala road. Frankly speaking, this budget is not controversial. I suppose everybody thinks and sees the way I do, and I think all of us are going to give it unanimous support and approval. (*Applause*).

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*), Thank you very much Mr Speaker. First of all I start by making a very simple observation and that is on the lighter side. It appears to me that all the work has been properly done by various Committees and as far as I am concerned there is very little controversy on this budget and this is a fair observation.

In any case, by way of articulating what everybody else is saying, I would like to take off in support of the hon. Member for Ishielu Central (*Mr Okpaga*) who contributed to the debate by stating that it is very clear to a majority of us that this budget is purposeful, directional and as a matter of fact, forward looking, yes, (*laughter*) above all very, very realistic and having said that I like Members to have a closer look and see the scale of priorities.

In my view, I think that in terms of priority considerations, agriculture which for my purposes include, the concept of rural development takes precedence over all other sectors. This is not surprising.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): On a point of Order ! I spy a stranger. Let him sit down.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Ihiala West (*Mr Okoye*) should please address the House through the Chair.

Mr Okoye: I mean to the Speaker, please.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes your point has been noted. Those spies have disappeared. The hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehelu*) should please continue with his debate.

Deputy Chief Whip: Thank you Mr Speaker. I was saying that the emphasis on agriculture and of course the related project of rural development is not surprising and it is justified by the fact that on a modest estimation, you find that the citizenry, seventy-five per cent. at least of the citizenry of Anambra State live in the rural areas. This morning I overheard a group of Members discussing this particular issue and one hon. Member declared that in the urban areas we have a higher density of population than in the rural areas but that does not defeat the argument that even though you have a lower density of population in rural areas in terms of totality, seventy-five per cent. of all the population live in the rural areas and are engaged in agriculture and related industries. So what I am saying is that agriculture and roads combine to form the basis of an attempt to really embark seriously on rural development and this has been emphasized in the budget and of this, I am in support.

The next in my consideration is education. Of course, everybody knows what education means to the population of this part of the country and the next is business or rather the other way round or after education comes business. Our people are known for their industry and for their preparedness to learn. Therefore no amount of money spent to promote education both technical and purely academic will be money thrown down the drain. Of course we have the perennial problem of water-supply. In this connection I just like to call on the Water Board to please rise up to expectation. I am surprised that Board has not yet been dissolved along with others. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker, as I said, a combination of road development and agricultural development will be meaningless if a concerted effort is not made to make sure that these rural communities who engage in agriculture and practically nothing else are linked properly with a good

road network. I associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Member for Ishielu Central (*Mr Okpaga*) when he complained about the inaccessibility of the Ishielu Central Constituency. I think the same thing applies to certain autonomous rural populations or communities that exist within Enugu Local Government Area namely: Ugwogo, Agbogazi, Akor, Ogbeki, Onuogba, Nchatancha.

(*Prolonged laughter*).

You see Mr Speaker, I like the way they laughed. It caused laughter but it is a very, very sorry situation. The food produced in these areas as I said earlier in some other context, can go a very long way in fighting the inflationary trend here. All thought of fighting inflation is meaningless unless you provide food for the people. I will give a little example. Recently, when His Excellency, President Shehu Shagari announced a minimum wage of ₦100, within one week the price of foodstuff doubled, even quadrupled and it will also affect transport, rent, and in fact every other facet of the economic life of the people.

So I am saying that in order to be able to fight inflation properly, all the rural communities known ages ago for farming and for food production, should be properly linked by a good network of roads, if for no other reason, to enable them evacuate and circulate the food in such a way that it goes round.

I maintain that our problem in this country is not lack of food supplies, but lack of proper distribution of these food supplies. So that in talking about agriculture and related efforts, in fact, about rural development generally, I think road development ranks first. Without road development, nobody can meaningfully talk about rural development.

Mr Speaker, having said the little I have said this morning, I hope still to take advantage of sections of the Standing Orders in future to make further explanations if need be. In the meantime, I would like to see this debate hot up.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Could we have more contributions on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill?

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Thank you Mr Speaker. In view of the fact that hon.

Members are not very much prepared to air their views today, I wish to remind them that this budget is so small and so important that we should all go home and go through it to avoid wasting much time in getting it approved.

Unlike other States who have been budgeting from six hundred and something million, and some even going nearer to a billion naira, ours is a meagre figure of ₦351 million. I do not see why we should get it flogged or have different meanings with regard to that, and yet each time we come in here, we move Motions on reconstruction of roads, water-supply, educational set-ups and all what-nots.

With this Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn till Monday 12th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

O.A.U. Economic Summit

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment, and in doing this I want us to take a little glimpse at the historic meeting of the African Heads of State titled: "O.A.U. Economic Summit" which recently ended in Lagos.

I have some observations to make, and one of these observations is to congratulate the Heads of State who did survive the bullets of mutinies to count themselves worthy of representing their various countries in this great country, the leader of Africa, Nigeria.

I want also to observe that the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Mr William Tolbert was badly missed during that august gathering. William Tolbert was murdered by Sergeant Samuel Doe on allegations of sectional interest, shadowily titled the *Wiggins Affair*.

Mr Speaker, I feel disappointed that the O.A.U. Charter has become a little rigid, and I want to remind Heads of States that the law is made for man and not man for the law. So the sons of men are even the lords of the law. By this I want them to take a closer look at that section of the Charter which deals with "non-interference". It is because of this that the Heads of States see their counterparts being murdered without having any power to intervene. This is escapism and running away from reality.

[REV. PRINCE NWAFOR]

When a particular law, when a particular rule, even nature's rule, is against the welfare of man, such a law or order should be discarded as obsolete. Even as we see in the manufacture of fridges, manufacture of means of mobility; all these things are things that fight against nature's law. Therefore the obnoxious clause of "non-interference" should be expunged from the Charter of the Organization of African Unity.

Secondly, I want to observe that if William Tolbert had been a satan, I do not know, but it is most shameful that the man who led that great country for many years was shot and his corpse was brought to the public and buried in a common grave. If Tolbert was a satan, he could not have attracted such national honours that were accorded him in his life-time.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, I am still on the current meeting of the Organization of African Unity. It was alleged that Mercedes Benz cars were bought for each Head of State, and here, President Shahu Shagari's Government is crying that we have no money. What is the wisdom behind that? Mercedes Benz car for each person who attended the conference just for a few days! These cars have now been discarded...

An hon. Member: On a point of Order! (Interruptions).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Could hon. Members please listen in silence to the contributions of the hon. Member for Ishielu West (Rev. Nwafor). You can, however, rise to correct him after his contribution if you think he is misleading the House, but please allow him to finish.

Rev. Prince Nwafor: Mr Speaker Sir, I am making this observation because this is the right time. Each State Legislature is considering the Appropriation Bill and we find that most of them are in difficulty because the Federal Government was unable to give them reasonable amounts to carry on with their projects. Imagine the poor Anambra State, the NPN Federal Government is owing her and yet they have enough money to spend on Mercedes Benz cars for each Head of State who attended the last O.A.U. Summit in Lagos.

I remember, Mr Speaker, that the meeting in Lagos was in preparation for another bigger

meeting to be held in Sierra Leone and I want the heads of African States to take a serious look at that particular clause which has made it impossible for brothers who are traditionally bound, to intervene when they see that their brother's country is in flames.

I want to observe too, that it would be necessary for the Federal Government to invite Members of the Legislatures to be guests during that particular meeting. It was alleged that the Committee on External and Internal Affairs wanted to be represented in Lagos and that they were not given that opportunity. I think that it would afford the Members of Legislatures who are presently treading on this presidential unknown field, to participate and witness events of such historic meeting and this would lend knowledge to their operation in getting this system work in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, having given me this opportunity, I move that the Question be now put.

Congratulations, SGEN

Mr D. C. Ikeoha (Isi-Uzo South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the SGEN Construction Company for the good work which they quickly did on the Nkalagu-Ikem road.

Also, I want to use this opportunity to tell the Federal Government to see that the bridges on the road as contained in this Estimates, are constructed through Eha-Amufu-Obollo-Afor road.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: Chairmen of all the House Committees, the leaders of the Majority and Minority Parties, and the Whips should meet in the Speaker's office as soon as we rise.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till Monday 12th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.50 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 12th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Apart from the committees appearing on the Calendar, the Committee of Chairmen should please continue their meeting at 1 p.m. at the same venue.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read:

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, it gives me pleasure to contribute to the Second Reading of the Anambra State 1980 Appropriation Bill.

First of all, may I in the words of a famous Englishman, Wellington remind everyone in the House and in the State that Anambra State expects everyone to do his duty. It is necessary to do so because the way and manner the budget of this year was presented by some of the people appointed by the Chief Executive to assist him in the governance of the State shows that they don't seem to be taking their duties seriously. The budget documents showed evidence of shoddy work and were presented in a haphazard and careless manner. Such appointees should not constitute themselves as a cog in the wheel of progress and I think they should realize that the presidential system of government is no honeymoon. It calls for hardwork and unreserved dedication to duty.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, Order No 26 (2) of the Standing Order. We are debating the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and I don't know—I am at a loss to grasp exactly what the Minority Leader is driving at.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Point of Order not upheld.

Minority Leader: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Budget proposals, are on the whole, a financial humpty-dumpty sitting on an economic quagmire. It is a budget of despair, it is unimaginative, it is unimpressive, it is low-keyed and in all it lacks direction.

It is a very clever contrivance aimed at pulling the wool over the eyes of the people. It is a budget of precarious existence, a hand-to-mouth affair, which is bound to engender economic depression in the State with the concomitant unemployment and inability by the people of this State to provide three square meals a day. All in all, it is a bankruptcy budget as evidenced on page 6 of His Excellency's Budget Speech of April, 1980.

For on this revealing sixth page, His Excellency stated as follows:

There is, therefore, a resource gap; call it deficit of ₦62.7 million proposed to be financed through external and internal borrowing.

Since the substantial proportion of the Capital Receipts will accrue from the projected budget surplus and loans, the implementation of the Capital Programme will be constrained by the rate at which the anticipated surplus is realized and the loans raised. It then follows that Ministries and Departments should concentrate, at the early stages of the financial year, on the implementation of the projects committed in the 1979-80 Supplementary Budget and for which the appropriated funds had been reserved.

Now, let us put the humpty-dumpty on the wall and take a good look at it. All talk about "External and Internal Loans" and expected revenue "surplus" is an eye-wash. At the beginning of the financial year there is no statement, no indication as to the stage reached in negotiations or arrangements for the loans. Some of the assumptions of our expected revenue receipts which will give rise to the surplus are highly speculative. In the circumstances, and unless some miracles happen, any hope for launching any capital project in the State is mere wishful thinking. The only capital project that may be launched will be that of 1979-80 "for which the appropriated funds had been reserved." One can easily see that the State will be operating in arrears as far as Capital Budget is concerned. And since

[MINORITY LEADER]

The State's cash flow is always tight, any capital work done will be on credit basis. Credit method of financing government projects has thrown many a contractor into alarming financial situation as the contractors borrow from the banks and pledge their properties to complete the projects without receiving payment as and when the jobs are done. One wonders how these contractors feed for their families. This is the thousand naira question.

I, therefore, appeal to the government to pay the contractors as they complete their jobs in accordance with contract agreements so as to avoid the possibility of some contractors taking the government to court for breach of contract.

Those charged with the preparation of the budget have got their priorities wrong. A glance at the proposals will show that many years to come, this State will be a nation of distributors. Apart from the fact that the government had held "very useful discussions with various groups" regarding manufacturing industries and crafts, such as glass industry, sanitary ware factory and ceramic wall and floor tiles, no definite statement as to the commencement and probable date of completion of these industries has been made. In terms of actual proposal, only N9.4 million or 6.9 per cent. of the years' total Capital Budget has been committed to manufacturing and crafts.

This is a sharp contrast to proposals for establishment of industries made by other States. As long as we do not make efforts to rank as a manufacturing and producing State, so long shall we be playing the role of the grasshopper that played all the summer and died in winter because it never bothered to provide for the rainy day. The government should go all out to attract industries into the State so that the people of Anambra State should not look up to Ifejeju, Kano, Ibadan or Ikeja as industrial wonderlands.

All efforts to educate our people qualitatively or, if you like, quantitatively, will be vitiated if avenues of employment are not created by massive industrialization of the State. A good survey of the vacant accommodation in Enugu is a pointer to the view I hold. Apart from the civil servants who have attained positions to

earn enough to enable them pay for flats, many flats in the municipality are lying vacant, serving as comfortable habitat for rats, lizards and snakes. This is so because employment opportunities for medium and high level manpower are seriously limited. This grade of workers abound in States with multitude of industries with the result that suitable accommodations are few and far between and are fetching enormous rental income.

It is priority turned upside down where only 7.1 per cent. or N9.5 million of the Budget is set aside for water while Town and Country Planning and Land Transport claim 30.6 per cent. or N40.5 million. Also compare water 7.1 per cent. with Information 4.4 per cent. Needless to say that water stands uppermost in the priority requirement of the people of this State. But Information with 4.4 per cent. is at par with Health also at 4.4 per cent. We are not at war to give propaganda and publicity such prominence on the Agenda of Government actions. A Latin adage says *Mens Sana in corpore sano* which translated into English means that "a healthy mind is found in a healthy body". In other words, unless we have abundant supply of good water and food, and enjoy all round health care, I say Amen unto the government. The people of Anambra State will not have the composure to listen to any form of radio broadcast or the physical strength to watch the television.

Pursuing the same policy of turning the priority upside down, Housing came up with a meagre provision of 0.7 per cent. or N1 million. This appears to indicate that the government is out of touch with the governed. For, in this Enugu metropolis, as many as 10 to 12 human beings share a single room every night, and in the rural areas most people live in abject squalor in ill-designed structures.

On *Education*, government policy is chicken-hearted and nebulous. It is hard to state emphatically that education is free and without tears in this State. With unmentionable levies of all sorts and innumerable demands on parents to provide school needs of diverse nature, one cannot escape the conclusion that all campaign promises of Educational Eldorado are meant to deceive.

Anambra State cannot afford to live in isolation. While our neighbouring and sister State Imo is proposing a bursary of N500

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[MINORITY LEADER]
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Anambra State cannot afford to live in isolation. While our neighbouring and sister State Imo is proposing a bursary of ₦500

per student of Imo origin in post-secondary schools, we are talking of "selective bursary award". I am urging the government to drop the idea of selective bursary awards which is bound to be discriminatory and tainted with political consideration, and come out with a policy of non-discriminatory . . .

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): On a point of Order. Order No. 26 of the Standing Order. A Member shall not read his . . . (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! What is the point of Order?

Mr Iburu: Yes. Order No. 26 (1) of the Standing Orders. A Member shall not read his speech, but the hon. Member who has the Floor is reading his speech.

Several hon. Members: No, no!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Point of Order not upheld. I am satisfied the hon. Minority Leader is making reference.

Minority Leader: Thank you Mr Speaker. So I am appealing to the government to come out with a bold bursary award that will be all embracing and not tainted with political considerations. The talk of holiday job for every student is a sort of playing to the gallery because with the lethargy in the administration, no positive arrangement can be completed to accommodate all students until the holidays are over. A bold and meaningful scholarship scheme should be pursued to help the educationally backward areas. In other words, the governments proposal should embrace scholarship awards and bursaries to satisfy the educational yearnings of the people of Anambra State.

On local government, the services of local government councils in the past were grounded due to lack of funds. This situation arose because of the manipulation by State Governments of Federal Government grants to local governments. By the end of the manipulation, little or nothing got to the respective local governments. To avoid such a situation arising, this honourable House should in keeping with the Constitution which set out the formula for sharing Federal grants to local governments pass a Bill for a law compelling the State Government to create an account into which all grants for local governments, both State and Federal, should be paid. Unless this is done, running of

local government councils will be seriously encumbered.

On the workers of the State, it would appear the Budget failed to take into account the President's declaration of an interim minimum wage of ₦100 per month per worker. It has been observed that a provision of ₦640 per annum per worker on grade level 01 has been made. This is unfair, to say the least. Many States in the Federation have come out openly to improve the lot of their workers by adopting the interim minimum wage, granting car advance and car basic allowances, rent subsidy and transport allowances to workers. Why is Anambra State lagging behind in this race of improving the lot of workers?

The economic circumstances of this State are biting hard and the people feeling the bite are the workers. The government should assess the situation and come to their rescue without delay. So Mr Speaker Sir, may I take my seat.

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka South): Mr Speaker Sir, it is my pleasure to contribute to the Second Reading of the Draft Estimates for the period April to December, 1980. The estimates as I see it, is so tight and very unpromising. I am comparing the figures, with the ones of the other sister States like Imo and Rivers. The Imo State Government budgeted for over seven hundred million naira while the Rivers State Government budgeted for more than six hundred million naira. We are sister States in the former Eastern Region and one would have expected that our own votes should come close or nearest but surprisingly it is discovered that sufficient effort was not made in finding money for the running of this State.

Our State was devastated by the war, we have always harped on the effects of the war. We all come from the villages and we know the sufferings and problems being encountered by the electorate. We made promises during the 1979 elections placing our priorities on roads, water, education and health facilities, but very distressingly we have not started to work on these promises. We are now eight months in office and the villagers, our electorate, are yet to realize that we are here at all. There are no roads, there is no water,

[MR OKEKE]
there are no health facilities, everything is lacking. Yet here in the township or here in Government Reserved Area, the water taps never go dry, NEPA never disappoints the inhabitants of the G.R.A. here.

Several hon. Members: It does sometimes.

Mr Okeke: It does not. I have said it once here that what this State requires is a passionate appeal in a way of demonstration or a representation of this House led by our hon. Speaker to our President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, requesting him to come to our aid, to come and save this State from the financial abyss in which we find ourselves. The war was not of our own making, it came to us as it came to others. It is unfortunate that it started here and was centred here among our people and so ruined our economy. We know Shagari as a gentleman, some people have met him, some Governors have met him and gave good account of their journey. This should happen to us, we shall go to find money and that money is with the Federal Government, they have it to give. We shall make an appeal, a passionate appeal to him, he will listen.

I mentioned here Sir, that the promise made to my people Awka South Constituency, about roads is yet to materialize. Nothing has commenced, we are locked up in the villages as in the time of war when we were bottled up in a confinement and we had no way out. The road from Amawbia to Nibo to Umuawulu and then to Agulu was awarded on contract in 1976; about one twentieth of this job has been done but about one-third of the vote made for this road has been spent. The other road from Agu-Awka to Awka to Ishiagu and then to Nibo bursting at Nise and Enugwu-Ukwu was promised to be linked up before the rains but today the heaps of laterite ment for this road have been washed away by flood. The job was given out for laterisation in the past financial year. That was to eat the money up; nothing has started.

There is a village bordering on Ebenebe, Amanse which is about six kilometres from the Enugu-Onitsha Road. These people do not come out to the road because they have no road at all yet they have the land and

produce food in abundance, but the food cannot come out because there is no road to bring them out.

An hon. Member: No good road!

Mr Okeke: No road at all. I am not saying that they have no good road, I am saying that they have no road at all. Not even access road. It would not cost up to ₦50,000 to give them road—such an important food producing area.

An hon. Member: Awka Local Government Management Committee should take note.

Mr Okeke: We know what water means to us. The Ministry of Public Utilities is surveying areas, making all efforts to give us water but all its plans are still in the pipeline, they have not taken shape yet. We do hope that with this budget, the Ministry of Public Utilities will be able to spread water into needy parts both in the rural areas and in the urban areas, knowing the importance of water. Our children know how they suffer on the roads, they carry about buckets to go into every corner searching for water and collecting every muddy thing they can find that is liquid, in the name of water.

Coming to health facilities, health care delivery in the State is lamentably inadequate. Most rural areas have no medical centres yet and where they have they are ill-equipped. There are several maternity homes, some health centres and basic health clinics built up but not commissioned; those that are commissioned have no staff. I have mentioned these things in order to alert the Ministry in charge of health to please come to aid people especially those living in the rural areas who are suffering and dying away because of lack of medical treatment.

I also want to mention one anomaly living with us all the time. It is the anomaly of our medical doctors charging exorbitant fees in the hospitals when using government facilities. It costs about ₦100 or more to remove an appendix in a child's stomach and yet this money is never paid into government treasury. It is used for filling the pockets of the medical doctor concerned; investigations will prove my allegations correct that doctors while working in the General Hospitals charge money which they take for themselves and do not pay into the government treasury.

I will ask our government to lift the ban on private practice. The ban has not served us any useful purpose at all. Doctors should be allowed to use their private time for themselves, and this will eliminate the suffering of the people of this State, because we have not enough medical facilities where everyone will go to be treated as is done in civilized countries.

On Rural Electrification, Sir, plan is in the making for electrifying our rural areas. I understand about one hundred and twenty towns will benefit from this. I am sounding a note of warning that when this is going to be executed, it should be done judiciously without discrimination. Every constituency in the State should benefit from the scheme.

On Education Mr Speaker Sir, I have once said it that our people are suffering to the marrow. We continue launching and launching every month and every year; sapping the little money our poor peasants collect from farm work in order to put up schools. They must have run these schools for upwards of three, four, five years before the government steps in. I think it is high time, Sir, government considered relieving the communities of this heavy burden, taking over any schools that have been well run and maintained for three years, thereby giving the villagers of the community a period of rest to do other things. Schools that have operated successfully for three years should be supplied with science equipment as no School without science equipment will be allowed to field students for West African Examinations Council. So it is in our State, and if care is not taken, most of these schools that have attained four to five years will have very unlucky students who cannot sit for their examination. Since communities could put up blocks and all other facilities for three years, government should supply the rest.

On Bursary Award, as has been well put by the hon. Minority Leader, bursary award should be spread; not on selective basis, but to everybody. Any amount we have for this award should go to every student, both in the State and abroad. There should be no discrimination.

On Housing, Mr Speaker Sir, a scanty provision has been made for housing scheme for workers. I pray that this should be

spread more to cover many houses a year as this will go a long way to easing the housing problem in urban centres. The Housing Development Corporation, owned by this State, is a sick baby of the State. There is a top Executive there designated the General Manager. A man who has been sent off to go, but who remains on the table executing, thus exploiting the experience and position of well qualified Anambra citizens working under him. My assumption is that the man sits on the table as a stooge to certain well placed people of this State, otherwise, he has outlived his usefulness.

Another aspect of Housing Development Corporation which I would like to mention is Savings and Loans Bank Account being operated by the Corporation. I think that arm of the Corporation should be removed and fused with the Ministry of Finance, and should be funded with substantial money in order to be able to give loan to deserving applicants. When this is done, workers there who wish may remain with them, while others will be absorbed by other ministries. This Mortgage Bank which operates on profit from elsewhere should also be funded and pampered in order to be serviceable to the people of this State. It operates everywhere on profit, therefore, it should be so here.

Generally, Sir, I want to mention that the capital side of the budget contains many unnecessary provisions. I will just mention a few. Somewhere in the budget we have allocation for V.I.P. houses in certain urban towns or some local government areas. In my view, this is unnecessary at this point in time. We should use this money and put them into useful things. We should also use the money voted for V.I.P. Rest Houses to find office blocks for revenue earning establishments like Internal Revenue as its offices are in shambles in rural areas. They should be provided with permanent structures. Workers there should be housed to work in healthy atmosphere and be given suitable accommodation, because they generate funds for the State.

In closing, Sir, I would like the Executive to be careful the way they tend to squander the scarce revenue of the State. With these observations, I beg to resume my seat.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South):
Mr Speaker Sir, in contributing to the 1980

[AKUNNE SAM OKEKE]

Appropriation Bill of Anambra State, I have some observations to make before I go into the main items in the Appropriation Bill. Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say that the Speaker of this honourable House of Assembly will have my praise and that of the majority of Members of this honourable House for the able way in which he has been handling the affairs of this honourable House of Assembly in projecting the image of this House.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say again that I will have to appeal to the Members of this House to be objective in the way they speak in this House, because we are sent here by our respective constituencies to contribute in order to build this State to be one of the best States in the Federation of Nigeria. In criticizing or in making some statements in the House, sentiments should be kept aside, and facts should be faced.

Mr Speaker, I have to say again that His Excellency the Governor of the State, will have to be given some praise for the award of contracts of certain roads in the State in spite of the embargo placed on the way of the State Government to award such contracts. But the snag there is how far is this contract or project being carried out? Mr Speaker Sir, I have to appeal to His Excellency to see that these roads that were awarded on contract in order to boost the image of this State, are being carried out as contained in the contract agreement because most of these roads that have been awarded on contract are left entirely without anything being done. Let me be specific a bit.

An hon. Member: Nnewi !

Akunne Sam Okeke: Yes, the Oba-Nnewi road. I have to say that even though contractors are doing work on this road, the major part of it has been left uncleared and the people continue to complain. Mr Speaker, I have to say again that during the electioneering campaign, we made so many promises to the electorates especially as far as roads in the State are concerned, but the State Government did not vote enough money for these roads. I am appealing to the Governor and his Executive to see that enough money is provided for the construction of roads, both in the township and in the rural areas.

I have to say again that there are roads which I know, for instance, the road from Nnewi to Nnobi to Agulu for which the sum of ₦600,000 was provided. This amount was not even enough to grade this road, not to talk of tarring it; and so far I have to make some sort of good observations on some of the roads. Let's take a road from Amawbia to Uga. I have to praise the contractor, the U.C.C. that is handling this work and to observe that he is doing it in a way that people appreciate.

There is another road again, Agulu-Nnobi-Nnewi, the contractor, i.e., Nnachetam Brothers that is constructing this road, is trying his best to see that it is covered with laterite and rolled. I wish them to continue so that people will see their good handiwork. I will here mention again that there are roads provided for in the Capital Estimates, but no amount was provided for such roads, e.g., the road Oraifite-Nnewi-Unubi-Ichida. There is no money provided for this road, I don't see why such a provision should be made in the Estimates and no money was provided for same. I am appealing to the Executive to see that money is provided for this road.

Mr Speaker, there is an important road, that is, the road Awka-Etiti-Amichi-Utuh-Ukpor-Lilu and then to the border of Anambra and Imo States. This road has been awarded on contract to one Messrs. Onuselogu and Raid, but throughout this season, nothing has been done on this road and the rain is setting in and I have to say, I don't know if the government is owing this contractor. I am appealing that if the Executive is owing this contractor, effort should be made to pay him whatever amount he is owed so that he will try to do something on this road because the towns along this road are so blocked that they cannot come out during the rainy season.

Sometime ago, Mr Speaker, I raised in this honourable House that Awka-Etiti end of the road has not even been cleared, and I remember that when the commissioner was here, I raised this matter but up till this present day, nothing has been done on this end of the road. Mr Speaker Sir, I say that the engineer in-charge of this road, that is, the Ministry Engineer, will have to be summoned to explain to the committee what has happened to this road. This is because there is something fishy

at Awka-Etiti end of the road, and that is why the road has not even been cleared up till now. I am not in a position to say something until the man is summoned. He will be put to task and he has to explain to the House or rather the committee.

Mr Speaker Sir, there is another road that leads from Nnewi to Unubi. No provision was made for this road at all. I am saying this because these areas are the place where I come from and during the electioneering campaign, we promised them that these things would be done and government was kind enough to put them in the Estimates but nothing is being done now. It appears that they are being deceived and as long as we are here, we have to speak their minds.

Mr Speaker, as far as health facilities are concerned, I have to appeal to the Executive and the Commissioner for Health that encouragement should be given to communities that have completed full-fledged hospitals and health centres, but which hospitals have not been commissioned, no doctors were posted there. Because of this, these people continue to doubt whether they belong to this State or not. I am saying that much more money should be voted for the encouragement of communities that have been able to put up health institutions in their different areas.

Sometime ago, I said that in the field of Education, this government is neglecting rural areas badly. This is because in some constituencies, there are some towns that have been able to put up institutions of higher learning and even constructed science blocks.

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): On a point of Order. The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*), has left his seat and has been causing confusion behind there.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should please take his seat.

Akunne Sam Okeke: I do not know why the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should be distracting my attention when I am speaking for the area from where he comes.

I am saying that in the field of Education, everyday in the pages of newspapers, we hear that this secondary school is opening this or opening that and the government, without any prejudice to any of the secondary schools near the headquarters, goes there to donate heavy sums of money to these institutions—an incentive which we all encourage and appreciate. But all I am appealing to the Executive or His Excellency, is to try and extend the same hand of good fellowship to rural areas where these institutions are built, especially Nnewi and Nnewi South Constituency in particular.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): On a point of Order. The hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) is imputing motive. He is insinuating that His Excellency is favouring one side of his domain and I would like this to be withdrawn.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) should please take note of that.

Akunne Sam Okeke: I am not saying that it is favouring a section but I am saying that— (*Interruptions*). I am saying that His Excellency should please extend this type of visit if he is invited some, sort of goodwill, to schools and health institutions that are completely outside the headquarters. Therefore, I have taken note of his point of Order.

So, Mr Speaker, I am saying that these secondary schools in the rural areas should be taken care of. And in the State Schools Services Commission or other places where their letters go to, such institutions should always treat their cases because they will not have to travel from far places to the headquarters everyday to lodge their complaints. I have mentioned earlier that some of them need transport in order to send their children to the nearest hospital when they are sick. Some of them need water in the compound because they may not have the access of getting water from the township. In other words, all I am saying is that more attention should be paid to remote government institutions by way of providing them with necessary amenities.

[AKUNNE SAM OKEKE]

Mr Speaker Sir, coming to the field of agriculture, I have to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture to see that more farm settlements are established in the State, particularly in the rural areas.

An hon. Member: Nnewi !

Akunne Sam Okeke: Very many hon. Members here come from the rural areas and if these farm settlements are established in the senatorial zones or in the local government areas, the people will feel that the government is coming nearer home. Mr Speaker Sir, there are also in the State, as of today, some scientists who can make some economic trees to produce fruits in about two or three years. Yes ! Such scientists in agriculture and food production should be encouraged so that they will carry this research into the rural areas so that the people will find it not much difficult to produce these economic trees in about two or three years.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say again that, as far as water is concerned, many towns were promised water during the electioneering campaigns and more money should be voted to see that those towns are given water.

An hon. Member: Nnewi for example.

Akunne Sam Okeke: And secondly, I wouldn't say much on this because . . .

An hon. Member: Nnewi !

Akunne Sam Okeke: I wouldn't concentrate on Nnewi alone, because I am for Anambra State. Mr Speaker, I have to talk on the rural electrification issue. Even though my own town is included, I have to say that in a local government area where there are fourteen towns, only three towns were included. It will be very unfair to include about five towns in some other local government areas where there are perhaps seven towns, or where there are six towns and the whole six were included. I have to say that the Executive will have to include more towns as far as rural electrification is concerned, so that what is good for the gander will always be good for the goose.

An hon. Member: You are reversing it.
(Laughter).

Akunne Sam Okeke: Mr Speaker Sir, the other point I have to make before I sit down is about building of markets in the rural areas, because market is revenue-yielding venture. I know that in some areas, people have collected very huge sums of money for their markets to be built for them but the government is not doing anything. This is because if the government is prepared to build such markets, within a few years revenue will be accruing from such markets the people will be helped and they will praise the work of this government.

Mr Speaker, in order to give others the opportunity to contribute, . . .

Several hon. Members: Go ahead !

Akunne Sam Okeke: I have to thank you very much for allowing me the chance to express my views on the . . .

An hon. Member: You have twelve minutes more.

Akunne Sam Okeke: . . . Anambra State Budget for 1980. Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: More contributions please. Honourable Members who are willing to contribute should please indicate. There should be no dialogue in the Chamber.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Point of Order ! The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) is not on his seat.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nkanu West (*Mr Ngene*) is sitting on the seat allocated to him.

Mr Ojukwu: This is 67/68. The one he is sitting on has no number at all.

The Deputy Speaker: I have given a ruling.

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): Observation ! May I observe, Mr Speaker Sir, that it appears that emphatically all the works that should be done on this budget seem to have been carried out at the committee stage and that is probably why hon. Members are not particularly keen on contributing to the debate.

Several hon. Members: No ! No !

Deputy Chief Whip: Then contribute.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Deputy Chief Whip: Let me conclude please. Mr Speaker Sir, in making this observation I will also like to take the opportunity to observe that there appears to be a development on the Floor of this House—a small crop of professional hecklers who don't consider it prudent to listen to somebody else. I crave your indulgence to give me the protection I think I deserve . . .

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Point of Order ! Honourable Members should not impute motives. The hon. Members of this House are not hecklers, or are we ?

Several hon. Members: No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! The hon. Minority Leader should have addressed his speech to Mr Speaker.

Minority Leader: Yes Mr Speaker. I am addressing Mr Speaker and in so doing I am maintaining that the hon. Members of the Anambra State House of Assembly are no hecklers. Thank you. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! I advise that hon. Members should not impute improper motives. The hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehelu*) may continue.

Deputy Chief Whip: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. At no time did I say Sir, that hon. Members of this House are hecklers. I did not say so. I said something else. Mr Speaker, the reason why I made this observation is rather than continue wasting the time of this House and of everybody, the workers, the traders, everybody is impatient, waiting for whatever we can do with this budget. I am asking the House to reconsider the length of time.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): On a point of Order. My point of Order is that a number of days was allocated to the debate of this budget and the number of days allocated for this has not expired and therefore we can continue to contribute until that is done.

The Deputy Speaker: The point of Order is upheld.

Deputy Chief Whip: As a matter of fact, thank you Mr Speaker. It was not my intention really to make a Motion but all I am saying

in effect is that Members should really hurry up. (*Interruptions*). Let me complete my observation . . .

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): On a point of Order. Order 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. The hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehelu*) is deviating from the Motion on the Floor—the Second Reading. If he has anything else let him reserve it until the Motion for adjournment. He has contributed.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Emehelu*) has my permission to make his observation. So point of Order is not upheld.

Deputy Chief Whip: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. In rounding off with this observation, I am sincerely appealing to hon. Members to save the time of the House by really doing their homework and making their own contributions to this debate. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Don't Blame Legislators

Minority Leader (Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to move the Motion for adjournment and I would request the Speaker to allow me make an observation. The observation is a misunderstanding that has been going on in the minds of both Legislators and the public about this budget. There is a constitutional provision that the Chief Executive has the right to the spending for six months, pending the passing of the Financial Bill but some people are inclined to think that unless the budget is passed by the Legislature, no money could be spent in the State. That is wrong.

In other words, I am inclined to think that the constitution made such provision to allow the Legislature to have a thorough study of the budget before passing it. There is no question of hurrying. By that I am appealing to the general public that the Legislators should not be stampeded because the fact that the budget has not been passed does not mean that government spending cannot go on. The constitution allows government spending to go on at least for six months with certain provisions. And having said that, Mr Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Tuesday 13th May, 1980 at 10 a.m. Thank you.

Daily Star Watch It

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and I would take the opportunity thereby to firstly say how cogent and how important the issue raised by the Minority Leader in the Motion, the main Motion for adjournment, is. We don't need to be stampeded in view of existence of provisions *ad interim*. Secondly Mr Speaker Sir, the Executive and the Commissioners are given adequate coverage on the pages of the *Daily Star* as it should be. I dare say that the same type of coverage should be given to the affairs of this Assembly—the individual *dramatis personae* in it, right from its head the Speaker, his Deputy, down to the committees.

An hon. Member: An ordinary Member too.

Mr Ogbuka: Oh! yes of course. I am referring Mr Speaker Sir, to the fact that a full one week ago, the most distinguished Leader of this House in the person of the Speaker, held an epoch-making press conference and raised very vital issues concerning the governing party and the Government of this State. One full week ago. Nothing about it has appeared on the pages of the *Daily Star* or the *Sunday Star*. I cannot understand it.

An hon. Member: The paper is under censor.

Mr Ogbuka: It needs to be said that the government we are running now is made up of three complementary and so to say equal parts. It will not be necessary for this Legislature and the Judiciary to establish their own newspapers in order to reach the public easily. No! That paper is made for all of us and we cannot therefore have the situation where members of the Executive appear everyday, front, back, centre, day in, day out, to the utter exclusion of all those other people who are important, part and parcel of the government of today.

Several hon. Members: Fire!

Mr Ogbuka: I would request through you Sir, that the omission, the failure of the *Daily Star* which is a paper run with the taxpayers' money for the interest of the subscribers of that paper, to print the vital issues raised by the Speaker in his press conference a week ago be rectified. It is a very serious thing and

we would warn that such a thing should not continue. Nevertheless the mistake should be corrected now. Thank you Sir.

Ministry of Health Come to Our Aid

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I wish to remind this honourable House of an announcement made by an hon. Member last week about the outbreak of cholera epidemic in some parts of the State.

The situation is getting out of control in my own area, Abakaliki, especially in my own constituency, Abakaliki South. In fact, over one hundred persons died over the weekend. Then I contacted the Ministry of Health in Abakaliki Local Government Area. Officials of the Ministry went and saw the victims, especially those who had already died. They collected stools and vomits and said that they would take both to Enugu today, being Monday.

When I found that the situation was out of control, in fact, I bought out of my pocket, medicine worth over ₦600 at least to inoculate the patients. So, I am appealing to the Ministry of Health to come to our safety because many more people are dying. The situation is getting out of control in my own constituency and I am calling on the Ministry of Health to come to our aid.

With this, Sir, I support the Motion for adjournment.

Purchase of Vehicles

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, Sir, I have to touch two pertinent points. Firstly, Sir, during the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and sometime here, in this House, we passed a Motion for some vehicles to be bought for the use of this Assembly. Surprisingly, this morning because I did not come with my driver, I wanted to go to the secretariat on official duty, I heard that there are no vehicles. These vehicles have not been bought. I want to know why these vehicles have not been bought.

First Thing First

Secondly, yesterday, Sir, when I was returning to Enugu it took me three hours to travel between Nnewi and Oba. The reason, we were told was that contractors were working.

They left what they should have done during the dry season—making the road passable and then start tarring, and now started tarring from the Oba end leaving some portion to Nnewi even unscrapped. It is horrible, Mr Speaker Sir. It took me good three hours, and I was actually swimming. So, Sir, . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Hear him in silence !

Mr Unigwe: I am warning, Sir, that contractors on our roads should do the first things first. I am not trying to teach them their jobs but, first of all, they should make the roads passable before tarring because to do otherwise renders the road impassable. The portion they have tarred from Oba end cannot be used because it cannot take anybody to anywhere except one stops at Oba. But from Ichi to Nnewi, one cannot go there.

Why I am saying this now is because I may not have time to do it during my bombshell tomorrow. The schools have reopened now and examinations have started. It beats my imagination how those post-primary schools in the rural areas without laboratory equipment will take science examinations during their WASC examinations. I do not know what will happen.

Please, Sir, in case the Education Committee has not taken care of this situation, it should do sufficient homework before tomorrow to see that money is made available to post-primary schools in the rural areas in order to equip their students against this year's examinations.

With this, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Menace of Armed Robbers

Mr S. J. Ogbodo (Enugu East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I will like to report what happened in my area on the night of last Saturday. Mostly now, people have observed that many armed robbers formerly staying at Onitsha have all come down to stay at Enugu.

Many hon. Members: No! Stop that !

Mr Ogbodo: So, since the raid at Onitsha, the whole armed robbers around there have all come down to stay at Enugu, and on the night of last Saturday, they raided Ogui Urban Area. Many vehicles were stolen and windscreens removed, including my own.

Many hon. Members: Oh ! Sorry !

Mr Ogbodo: With this, I am begging the landlords in that area to help us so as to track down all these robbers. And again, I am begging the State Government and the Commissioner of Police to help by opening a police station at Ogui Urban Area.

With this, Sir, I support the Motion for adjournment.

Lack of Decorum

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you . . .

Many hon. Members: Nnewi again!

Mr Ojukwu: Mr Speaker Sir, am I protected ?

The Deputy Speaker: Order !

Mr Ojukwu: In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like very seriously to draw the attention of this honourable House to the current tendency of a very swift drift towards unbridled sycophancy.

Many hon. Members: Fire ! Fire ! Zbrudaya !

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! Please allow him.

Mr Ojukwu: I don't think this sort of attitude . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . It is unfortunate that it is my own man who is disturbing me.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ojukwu: I don't think this sort of attitude will augur well for the solidarity of the hon. Members of the House. It looks as if there is a conscious effort being made by certain individuals to be stubbornly adhesive. I think really every game has a rule and the House is not an exception. We have a procedural decorum and when we detach ourselves from this decorum, a whole stem will fall and a good ground will be created for frustration and disintegration.

I am seriously appealing and it is my conviction that this House does not require a belligerently poised Member or Members who will be out only to look for confrontation either for intra or inter assembly . . . (*Interruptions*). I am on a Motion for adjournment.

[MR OJUKWU]

I am seriously making an appeal for us to rediscover ourselves. Before we place ourselves in a position of being trampled upon, I am seriously making the appeal for Members in their utterances to remember that this is an honourable House and all Members should be honourable in word and in deed. If we start being belligerent we may lose sight and start some sort of in-fighting without necessarily trying to bring about something that will be to the benefit of the State. The way some people stood up to impute motives sometime ago and even today by trying to stampede the House into reaching a conclusion without exhausting the days allocated for this debate does not show that the people or person or hon. Member moving that thing has the interest of this budget at heart. I am therefore Sir . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ojukwu: I am therefore Sir, trying to ask hon. Members to remember that if we are to achieve anything, we must act in unison.

With this Sir, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Send Medical Professionals to Abakaliki

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am not going to talk on what others have been saying or, on this or that but I am more interested in the health and in the protection of the life of the people of this State. Some few minutes ago I heard an hon. Member talking about the death toll within a week in his constituency, over a hundred lives were lost and perhaps before he reaches his constituency by the week-end more two hundred lives will be lost. Honourable Gentlemen, this is a very serious issue and should be treated with despatch.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like a special message to be sent to the Executive to take urgent action to despatch some medical professionals to Abakaliki to find the reasons for this anomaly. Mr Speaker, it is heart-rending that the common man always continues to suffer. Because I know that if this death toll is attributed to a section of Enugu area where the big men live, I think a group of medical professionals would have been sent

there since to find the cause of the deaths. So Mr Speaker, this is a serious issue and hon. Members, when a thing comes to a matter of life, we must do our utmost to protect the common man who has always been suffering. So Mr Speaker, I beg that something be done in order to protect this hon. Member whose people who voted him into power are dying day by day.

Mr Speaker, with this I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Give Peace a Chance

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In contributing to the Motion for adjournment, I will like to lend credo to what the hon. Member for Aguata South Central (*Mr Ezenwaka*) has just said.

It is rather unfortunate that some of our people are suffering, and when mention of it is made it creates laughter, whereas we should think about these things soberly. I will like to join this hon. Member in asking the Executive that an emergency measure should be taken about this affected area. It could be mine or yours tomorrow, but today it is in Abakaliki area. So, Mr Speaker Sir, this is rather a serious matter. The Ministry of Health should move immediately to assuage the suffering of these people. We know that there are problems, but cholera has a cure known to the medical profession. They should rush medicine wherever they may be found to the people.

Secondly, Sir, I will like to touch on the issue of this budget. Many hon. Members have spoken about being stampeded into it, but be that as it may, I will like us to bear one thing in mind, that this budget is for only a number of months; this one is ending in December this year, and this is May already. I think it is rather unfair for us to take it as ending in April next year. So we should, to be true to what we preach, know that there is no point trying to point an accusing finger at anybody while the rest are pointing to you. Let us get down to work and see what we can do about the budget, and so I will appeal to hon. Members, especially those who preach or call for peace, let us give peace a chance ! (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Onyefuru: Mr Speaker Sir, I need your protection especially from the Nnewi block. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! The hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*) should please round off.

Mr Onyefuru: Sir, in rounding off, I would strongly suggest that these people be separated, the Nnewi people. Also touching on what the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*) said this morning on how able our Speaker is, I would like to say that leadership is an act of God and therefore we should give leadership a chance and it is also not just as it affects this honourable House

but as it affects the whole State. So we should recognize leadership all round and give it a chance. We may make mistakes but who doesn't make a mistake even the hon. Members here as leaders in their various constituencies.

So Sir, with this I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and crave your indulgence to put the Question.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow Tuesday 13th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 13th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr F. N. Okoye (Anambra Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Bill for an appropriation of ₦321.5 million for the services of this State for the year ending 31st December, 1980. This amount of expenditure, as we have seen, is made up of Recurrent Expenditure of ₦174.3 million, a Statutory Expenditure of ₦12.6 million and Capital Expenditure of ₦134.6 million. Backing up this expenditure is the Recurrent Revenue of ₦28.9 million, a Federal Government grant of ₦198.1 million and Capital Receipts of ₦134.6 million. In other words, there is a net surplus of ₦40.1 million in this estimates for the current year. It is therefore arithmetically fallacious for anybody to say or to argue that the estimates is a bankruptcy estimates.

On the other hand, Sir, I would agree that it is a precarious budget as stated by the hon. Minority Leader. And this is true of every other estimates as presented by all States in the Federation. This is because every State in this Federation is solely dependent on the Federal purse and if for one reason the Federal purse cannot meet the statutory obligations of the States, every State of the Federation will be financially embarrassed. The possibility of this happening is not remote and Mr Speaker Sir, you will allow me to refer to the analysis of the Federal Budget proposals for the years. I crave your indulgence to do so, for the years 1973 to 1974 up to 1979-80. From the extracts of the Federal Budget Estimates, apart from 1973-74 and 1974-75 where there was an overall surplus of ₦285,000 in 1973-74 and ₦1.4 billion in 1974-75, all the succeeding years 1975-76 there was another deficit of ₦1.7 billion. In 1976-77 there was a further deficit of ₦1.6

billion, ₦2.1 billion in 1977-78 and ₦2.8 billion in 1978-79 and a deficit of ₦3.2 billion in 1979-80.

That is why I say in other words, if for one reason or the other the Federal authority cannot meet its statutory obligations to the States as and when due, the rest of the States will suffer some financial embarrassment. With these figures, I can therefore say that when I buy the term 'precarious budget', I mean in the sense that if for one reason this State fails to receive as and when due the ₦198.1 million as shown in our current estimates, it means in simple language, that this State will not be able to meet her financial Recurrent Expenditure proposals. In simple terms, we may not be able to pay salaries as and when due.

There is another position Sir. I think it is in this position that I will strongly recommend that we do some soul-searching. Every hon. Member has spoken at least once on good roads, good water-supply, electricity, good cheap houses for his/her constituency. I completely agree. We made those pledges to the electorate and we did not make the promises in vain. I think it is in this direction that we should also help in suggesting ways of raising further revenue, so that if Mr President does not perform, we will be able to absorb the shock at any time of our existence.

For us therefore to realize our dreams, I venture to recommend the following Sir:

- (1) total overhauling of our tax collection system especially in the private sector. The PAYE sector is already overstretched.
- (2) I will venture to suggest the introduction of tax on burial ceremony. Too much money is being lavished on the dead and we can easily realize about ₦2 million from this type of revenue.

Again, I will like us to explore the possibility of tax on all Social Clubs, we have over 5,000 Social Clubs of Nigeria in this State alone, and more are coming and we can easily realize ₦2 million from such a taxation.

Another form, Mr Speaker Sir, is to lift the ban on Pools Betting. It has been proved on the Floor of this House that we can realize some four to six million naira on pools betting alone in this State. The argument on morality could still be kept in the fridge. We are talking about money.

Another point, Sir, is that we have to re-organize the system of revenue collection from the local government areas. A typical example is that money collected from market stalls and market fees are sometimes shared behind the counter. It does not get to government coffers; like Abakaliki market, Nnewi market, Nsukka market, Otuocha market—these are very big markets and if the government is to modernize these markets what comes from them should be properly accounted for.

Another source I think of raising revenue is revitalizing the Savings and Loans Department which arm is—I consider, the poor man's bank attached to the Ministry of Works and Housing. This Savings and Loans is not properly utilized and instead of scrapping it as somebody has suggested, I would advise strongly that it be revitalized as the State can realize, if it is properly managed, ₦5 million yearly.

Another important way of raising revenue, Sir, is through the establishment of a Merchant Bank for Anambra State. Some of my Colleagues might argue that we have the A.C.B. Ltd. and the Co-operative Bank, but a Merchant Bank is the answer for our traders who are scattered all over the Federation. Anambra State is noted for trade. The headquarters of the bank, I agree, could be in Enugu, but the branches can spread all over the Federation.

Then still on revenue, if we look at our estimates, I think we could do a lot better in improving the internal resources and enlarging our domestic borrowing. It has not been fully tapped and these are areas which can yield us more revenue than as at present. And whilst on revenue Sir, finally I would venture to suggest that companies such as the Premier Breweries Limited at Onitsha and the Nigerian Cement Company at Nkalagu be thrown to the public. They should go completely public so that you divest them of government interference or control. Companies funded by government or established by government had never been noted to adhere strictly to commercial principles and practices.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is my humble submission that when we do all these and see them fully executed in due course, we shall be in a position to claim that we have done our duty. Permit me, therefore, Mr Speaker Sir, at this stage to make certain observation as it affects the estimated

expenditure for the year which we are now reviewing. It is observed that personal emoluments take about 50 per cent. of this ₦321 million which is to be appropriated. It is not a healthy situation. And I must warn that for us to survive, prudence demands that redundant staff should be pruned and employment should be made on the basis of need.

Another point Sir, I take the Ministries:

Ministry of Health: We have an estimated capital expenditure of ₦5 million under this Ministry. I consider this sum insignificant. If we are to fulfil our promises, I will suggest that anything less than ₦25 million will not be adequate if we are to receive adequate medical care and attention. The sum of ₦25 million will go a long way to helping this Ministry. But on the other hand Sir, I do not buy the idea of the State Health Management Board budgeting for ₦10 million to cover emoluments and other charges and only ₦2.8 million for drugs purchases. The whole thing was frittered away on emoluments and this kind of estimates, I dare say, is absolute selfishness and to say the least, that Management Board should be scrapped.

On Education Sir, we will all agree that it is one of our biggest but most fruitful investments. But even though we have budgeted for a total sum of ₦44.2 million Sir, to cover the Ministry's Recurrent Expenditure, the Ministry and the State Schools Services Commission also, and another ₦19.7 million for the Ministry's Capital Expenditure, I will like this honourable House to re-investigate further the E. C. Onwunyi Report as was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on 17th May, 1979 in respect of U.P.E. and other contracts valued at about ₦43.3 million under projects 107, 108 and 110 of that year. I say this Mr Speaker and I quote—

Of all the 201 contracts on which information was given to us, no contract documents were presented in respect of 68 contracts. These contracts involve a total liability of ₦7.5 million.

No vouchers, no information. I raise this point Mr Speaker Sir, because from available evidence now coming out when some of the ministries were defending their budgets, this liability of ₦7.5 million will now re-surface under subhead 35 or 25 known as

[MR OKOYE]
"Outstanding Commitments" in one of these estimates.

Then on *Ministry of Works and Housing*: I am particularly interested in Ministry of Works and Housing and I speak as the Chairman of the Works and Housing Committee, and from the inside knowledge which we have acquired, Mr Speaker Sir, the old account in respect of contracts worth ₦140 million as inherited from the previous regime still stinks to high heaven. The House should know that up to this moment, six months after our taking off, the Executive is still dragging its feet in deciding what to do, whether to terminate or re-award or continue with these contracts. I say that effort should be made to recover what is recoverable because for the previous government to issue a contract worth ₦140 million on which contractors have collected ₦57 million or above as at that time when we came in Sir, and nothing was done and these contractors still wallow in public fund and throw *Owambes* and buy a fleet of cars and lorries, I say something must be done in time. It is an equitable maxim that delay defeats equity.

Still on *Housing*, if I may go now for the present, so far for the past, we have ruled a line from where we came in, I must say that I am impressed that efforts have been made by the present administration to honour our pledge as far as the Ministry of Works goes. We all now remember what is known as the four famous Federal roads and the asphaltting of the Miliken Hill. These roads are progressing satisfactorily except the Oba-Nnewi Road. The rain is catching up and it would defeat the purpose for which that contract was awarded if the contractor does not hurry up.

Still on roads, Mr Speaker, we made a lot of promises to the electorate and I have not seen any evidence to the contrary that these promises would not be fulfilled. From agreements reached with the Ministry of Works when it came to defend the estimates as it affected them, it was agreed that the sum of ₦9.6 million which was described in that estimates as "Other Roads" be specifically and irrevocably re-allocated to the thirteen roads which appeared in the estimates but to which no money was allocated. We reached agreement on that.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, I will also refer to *Rural Electrification*. I think hon. Members are already in possession of extracts from the contract for Rural Electrification covering 119 towns. It is reasonably spread geographically, costing this State ₦38 million. Although that comes in the form of contractor financing, I maintain that this is a step in the right direction because when we are talking about roads, it is high time the rural people also enjoyed light.

Before I finish up on roads, Mr Speaker, Sir, we have ₦26.1 million Capital Expenditure under Works and I think this House should warn, through Mr Speaker that extreme caution be exercised when they begin to operate this amount of ₦26.1 million; to do otherwise, will be dangerous because there is always a stampede to issue contracts left, right and centre and care must be taken so that the little money we have got, be spent judiciously.

There is another arm of the Ministry of Works that has not been fairly treated, from our observations and that is the Housing Development Corporation. It has been starved of funds from its inception. The subvention of ₦1 million cannot scratch the surface. In fact, it cannot provide the basic infrastructures; and here again, if the Federal Government is going to allocate money for two thousand houses in this State, I think it is fair and reasonable that whatever amount it is prepared to allocate should be generated through the Housing Development Corporation and not through party agents.

Several hon. Members: Why? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okoye: I enjoy your heckling. Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to touch on Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production. While there is a capital of ₦10 million estimated, I am disappointed that the revenue accruing or estimated under this budget is less than ₦5,000 especially when it is taken into account that ₦3.1 million comes under the Capital Receipts for the procurement and distribution of fertilizers. I don't see the rationale that if we procure and distribute fertilizer worth ₦3.1 million, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production cannot give us anything back for the investment. I think it is high time their slogan became "Grow more Food and Sell Fertilizer".

Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to share, and I strongly share, the views expressed by the hon. Minority Leader (*Ogbuibo Petrus Agballah*) about the budget preparation and presentation to this House. It has always come in a ragtag form. Every available information points to the fact that it was compiled and presented in a hurry and by those who have little or no regard for accounting principles. I say this because we saw in the last Supplementary Appropriation Bill, errors amounting to ₦2.6 million. Again in this Draft Estimates before us, I smell some errors, but these, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to leave and when it comes to the Third Reading, we might be able to deal with them.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr D. C. Ikeoha (Isi-Uzo South): Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a little to contribute to the budget debate. I thank the Executive for presenting to this honourable House this all embracing and well-meaning 1980 Budget starting from the 1st of April to 31st December 1980. It is one of the manifestos of the Jim, Administration to make life more meaningful and comfortable for the common people of the State. I am appealing to this House to approve the budget with a minimum of delay so that the business of the State will be pursued at once.

In approving the Budget, attention should be drawn to some of the State's projects in the rural areas, such as the co-operative farms at Eha-Amufu and Ishieke.

Secondly, as regards education, the T.T.C. at Eha-Amufu has been long established. It started along with Nsugbe which has now been completed. The T.T.C. at Eha-Amufu is faced with acute shortage of accommodation for students and staff as a result of non-completion of the contracts awarded since 1976. There is no water-supply and female students fetch water from Enugu and Nkalagu. There is no light and general infrastructures for the institution. In view of this, I call on this honourable House to urge the Executive to face such projects in the rural areas of the State with the attention they deserve.

Finally, it is high time the State Government built a General Hospital at Eha-Amufu to cater for the health needs of the people of the clan, the students' population and the

co-operative farmers in the town. Eha-Amufu is a large town, with a population of about 30,000 or more. Meantime, the Executive should be urged, by this honourable House, to post a resident doctor to the Health Centre at Eha-Amufu as an interim measure. And again it is the only General Hospital in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area which started in the 1971-72 Financial Year.

Mr Speaker Sir, if you allow me, I will quote a summary because I visited the hospital:

INCEPTION: *The Hospital was started in the 1971-72 Financial Year. Four blocks of houses for out-patient department, and residential houses for staff were completed by late 1972.*

COMPOSITION: *The Hospital complex consists of:—*

1. *An out-patient department (completed in 1972).*
2. *Three buildings for staff quarters (completed in 1972).*
3. *Three buildings for staff quarters (completed in 1978).*
4. *Two uncompleted buildings for wards (started in 1975-76 and NOT yet completed).*
5. *One building for Catering/Laundry (started in 1975-76 and NOT yet completed).*

EQUIPMENT: There are in the store here sufficient equipment to run a fully obstetrics and gynaecological unit; surgical unit; and a medical unit. Some of the instruments are even rusting away because of lack of use. In addition, there are the following—

Equipment	Quantity now in Stock	Quantity required for two Hospital wards	Quantity in Hospital Store
Bed	30	46	16
Mattresses	30	51	21
Pillows	30	54	24
Window Blinds	40	80	40

[MR IKEOHA]

PHARMACY: The Pharmacy Department is headed by a graduate Pharmacist and has sufficient drugs for in-patients. Unfortunately, some of these drugs expire and deteriorate while lying in the store because there are no wards for in-patients who need them.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, the Gentleman who has the Floor does not confine his observations to the point he is making, and he is introducing matters irrelevant to his speech, apart from reading his speech.

Minority Leader (*Ogbuiboo Petrus Agballah*): Order What?

Mr Nwofor: Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order not upheld. The hon. Member for Isi-Uzo South (*Mr Ikeoha*) should, however, limit himself to the general principles and merits of the budget.

Mr Ikeoha: Mr Speaker Sir, I was trying to express what is happening in my local government area at Ikem so that the Health Management Board will know exactly the true position of things at Ikem as regards the hospital there. Why I was saying this is that all these materials are available in the hospital, but the hospital has not been officially reopened. I am, therefore, urging the Ministry of Health to see that that hospital is reopened within this Financial Year. I learnt that even at Ezzamgbo the same problem obtains there. I do not see the reason why all the hospital equipments will be there and nothing is done.

Mr Speaker Sir, I do not have much to say, and with this, I beg to resume my seat. Thank you.

Mr B. A. Ekwealor (Anambra North): Mr Speaker Sir, for an objective consideration of the general principles and merits of the present budget, two issues have to be kept in focus. These two issues are: firstly, that this budget is intended to take care of one-third of the duration of the life of this House, and the life of the present government, that is to say, by December, 1980, we shall have been one year and three months in office, so that if this budget is going to take care of one-third of the life of this House and the life of

this government, it should have aimed at achieving one-third of the job before it.

Secondly, the expectations of the people in the post-military regime are different from what they were before the civil war, and during the Military regime. The budget should reflect these expectations. It is generally agreed that every responsible and responsive government should conduct its affairs in such a way as to provide for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. As has been indicated several times here, the greater majority of the people of this State live in the rural areas, and the principle of greatest good for the greatest number of people dictates that greater attention should be paid to the rural areas than the few urban areas. This is not borne out by the present budget. In fact, many hon. Members have pointed out the concentration of development activities in the few urban areas.

I have already mentioned the expectations of the people in post-military Nigeria. I am referring to the new political thinking in the country to which our Constitution gives full expression in many places, particularly in Chapter II, that is, the sections on the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. We are now familiar with such expression as "Federal character of the country", "geographical spread", "even development", "grassroot development", "social justice", "new social order" and "egalitarian society". These expressions simply articulate the spirit of our new constitution. Political parties preach these ideals. No wonder then that the expectations of the people of Nigeria are very high. In fact, there is a general desire for a break from the past. We expect the present budget should give effect to this present desire; a shift of emphasis from the urban areas to the rural areas, to effect this egalitarian society and to effect the new social order.

An hon. Member: Fire!

Mr Ekwealor: But on the contrary, every impartial and objective observer will see that this budget, unfortunately, remains a relic of the past. The result is that only known Heads and Sub-heads continue to receive attention, and one is tempted to sigh, "as it was in the beginning, so it is now and ever shall be".

Several hon. Members: Amen!

Mr Ekwealor: Mr Speaker Sir, the break from the past which the masses expected should have been reflected in the budget, particularly in the Capital Estimates. The old format of the traditional budget must change. New Heads and Subheads should be entertained and accommodated. This takes me to the concept of priority and of even development. I do not, however, share the view that this government has got its priorities wrong. I think it has got its priorities right. But I quarrel with one thing, and that is, that the government has failed to concentrate on the known and accepted priorities, so as to make the desired impact on the people. To concentrate on these known and accepted priorities such as roads, water and medicare and possibly housing, will necessitate, perhaps, the suspension of some prestige and luxury projects. It will be a right step in the right direction if all these luxury and prestige projects are suspended. The budget, as it stands before us, does not do sufficient justice to the accepted priorities—roads, water, medicare and housing. On the concept of even development, the situation is hopeless.

There is nothing in the budget to show any effort, on the part of the planners of the budget, to achieve this expectation of the masses. It would appear that, to those who have, more is still being given.

Mr Speaker Sir, complaints of neglect from some areas of this State emanate from the fact that the planners and executors of our development programmes tend to completely forget or ignore certain areas in the scheme of things.

An hon. Member: Like the riverine areas !

Mr Ekwealor: What I am saying is applicable to very many underdeveloped areas. Mine is a backward area.

An hon. Member: Sorry !

Mr Ekwealor: And I want to illustrate with my constituency—the Anambra North constituency. In fact the riverine area of the Anambra Local Government Area is a backward area.

Majority Leader: On a point of Order ! Order No. 43 of the Standing Orders. This is Second Reading and he shouldn't go into details until we get to the Third Reading. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: Point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Ekwealor: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to illustrate with my constituency because what I said is just applicable to many other areas that suffer the same neglect. This is an area inhabited by over 80,000 people who live in nine autonomous communities. .

An hon. Member: Only !

Mr Ekwealor: But as at today, there is no motorable road in the area maintained by the Government of this State.

An hon. Member: Sorry.

Mr Ekwealor: Mr Speaker Sir, I mean that as far as the Ministry of Works and Housing of this State is concerned, this area does not exist.

An hon. Member: At all !

Mr Ekwealor: As far as they are concerned, it is not in this State.

Mr Speaker Sir, this is also true of health facilities.

An hon. Member: Agreed !

Mr Ekwealor: As far as the Ministry of Health of this State is concerned, there is no human life in that area that is worthy of care. This is most unfortunate.

Mr Speaker Sir, the great irony of this situation is that this same government that does not seem to know or care about the people or the existence of the people of this area, has a very good machinery for the collection of taxes... *(Laughter)*... in this area. It has a very good machinery for the collection of taxes. Is there any wonder then that the people feel neglected, rejected and unwanted ?

Several hon. Members: No !

Mr Ekwealor: On *Agriculture* Sir, it is well known that my people of the riverine area and some other people in the equally neglected areas of the State, like Abakaliki, if they will allow me to say so ...

Several hon. Members: Go ahead.

Mr Ekwealor: They are good producers of rice, cassava, yam and fish. *(Laughter)*.

An hon. Member: You are in order.

Mr Ekwealor: I am talking on *Agriculture* but the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production has never directed its attention at all to this area where food comes from.

An hon. Member: Yes !

Mr Ekwealor: And the budget does not say anything about this area where the food comes from. Rather, the ministry will locate institutions in places where food cannot be produced.

An hon. Member: *Ewoh !*

Mr Ekwealor: Now the A.D.C.—Niger Flood Basin Project—which appeared in the budget has been in the plan period since 1976, and till today, no allocation has been made for this project. The Niger Flood Basin Project is within my constituency and the plan period is ending in 1980. It is reflected in our budget and yet, no allocation has been made to it. Mr Speaker Sir, either the authorities in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production are not serious about finding real solution to the food problems or there is a policy of discrimination against that area. It is as simple as that. Yes.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to say that inasmuch as I appreciate the financial limitations of the Government of Anambra State, and inasmuch as I appreciate that all cannot be achieved in just one year, I strongly believe that within the constraints: the backward and neglected areas can be properly accommodated in the new spirit of even development if the authorities are so disposed. After all, it is the sick that requires the physician, not the healthy.

An hon. Member: I agree with you.

Mr Ekwealor: It is the sick and the weak child that should receive the greater attention from the parents; it is the under-developed areas that should receive the greater attention from the government. Mr Speaker Sir, I therefore urge that in the next two budgets, the mistakes that have been made here in this budget should not be repeated. The Capital Estimates should concentrate on two issues: one, our real priorities and forget about luxuries and prestige projects, secondly, the backward and under-developed areas, particularly the riverine areas of Anambra Local Government. I say this because a chain is as strong as its weakest link. The measure

of development in Anambra State will always remain the standard of life and welfare of the most backward people.

My people have to determine how developed Anambra State is, not what Enugu is. It is the standard of life and welfare of my people, the neglected people, it is their standard of life and well-being that will determine the progress that has been made in Anambra State.

Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you very much.

Mr F. B. Unigwe (Nnewi East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this 1980 Appropriation Bill. Sir, I shall have to deal first of all with the principle guiding the budget. The State is expected, Sir, to generate, through its own earnings, less than 10 per cent. of the budgeted revenue. This wouldn't be through borrowing but preferably, interests, repayments and dividends. Where do they come from ? My answer is: from our State-controlled limited liability companies, if they are well managed. By this I mean, Nigersteel, Premier Breweries and perhaps Nkalagu Cement.

An hon. Member: *Ozokwakwa ?*

Mr Unigwe: Sir, I shall deal with few ministries but first of all, I will deal with the burning one—*Rural Electrification*. I shall have to disagree, for once, with my Chairman Works and Housing Committee. Here, in the rural electrification, geographical-spread is not taken into consideration.

Sir, I shall crave your indulgence to give you the tax returns of last year as paid by each local government area.

Local Government Area	Tax Paid 1978-79	Rural Electrification	
		No. of Towns	
	₦		
Aguata	150,106	9	
Anambra	61,653	8	
Awka	140,199	3	
Idemili	258,634	9	
Ihiala	128,899	5	
Njikoka	114,165	8	
Nnewi	293,887	3	
Oji-River	54,206	3	

Local Government Area	Tax Paid 1978-79	Rural Electrification No. of Towns
Onitsha	₦ 1,222,021	3 (that is Ogbaru it is already electrified)
Abakaliki	289,216	4
Awgu	88,748	7
Enugu I	1,428,502	3
Enugu II	1,655,498	4
Ezeagu	44,114	4 (or more)
Ezza	47,865	3
Igbo-Etiti	18,497	4
Igbo-Eze	71,157	5
Ikwo	40,915	7
Ishielu	418,460	4
Isi-Uzo	28,539	3
Nkanu	49,065	5
Nsukka	1,278,798	5
Udi	108,413	10
Uzo-Uwani	14,993	12

Several hon. Members: Hei ?

Mr Unigwe: Mr Speaker Sir, where is the justice ? I will, with your permission, quote. In the words of Patriarch of Jerusalem to Grand Duke Vacilli the III of Russia, when such things were happening in his country:

If you do this wicked thing you will have a wicked son. Your State will become prey to terrors and tears. Rivers of blood will flow. The heads of mighty will fall. Your cities will be devoured by plague. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order !

Mr Unigwe: Geographical-spread should not be concerned with only the appointment of Permanent Secretaries and other things. It should be seen Sir . . .

The Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehehu): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, I crave your indulgence to apply Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders to restrict the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor to the debate on the Floor. We are talking about the general principles in the budget. We are not discus-

sing appointments of Permanent Secretaries.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Much as I feel with the Deputy Chief Whip (Mr Emehehu's) sentiments on this matter, the point of Order is not upheld because the Second Reading means talking generally. I will however appeal to the hon. Member for Nnewi East (Mr Unigwe) not to use inciting language.

Mr Unigwe: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Now I will come to Education. Out of about 281 post-primary schools and about thirteen teacher training colleges in the State, half of this number if not sixty per cent. were built by communities. For example, in my own town or my constituency, there are seven secondary schools built by communities themselves. Where is the rationale in equipping only the schools in the townships while in the estimates we have the construction of new post-primary schools ? For who ? When the existing ones built by communities have not been equipped.

Works: I won't go to roads. Many people have spoken on roads and I don't need to flog it further.

Health: I will use this opportunity again Sir, to inform you that my community completed a Health Centre, built according to the specification obtained from the Ministry of Health since 1978 and had been appealing to the government to take over the Health Centre. When the government refused, we had to run to the rescue of His Grace, the Archbishop. He has now posted Rev. Sisters and Matrons to that Health Centre unaided.

Water-Supply: Mr Speaker Sir, if I give you the list of bore-holes being sunk at the expense of people who pay tax and people who contributed money for bore-holes, but this is diverted to other rural areas that have not paid even one kobo into the Treasury, you will pity them. But my people paid in before the outbreak of the Nigerian civil war nearly £30,000. After the war, we were asked to pay in some money which we did and it is not in the Current Estimates to be supplied with water. What am I here for ?

Information: Onitsha is overdue for a good stadium. If I am not mistaken, it is Onitsha that produced the first strong team—The Red Devils. In this Estimates there is no room, nothing is provided for Onitsha Stadium.

[MR UNIGWE]

Mr Speaker Sir, my point is quite clear. I am appealing to the powers that be that we should be taken into consideration—those of us who are here. I intend coming back to this House in 1983, but it is by allowing amenities which are due to my constituency to be sent to them. We pay for these amenities. From the statistics given to you Sir on tax payment, you can see, apart from the three urban areas, that Nnewi is the highest. Nnewi is overdue for a Catering Rest House. *(Laughter)*.

Some hon. Members: Is that ?

Mr Unigwe: Yes ! Mr Speaker, Sir, . . . *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Unigwe: I don't intend to keep long but I will wind up or conclude in the words of Leon Czolgosz in America when he assassinated President McKinley in 1901. His first and only statement was this and I quote. *I killed the President and I have done my duty. I don't believe one man should have much services and another should have none.* Mr Speaker Sir, I am going . . . *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Yes ! On a point of Order ?

Mr D. C. Anyabuiké (Awgu East): Yes. On a point of Order. Order No. 26 (3) of the Standing Orders. *Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending.* . . . *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Hear him out.

Mr Anyabuiké: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to withdraw the point of Order. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! An hon. Member should be more responsible than that.

Mr Unigwe: Mr Speaker Sir, I like to wind up with an appeal that some time ago we heard about water tankers or rather that water should be provided to certain post-primary schools in certain areas. For goodness sake, I come from a constituency with seven secondary schools built by local people, and I should be helped out. We are now putting up a post office for the government, by my own community. We are tired of launching, launching, launching, for projects which are being built for other people for nothing. So Sir, I will request, through Mr Speaker that the

ministries responsible for the distribution of amenities should sit down and do their home work fine before bringing it to this House because the rural electrification issue is an eye opener. I shall send you, some time, the number of bore-holes being sunk somewhere in this State while others are suffering.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to resume my seat. Thank you, Sir.

Mr P. Nwabeke (Abakaliki East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for allowing me to contribute. Sir, the Executive have played their own part. They have covered the ministries in their Estimates. The ball is now in our court. May I say that some ministries were properly taken care of. Others were not. It is therefore my wish that we take the budget item by item. We approve them item by item because approving the whole Estimates *en bloc* will amount to making mistakes as I see it.

I shall now take some ministries. Firstly, *Industry and Technology*—Since the beginning of history neither the State Government nor the Federal Government has ever sited an industry in Abakaliki except, of course, the cement factory which because it is near Enugu, and the mineral cannot be carried away to another place, they were obliged to site it there. This is unfair, and the State places premier importance on industry and technology, and there is provision for establishment of industries. Some of these industries should be sited at Abakaliki. And you know that since we say we have no roads and have no water and medical attention, such industry will bring along with it good roads, drinking water and other attendant amenities that go with industries. We know that where the cement industry is, is somehow developed because the workers there cannot go to Enugu for medical attention and they cannot go to Enugu for drinking water. The government is therefore forced to give them these amenities and the communities around that place are therefore benefiting. We wish this type of venture should be extended to Abakaliki area.

Two, *Agriculture*—You will know that Agriculture is a productive Ministry and as the saying goes "where the food fails every other thing fails". It will also be recalled that Abakaliki is the food basket of this State, but unfortunately the people of the area do not benefit and have

never benefited from the agricultural loans to farmers. They have neither light for their incubators and in the hatcheries nor do they get agricultural implements. No incentives whatsoever. Abakaliki should therefore be remembered in the scheme of things this time.

Three, *Works and Housing*. Here as usual, if the Federal Government had not built a road from Enugu to Ogoja and from Abakaliki to Afikpo there could have been no roads whatsoever to Abakaliki. The Iboko–Abakaliki road had been a matter for political campaigns from the beginning of politics in Nigeria. It is unfortunate that nearly all the Legislators from this side abandon their cars in Abakaliki Urban and go home either on bicycle or motorcycle. Yesterday most of us did not even attend meeting here because there was no road after the rain. This is unfair, and Abakaliki is only thirteen kilometres from Iboko. Unless the Ministry of Works and Housing builds the Iboko road I think, in my own judgment, they have not done much.

On *Health*, a large amount has been voted for health services. May I report that the whole of Abakaliki has no medical institution in the real sense of it. The only colonial General Hospital sited in the urban is for the few privileged citizens who can buy their way to see the doctors who direct them to their private clinics. The rural community, therefore, is a government hospital department. One of the five hospitals to be built now, which we see in the Estimates, should be sited in the rural areas of Abakaliki. Just yesterday an hon. Member reported that cholera has cleared most of his people. He is not even in the House today. We don't know what has happened. (*Laughter*).

Abakaliki therefore deserves plenty of attention. The people in the rural areas, the hinterland of Abakaliki should get this type of social amenities, if power to people is anything to go by.

On *Education*, I am glad to note that over ₦40,000,000 has been voted for State Schools Services Commission and the Ministry itself. This is well directed. It is also interesting to know that the University of Technology will take off here in Enugu this year. What a lovely idea. But that at Abakaliki will take off in 1983 when the government in the House

has gone out of office. (*Laughter*). What a glaring case. Why not upgrade the Saint Joseph's T.T.C. to a College of Technology or to a College of Education. I think this is more workable. We should not make false promises to the people we govern.

Finally Sir, there is the inclination to develop the already developed cities and equip and decorate the Commissioners' quarters rather than focusing attention on the rural communities where these amenities are needed most. It is unfair. More money or too much money has been set aside for Other Charges in different Ministries. This has always been provision for misappropriation. I shall elaborate more on this when we shall debate the budget in detail.

With this Sir, I charge other contributors to be more constructive. This is presidential system, no majority, no minority. Thank you very much.

Mr M. C. Obah (Udi Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I would go straight to the subject of our discussion today. This House must be reminded that it was not quite a long time we approved a Supplementary Estimates for the Financial Year 1979–80. It must be pointed out that some of the projects which we approved money for are yet to take off. For example, rural electrification, roads, expansion of existing high schools, reconstruction of customary court buildings, compensation for schools taken over by government, uncompleted rural water-supply and health services. While other States are thinking about how to provide enough water, electricity and accommodation we are thinking about how to build Television Station. I must emphasize that we are the only State which the National Television station is not serving. Why is it so? In my own opinion, the money spent in this direction is pure waste of money and we should not make it a priority even if we should establish one.

Mr Speaker Sir, let this honourable House press for reopening of I.M.T. but before that, the House must know that I.M.T's former Board has been dissolved.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): On a point of Order! The hon. Gentleman who has the Floor is reading from a book; a booklet, everything verbatim.

The Speaker: Order ! Order ! I am satisfied that the hon. Member for Udi Central (*Mr Obah*) is only making references. Point of Order not upheld. The hon. Member should continue.

Mr Obah: Thank you Sir, but before that the House must know that the I.M.T's former Board has been dissolved and no one has yet been appointed. The government should sympathize with those who are about to finish their courses.

I do not know where the Executive will get money to build four thousand houses in this State before the end of this year since they have not built one since October last year. But assuming that there is money for that, have we any reason not to allow the Federal Housing Scheme to take off in Anambra State ?

(*Interruption*).

The Speaker: Order ! Order ! Order in the Chamber. The hon. Member for Udi Central (*Mr Obah*) has the Floor, no heckling, no side talk.

Mr Obah: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to remind the power in this State that they have to account for this at the poll. Thank you.

Mr D. C. Nworah (Onitsha South): Mr Speaker Sir, my contribution to the 1980 Appropriation Bill is not much. I have got to say that the proposers of this Bill have completely forgotten some areas. It is most unfortunate that during the Nigerian crisis people abandoned the so-called urban areas and moved to rural areas. The rural areas harboured people, gave them shelter, gave them food, but today in the scheme of things they have been mostly and utterly forgotten and neglected. Now many people have contributed, they want good roads, they want this, they want that. I want to draw the attention of this House to my own constituency, Onitsha South, which is Ogbaru. This is a totally neglected area. I have been shouting in this House that all the Commissioners, the Heads of Departments, before they make their proposals, should be quite reasonable and ensure that they could cover all the areas both rural and urban and that they have the full assessment of these areas and know their priorities and aspirations. In fact the Executive did not take cognisance of this, otherwise they could have realised that my own area, Ogbaru, should be in the fore-front. It must be

remembered that among the food producing areas in this State, Ogbaru cannot be counted out and should not be counted out.

The Ministry of Agriculture failed in fact to educate the people to see things for themselves. This area, I say without any apologies, will be the first people to produce new yams this year, say, July, and yet it never appealed to the government to take care of these people. Many others are being helped in clearing the site for their farming, sending agricultural implements, sending fertilizers, but in this area where we have natural fertilizer, we are being neglected, I wonder where we are drifting to.

In other aspects, the Governor has made some speeches on the Floor of this House that the campaign promises are not empty squabbles. I think now it is fit to be looked closely at. Many areas have been suffering—suffering from lack of water, health and other things. In Ogbaru, we have one hospital which has not been completed since 1976. I wonder what people think about the health of these people.

There are no roads. In the Draft Estimates, people see there, Onitsha-Ogwuikpele road. Where did it stop ? It just stopped half-way. Well, it is known that whenever a Commissioner is invited to Ogbaru, he feels reluctant to go because he knows the sufferings, and yet people living there are taxpayers.

Last year, we had only one secondary school. No water, nothing. In fact, the school lost some students. They drowned in the river, while trying to fetch water, and yet the government does not see it right to sink a bore-hole to serve that school. In the past, that was during the Asika regime, two houses were built for water bore-holes. Up till now those houses have been the hideouts for lizards and State snakes.

At Atani where we had our headquarters when we were a division, we had houses for the Magistrates and staff, but now they are gone, the houses are over-weeded and nobody cares about them, yet it is said that we belong. One begins to wonder if the Military regime was not better than this very present regime. We feel that the government of today, to which I belong, has totally forgotten and neglected my own people. How do we show we belong ? Where is the sense of belonging ?

Mr Speaker, I beg to say that if the resources in Ogbaru are well tapped, I am sure that in Enugu here or within Onitsha there, we will have no need for chilled fish. We have enough fish to feed the people. Our soil is rich but the government has closed its eyes over this issue, and in fact I bet my people are not feeling in line with the government. I do not know whether we should say 'yes, we do not belong to Anambra State', but we are part and parcel of Anambra State. In my mind, I consider this budget as not worthy of the paper.

Mr Speaker, I beg to say that, while the Governor says he wants river crafts for Ogbaru, we do not want river crafts. All we want are motorable roads. Our people are living on land, we do not live on water. Where there is no means of transport, then you use something available. Now people take their flights to United Kingdom. In those days it was by boat which took them more than two to three weeks, but now it is by air. They say good night in Nigeria, and good morning in London. We want roads to be built in Ogbaru and other riverine areas. We want to belong more than we had to Anambra State, and therefore, I urge the government to take note of the people of the riverine areas and take good care of them, and then tap their resources to a very good advantage of this State.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Welcome His Excellency

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Tuesday 13th May, 1980 at 10 a.m. and in moving this Motion for adjournment, I would like to use this forum to congratulate our able Governor for the nice speech he delivered at the airport on his arrival from Lagos. He has made the electorates understand fully that it is good for the Federal Government to channel all their dealings in any State through the mandated constitutionally elected Members and not the deputizing candidates in the pool, especially the so-called Liaison Officers.

The State can do without those two thousand housing units once it is given to a wrong hand because it is not good to give the State anything through a person rejected outright, no mandate, nothing, and any contract being awarded must

be tendered fully, and if that money is not channelled through our present Government in Anambra State, I am sorry there is nothing we can do about this than to do without those two thousand housing units.

With this, Sir, I say welcome to our Governor.

Udi Management Committee

Minority Leader (Ogbuiboo Petrus Agha-llah): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, I will like to draw the attention of the House to an atmosphere of uncertainty reigning in one of the local government areas. This was brought about by the appointment of Management Committees. A reference to the Hansard would show that I sounded a note of warning, while setting up the Management Committee. The situation now, in fact at Udi, seems to be a constitutional crisis. This is so because, a team of Management Committee Members were appointed, headed by a Chairman and another team of Management Members have been gazetted, headed by another Chairman. In the gazetted team, the present Chairman, has been designated Supervisory Councillor for Works. What I am trying to say is, it would be a nice thing if it is established whether it is an error or a flagrant sabotage or both. I am saying this because, steps must be taken and taken immediately to avoid some sort of clash between the gazetted Management Committee and the ungazetted Management Committee and lawyers in the House will be in a position to say who are the legal Management Committee Members. Is it the gazetted one or the one that is managing the local government area.

My people are very much worried because they are smelling a rat, that somebody is acting under false pretences. I am drawing the attention of the government to this situation, so that immediate action could be taken to solve the prevailing uncertain situation and the confusion that has ensued.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

N.U.T. Crisis

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to take this opportunity to further comment on the appeal made recently by the hon. Speaker, in respect of the Teachers Labour Union, the N.U.T. and what looks like a

[MR EMEHELU]

splinter group from the parent body now embarking on industrial action. I think it has become necessary to make this appeal, bearing in mind that our children in schools bear the brunt of industrial actions embarked upon by teachers.

This particular issue is pathetic in the sense that all industrial or labour organizations in the country are now organized and run along industrial lines. By this, I mean that all professional or all members of a particular profession belong to one union. In other words, what I am saying is that you cannot have two teacher organizations. Because the Decree establishing industrial unions—Decree No. 25 of 1976 is still in force and until that Decree is amended, I cannot see how you will have two teacher organizations. Moreover, this development exists only in Anambra State and it will neither augur well for that organization nor for education generally in Anambra State if we fold our hands and allow the situation to degenerate.

That Television Interview

Talking further on education, I do not know how many of us watched the television last night. One of the Presidential Advisers, Professor Odenigwe featured on television and in the course of the Television interview, he did make a statement to the effect that the establishment of the University of Technology in this State is as a result of an exercise in youthful exuberance. I take very serious exception to that kind of statement coming from a man occupying such an exalted position in the scheme of things in this country.

I do not know what he calls youthful exuberance. I remember very well, that way back in 1959–60 he was at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Ibadan branch and at that time I was a student here at the Enugu branch and when he came over in 1962, to head the Enugu Campus of the University of Nigeria, that Campus developed out of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and it came just by a simple Motion passed by the then Federal House of Representatives dissolving the various Colleges of Technology—the Zaria branch formed the Ahmadu Bello University, the Ibadan branch formed the nucleus of Ife University while this branch joined the University of Nigeria, as the Enugu Campus.

If his argument is that the whole damn thing was embarked upon in a hurry . . .

Mr Speaker: You should dwell less on Professor Odenigwe. You should talk generally.

Deputy Chief Whip: Well, thank you. But the issue that I think is involved here is that seventy per cent. of our students are roaming the streets who could otherwise be useful to the State and as a matter of fact I do not think that university if it takes off by October, could be described as taking off too early. I want us—those people who are of this type of conviction, that we are too much in a hurry in establishing this university, to carry out some exercise in, should I say senile rejuvenation. Thank you very much.

Withdraw that List of Auxilliary Teachers

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing this, I beg Mr Speaker Sir, to use this opportunity to appeal to both the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and the State Local Government Service Commission to withdraw the list of auxilliary teachers recently published for Ishielu Local Government Area.

Several hon. Members: Why? Why?

Mr Eze: The reason for this call is that a close look at the list as it stands is a complete negation and contradiction of section 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979. The provision of this section is quite clear on dispensation of anything governmental which has to take into cognizance the component sections of any given area.

I am, on behalf of my constituency, saying unequivocally that this does not in any way reflect the component sections and we have these materials—the auxilliary materials, not that we do not have them. The resultant effect is the situation in which we have found ourselves, in which people are appointed to teach in schools and they go in to ensure that their names are included in the vouchers and they disappear until the end of the month when they come for their pay. The children they are meant to teach roam about without teachers while we have materials that will keep these children effectively occupied and they do not get these jobs for one selfish reason or the other.

I submit that this is a rape of the constitution and this has to be withdrawn because time has come when everyone has to assert his right. We cannot accept people coming to deceive our children. We shout about falling standard in education, while we go round to contribute to the degenerating situation. I am appealing strongly that the list be rejected and arrangement be made to put up another list that is reflective of the component sections of the local government area.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Call them Back

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so Sir, I am calling on the Executive or the entire Government of this State to call back the students of I.M.T. This is because the devil is working overnight to antagonize the students and the masses with this government. I know this by the Press interview held yesterday. The losers of the 1979 election are using this opportunity to instigate the students and the public against this government and we do not want this to continue.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Ibiam Street

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Mr Speaker Sir, I have for long called the attention of the Enugu Local Government Council to the deplorable condition of Ibiam Street. The road is so bad that traffic is always very congested in that area because of the junction of Anyaegbunam-Awolowo and Ibiam. Ditches have been carved out by water flowing through that way and many cars are breaking

down along that road. I now again call the attention of the Enugu Local Government Council to run to the aid of the people who use that street and especially people living around that place. I appeal that they heed our own call this time.

With this short statement I support the Motion for adjournment and ask that the Question be now put.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: From tomorrow, the Finance Committee will have to sit from 11 a.m. Members of this committee will be permitted to withdraw from the Chamber to attend the committee sittings in order that they may finish their work in time and any Standing Committee that has not submitted its report on the Estimates should please do so immediately because the Finance Committee will be treating all the reports submitted to it by the other Standing Committees.

It will be necessary for all the committees to submit their reports so that they can have a global treatment before we get into Third Reading.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday 14th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 14th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: In addition to the committees gazetted, the Committee on Local Government, Rural Development and Chieftaincy Matters will meet in my office at 1 p.m. All Members of that committee should please endeavour to attend.

The meeting of Enugu Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines with some Committees of the Legislature will take place at 1 p.m. This meeting will be attended by the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees on Industries and Technology, Finance and Public Utilities. The Committees involved are Industries and Technology, Finance, Public Utilities and I understand that Trade is also involved. So four committees to meet representatives of Chamber of Commerce at 1 p.m. in Room 153.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria
Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Second Reading of the 1980 Draft Estimates. In doing this, Sir, I have to express my appreciation to the Governor and his Deputy, the Commissioners and their Permanent Secretaries, the civil servants and public servants and all those that contributed to the preparation of the Draft Estimates to the extent of their contribution and the worth of their contribution.

Having said this, Sir, I will also stress the fact that all good citizens of this State and in particular all members of the three arms of the Government are committed to the good disposition of the State and in fact, they are

wedded to the State for better for worse without an option of divorce. So, once the Executive had played their part, the second arm of the Government that will come in to play its role will be this honourable House. I will therefore, Sir, crave your indulgence to observe objectively but critically the contents of the Draft Estimates in a forthright mood.

One, any one that has gone through the Estimates will observe the stereotype fashion, format of the old order, that still exists in the minds of the people that drafted the Estimates. You will also have observed the condition and nature of the Estimates. The conditional nature appears to be that the belief of the Executive or the belief of the people who drafted the Estimates is that the Estimates is an expenditure book, taking no cognizance of how to generate fund. Going through the Estimates, Sir, one would observe that it only itemized expenditure without a commensurate or near commensurate means of sustaining internal revenue. In the whole of the Estimates, you will observe that only something very near, not up to ten per cent. of the expenditure or the revenue is generated internally. At that rate, Sir, I don't know what was behind the minds of the people that drafted the Estimates. I don't know whether they found it impossible to think of ways and means of increasing our revenue or at least making us internally independent—financially independent and buoyant. It would mean that if we rely so much on the Federal Government for our economy when we lose face with the Federal Government, work in the State will come to a standstill.

In that wise, Sir, I have to suggest that more homework should be done. In actual fact, some people who had earlier spoken have considered this budget as a tight one. I don't consider this a tight budget. I consider it a "starvation and dependent budget", where over ninety per cent. of the estimated revenue is intended to come from the Federal Government and depending on our relationship with the Federal Government, they can call all projects in this State to a halt.

It is a starvation budget because looking at it, as you may think, cutting ourselves to size, we have not got up to half of what the bulk of the people of this State anticipate from the government. For instance, Sir, this State was the first State to be so vocal on the restoration

of vehicle advance and basic allowance to workers of this State. Our sister State, Imo has included this in the Estimates. All the workers, in fact, everybody was looking forward to this being reflected in this Estimates. I don't know whether we anticipate the workers to wait indefinitely. I thought a more responsible consideration could have had a hind look on what we earlier said on assumption of power in this State. There was a promise, but in the Estimates, the promise was not reflected at all. This is why I say that this is a "starvation Budget", and when I say it is a "dependent Budget" where anything can come at any time, I mean that we have not generated a sufficiently internal economy.

Sir, going through again, you will agree with me that not enough homework has been done by parties or people who are parties to the preparation of the Estimates and there is need for a more serious homework. It looks as a budget prepared lying down in an easy chair, in an air conditioned room and coming up the following morning to look for a format and make a copy of a book of the past. Like somebody said yesterday, no new Heads or Sub-heads were introduced. They were all the old things, just like you get a monotype and just fix what you have there. Perhaps the man who prepared it when he is called for questioning, may not be able to defend his budget as happened sometime last week.

So, Sir, I would appeal that in the next Estimates, the people concerned with the preparation should do enough homework, at least to increase and make the State much more bouyant, self-reliant and independent economically. Now, in saying so, Sir, at a glance, one might think that how to make the State Government bouyant is to increase taxes. I don't think this is true because the machinery by which taxes are collected in this State or in this country, particularly personal taxes as a whole, is so inefficient that from all the anticipated revenue from personal taxes not up to ten per cent. is collected in a year.

I would therefore, suggest, this does not mean that we shall go a-borrowing; no State or country is known to acquire financial independence by going a-borrowing and they say "he who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing".

I would therefore suggest, Sir, that we have to explore ways and means of generating funds internally. What we require is to sustain our financial independence so as to expand our earning sources. For example, Sir, Recurrent Estimate, Revenue Estimate Head 2061 titled "Interests, Repayment and Dividends" graciously lends itself to the galloping internal revenue of the State, if it is judiciously exploited. Like somebody mentioned yesterday, the State should control Limited Liability Companies and if properly managed, they can accelerate our financial position.

After all, the Premier Brewery was able to make a profit of ₦12 million in under one year. If all industries are properly managed and looked after and they produce something near this net profit per annum, we can be sure that within ten to twenty years this State will be financially bouyant. In addition, Sir, there is no attempt made by the Executive to exploit business opportunities. If enough homework was done, I think there should have been provision for the establishment of industries in all the 23 Local Government Areas in the State. Not only that this will give each local government area employment opportunities but also it will generate internal funds. So, Sir in the next budget, it will be of good interest for the Executive or anybody that prepares the Estimates to think seriously on how to generate funds than thinking of how to liquidate them.

We can also employ foreign experts, foreign entrepreneurs to go into partnership with our indigenes in order to generate internal revenue. Also, Sir, going through the Estimates, you will find that there is an indefinite pattern, vague pattern, amorphous pattern that you hardly can appreciate or apprise the work of the people that drafted the Estimates. For instance, Sir, under the Capital Estimates, Head 2761 titled "Energy and Power—Rural Electrification", you find something in the neighbourhood of ₦1.5 million just hanging there, vague. No towns were mentioned; nor areas or locations, no number of units. It becomes difficult for you to know whether ₦1.5 million is too much or too small because it is just there—₦1.5 million—Rural Electrification. When I was in school, they had what they called "extension", that is if you cannot define any part of speech into its particular column

[MR OJUKWU]
you say extension; and anything goes in extension.

The same, Sir, goes for Head 2771, Sub-head 3—Commerce and Industry, that is Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives. You have an item there, another amorphous entry saying Catering Rest Houses.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): On a point of Order! Order No. 43 (1) of the Standing Orders. The gentleman who has the Floor is going into details. This is not the stage for detailed analysis. Thank you. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) is in order. Point of Order not upheld.

Mr Ojukwu: Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me protection. Under there, Sir, that is, under the Head I have mentioned, there is an entry of nearly ₦1.5 million meant for rest houses. There was no indication as to how many unit of houses will be built, where and when they will be built. And in any case, Sir, I would like to use this opportunity to say that some areas, by their population and contributions to the State, have come to the standard where they should be considered. For instance may I mention Nnewi, Ihiala, Aguata, Otuocho, Ukehe, Abagana. (*Laughter*). These places have come up to the standard where they should get Catering Rest Houses. Now it becomes difficult to criticize this because the entry there is just vague.

Also Head 2821, Subhead 1—Water-Supply. No mention was made of places to be served by the scheme. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that in preparing future Estimates, every expenditure is to be properly itemized to enable the Legislature analyse and know where there is excess of expenditure or under-expenditure. What I have said is just to give a few examples of where they have some hanging statements and ambiguous entries. Under such elastic Draft the State stands at the mercy of the executors. And from the experience we have gathered in this country, I don't think there is anybody prepared to vouch for the conscience of a group of people, to say this is what they are going to do or to say that there is no under current, and that the vague entries are just there as a means of trying to bamboozle the unwary. (*Laughter*).

Further to the references I have made, the same is true of most of the Subheads, and the Subheads just appear, bearing the amount of money without necessarily describing or showing how these amounts are to be expended. Now I also observe that under Agriculture, an amount of about ₦11 million had been allocated.

An hon. Member: Naira !

Mr Ojukwu: ₦11 million, had been allocated and it surprises me to see that no recognition was given to one of the oldest farm settlements at Igbariam. It is not there in the scheme and I don't know whether it means that that project is abandoned. We should not go by assumption. We want any plan the government has, to appear in the Draft Estimates. Nobody should be left in doubt because anything goes any time.

An hon. Member: There was a mere promise.

Mr Ojukwu: Ohoo ! This was a promise and that promise should have been reflected in the Draft Estimates. Now, I am particularly concerned with a particular Head, Head 2781 which has a ₦4 million standby for unknown roads. I have heard of unknown heroes; I have also heard of unknown soldiers. And these people are the people who died suffering for their country, in defence of their fatherland and nobody identified them. It is understood. But I have not heard of unknown road because it will lead to unknown destination. (*Laughter*). And for ₦4 million to be allocated just vaguely like that, I am afraid that needs some homework and explanation because it may lead to an unknown purpose—I don't know. It is annoyingly amusing, really, that such entry should be made when it is seen in the Estimates that some people are complaining of roads and even the riverine areas where perhaps roads are not possible, nobody talks of river transport for these people—Otuocho, Aguleri, Anam and Ogbaru. So when you think of these things and you see something that has been allocated to something unknown, one gets baffled.

On the whole, Sir, we will like to have details of analysis of allocation of amenities to know whether they stand the test of the political evangelization of geographical spread. This is very necessary because without that we would not know whether we are going in the path-line of the Constitution—Federal character, in short

like somebody suggested, ecumenism. So it is necessary that we have it before we are done or before we go into the committee stage of discussing the Estimates. Also Sir, in Town and Country Planning, I want to observe that a town like Otuocha has reached an urban status and one would have thought that Otuocha should have been included in the Town and Country Planning. It is as developed as any other urban town you think of, that is, the recently upgraded urban towns.

May I, Sir, in coming to a conclusion, draw attention to the fact that Nnewi Local Government Area is predominantly a merchantile area and the location of industries or building of markets will be a welcome idea in that area. The Draft Estimates appeared to lose sight of this, whether advertently or inadvertently but in any case, produces the same effect of neglect. I will also like to, in saying this, say that the traders in Nnewi town in particular, in that Local Government Area, sometime were asked by this State Government to make a contribution in aid of building a modern market. The traders have played their part. They paid that contribution and for over one and a half years, that money has been lying fallow somewhere. It becomes difficult to understand why the town or the local government should be an orphan when the parents are still there—the State Government. If any industry is given to Nnewi, the land is there.

An hon. Member: Nnewi !

Mr Ojukwu: They can also make their own contribution. What they require is Government patronage, full stop !

Mr A. U. Ogbaga (Abakaliki North West): On a point of Order. Order No. 32 (1) of the Standing Orders. Time limit of speeches. The hon. Member who has the Floor has spoken for more than twenty minutes. It is already twenty-five minutes. So, he has taken much time. He should round off

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) should please round off. But if he still has much to say then he should let me know.

Mr Ojukwu: Okay Sir. I will round off to satisfy the aspirations of the hon. Member calling me to order.

An hon. Member: Don't swallow the microphone please.

Mr Ojukwu: My appeal Sir, is that the Executive or the people that drafted the Estimates should have taken cognizance of the contributions of the various localities and communities and should have encouraged them. I am making a serious appeal, through this House, for the government to turn its eyes. I know it is not the intention of the government to treat Nnewi as an abandoned property, because the government knows fully well that these people have been contributing their quota as citizens of this State, paying their tax and in fact top the list in rural taxes collection. So Sir, I will like the government to make hay while the sun shines. With this, I think I am done.

Mr S. O. Ojemeni (Anambra West): Thank you Mr Speaker. It is not providing any amount of money that is very necessary but how that money is used—whether it is used judiciously or carefully. The Executive should endeavour to spend any amount voted for essentials not for necessaries. As I understand very recently during the commencement . . .

Mr Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Point of Order. Somebody is just on the Floor of the House giving orders.

The Deputy Speaker: He is the Majority Leader. He can direct others. The hon. Member for Anambra West (*Mr Ojemeni*) should please continue.

Mr Ojemeni: Thank you Mr Speaker I said that it is not how much we budgeted that is very necessary or very important, but how carefully and how judiciously that amount is spent. I understand recently that during the commencement of this Session, about twenty-five Saloon 504 Peugeot cars were provided for government functionaries and recently fifteen Saloon 505 Peugeot cars, I think were also purchased. These I regard ostentatious.

An hon. Member: In this State ?

Mr Ojemeni: That is what I learnt. And so, what we need is to provide for essentials such as water, good roads medical care and so forth and so on in fulfilment of our promises to the people to make them a little bit more comfor-

[MR OJEMENI]

table. We have been suffering and as such, we have got to try just to save our people from some of their sufferings. So, Sir, I ask that this House should urge the Executive to see that the little amount voted is judiciously spent. Mr Speaker Sir, I crave your indulgence to comment on the budget as it affects my constituency.

On *Agriculture*, somebody had helped me very much by talking about Igbariam Farm Settlement and I am very grateful to him. But what about the School of Agriculture there? I hope that the government is making some arrangement to raise the standard of that School to a College of Agriculture, so that, although it may not compare equally with that of Umudike in Imo State at least to enable it be on the line of that College of Agriculture.

Now talking about Nkwelle-Ezunaka hatchery and piggery project, this hatchery project now has thirty-three thousand eggs capacity envisaged to be raised to one hundred thousand this year or within this Session. If that is what is envisaged, it needs a lot of money and the provision of material to run that project. Therefore the sum of ₦413,330 put down against that project, I believe, is insufficient. It is a commercial venture and any amount of money put in it is not a loss for it will eventually come back to us and, at the same time, benefit the farmers. The eggs to be produced there are not for table, they are for sale to the farmers for their own poultry and as such, the money spent will come back to the government. Therefore, I ask that this sum of money voted be increased.

An hon. Member: To ₦2 million?

Mr Ojemeni: To any amount one thinks is possible.

Coming to *Education*, in my constituency, we have about six post-primary schools. All these schools were built by the community. So, we look forward to the government to help our people make up their troubles. They are suffering very much. Building of school is not the only project they are carrying out. There are many other projects. Take for instance the provision of post office, water, maternities and all other things that make life worth living are being provided only by the communities.

We would like the government to come to our aid, especially the schools that are preparing

for the West African School Certificate Examination next year. Such schools require science equipment and because of the commitments of my towns people, they cannot provide these things. Schools like the Awkuzu Boy's Secondary School, Umunya Girl's High School, Nkwelle-Ezunaka and Ogbunike, schools at these places, need some help. In Umunya school, the roof of one of the buildings was blown down and left to the natives to rebuild. If the government runs to their aid, they will appreciate it.

Now coming to *Rural Electrification*, somebody has said that the names of the towns to be electrified should be put down in full. I don't agree with him. This will be a matter of detail. I believe that the officers responsible for this have testified before the committees concerned and I believe details have been given to them.

An hon. Member: Not at all.

Mr Ojemeni: I obtained this information from one of the Legislators here, the man talking to me now. Now coming to *Commerce*, somebody has mentioned that Otuocha should be raised to the status of an urban town and I am very grateful for his comment. And I support him by saying that this should include Awkuzu. My town has come to the standard of an urban town. We wish it would be raised to that status. Now we have places of interest for people from outside to visit. Such places like *Ogba* cave in Ogbunike. It is of interest. It is a place to be visited by people from outside, and as such it is necessary that a place of rest should be provided in a place like Ogbunike, say, a hotel or a rest house anything of that nature.

(Interruptions).

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Mr Ojemeni: Now in case of land transport, Mr Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to the State for the much they have done in our area by reconstructing Ifite-Ukpo-Otuocha road which is now in progress, but that belongs to the Federal Government. We want some other roads to be taken over by the State Government. In the Estimates we have a road mentioned to which no money is allocated. That is Nteje-Umunya-Ogbunike-Ogidi-Umuoji-Oba road. We want something to be put down there so that towns like Ogbunike and Umunya that are locked in should see the light by going through that road. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker Sir, I will not like the interruption being given me by the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*). He must respect me, at least, my age.

An hon. Member: Are you fighting ?

(*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Ojemeni: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to make it clear that medicare should be provided by the government. All the maternity homes or health centres in my constituency were built by communities. So we want the government to compensate us by siting one hospital in my constituency. It should not be postponed, but something to be taken up immediately.

Education and Water-supply. During the Supplementary Budget, a sum of ₦100,000 was set aside for the extension of water project in Awkuzu. At present not much has been done. We shall appreciate it if work is started at once. That money had been lying very dormant and it is not used. We want it to be put into use. Money that is not used is of no use.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, with this short comment, I take my seat. Thank you.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Second Reading of the 1980 Estimates. I have to start with *Agriculture* because this is the area from where we get food to eat. Ninety-nine percent. of our requirements on earth would be to eat, and to find something to eat. Those who work, work in order to earn money to find something to eat. Those who sweep, those who fish, those who run, even boxers, they box to earn money so that they can buy something to eat. Apart from feeding, nothing again is beneficial to any human being on earth.

Once one is dead, that person can never benefit from the multiplicity of the storey buildings he has on earth or the ocean liners he has in the sea or whatever worldly collections he has made. Therefore, Sir, I am very happy that His Excellency, in his Budget speech, promised us some face-lift in the field of agriculture. He promised us also

that development projects would be undertaken at the Igbariam Farm Settlement for which a 33,000 egg capacity hatchery equipment will be provided. My appeal here is that it has to be started without delay. Also Sir, His Excellency promised that a three-man committee had been appointed to study and recommend more areas where community farm settlements could be established. If this committee has not reported, they have to be made to do so without delay. If they have reported, then it is the responsibility of our Government to put their recommendations into action.

We know that there are existing community farms at Igbariam, at Isieke and at Eha-Amufu. Well, what withheld their being reactivated? The blackmail being levelled against these areas during the last civil war, is no longer pertinent because at the material time they were said to be training camps for soldiers and militia men but now nobody is at war with anybody or any State. Therefore, these three farm settlements should be reactivated so that we get enough food to sustain our existence. We have also heard that ₦3 million will be disbursed to some 300 farmers. Well, this is a good move in the right direction, but my appeal here is that in the selection of the farmers who will benefit from this, attention has to be paid to the constitutional provision and the Government professed policy of even, balanced and equitable development.

By this, I mean that all the local government areas within the State have to benefit. There are farmers everywhere in all the twenty-three local government areas so that if farmer A gets it, let farmer Z also get it. I am not after the amount each particular farmer gets because the capability and potentiality of the farmers are not the same. But let it go round. Also no amount of money will be sufficient to sustain the inflationary trend if this situation is allowed to go on, that is, if the agricultural farms and community farms where we have to get these food are not reactivated, and we continue going to the market. Where a labourer is paid ₦300 a day and he has no food to buy or probably where too much money chases very few food or essential commodities, then we shall go back to square one and that will not be helpful to anybody.

[MR MBASO]

The only people that could benefit would be the traders. So they would also benefit as the businessmen did during the civil war. They collected so much money that they had to pack them in cartons and used some in making pillow cases and mattresses. But then at the end of the war where were they? It hasn't helped anybody. Therefore those who used the money to cultivate and to produce food and other things were the people that benefited. Sir, it will be a heart-rending experience if the villagers in the rural areas who have no means of this get-rich-quick process by which some people do that, are helped to sustain their lives, and by this I mean if they are not helped agriculture-wise. Not everybody is educated enough to come and take up white-collar jobs, the farming which has been so prevalent in the locality or in the State should be encouraged to survive.

Sir, it is by so doing that we shall prove to the vast majority of people that responded to the choir master's song that we are really living up to our promises. We remember really that the populace reposed their confidence in us. They surrendered their rights to us, hoping that we are going to fight for them at the government level for their own benefit. That was why they come out, when they heard *Ebee ka aga ebinye aka? Ebe eselu mmadu*. Therefore we are not going to make them now sing *Anyi ebinye aka anyi ekolo okwu, ebe eselu mmadu*.

So Sir, my contention is that all the farm settlements that are proposed, all the loans that are promised and all other procedural steps to be taken to ensure that agriculture takes up in this State, should be financed and made to fly.

Then coming to the *Hotel Presidential*, we know really that apart from this agriculture we have the *Hotel Presidential* proposed for Onitsha. Why it has not started, I do not know, but the feasibility survey had been concluded according to information. We have to find out why it is so and if there is anything that is on the way, let the government do that because the government with the support of the Legislature can turn night into day.

Going over to *Industries* now, it is remarkable indeed that the Majority Leader of this House has to cry out in dismay about the recalcitrant managerial activities of the workers at

the Premier Breweries. It makes for a big question mark for this to come from a powerful and important member of this Legislature, a powerful and important member of the government and of the party that controls the government. It then follows that the areas under discussion have to be revamped. It shows also that for somebody who has almost been a taciturn to cry out the way he did indicates that the devil has run amock and we have to watch it.

Then Sir, the need for the establishment of industries in Anambra State cannot be overstressed. When we have industrialized the rural areas, we would obviously stop or prevent the inclination of job seekers rushing to the big towns. If the industries are established in the big cities, then there is nobody, no force that can stop school-leavers, job seekers from rushing to the big towns in search of jobs because they have to eat. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I want to appeal to hon. Members to be at alert so that they can listen to the contributions of other Members.

Mr Mbaso: Thank you Mr Speaker. We know really that industry will form the life-wire of all the development in this State. We have too many proposed industries but none of them meant for the rural areas has been embarked upon. We have the vegetable oil refinery at Nachi, the infrastructure is there, the equipment is there, then what stops it from taking off. If it takes off, it will employ men and those that are employed would no longer roam the streets as a result of joblessness and there will be no temptation to eye other people's property. In other words if industries are established in various localities, the tendency for some people to walk about the streets, searching for something to steal, will stop. As a matter of fact, for people who donot take on jobs and who actually decide to harass the peaceful citizens of this State, the experience of tyre and petrol at Onitsha will come to their rescue.

We have actually talked so much about reactivating the salt mining industry at Enyigba in Abakaliki. We import salt when as a matter of fact, we can get our own just behind the door. What withholds our bringing in technicians to reactivate that? It is true that mining is Federal responsibility, but the State has its

say to pressurize the Federal Government to come to its rescue and do all sorts of things that will benefit the citizens of this State.

Also Sir, we know that the Paper Project is sited at Idaw River. We understand land is a problem there, and I don't see the effects of the Land Use Decree if the government, with all the available resources, cannot through all its agencies, procure land for industrial projects, which we understand, was the main reason for the enactment or promulgation of Decree No. 6 of 1978. Further, we know that in the rural area there is one industry proposed for the South at Ozubulu, the Metallurgical Precision Tools Industry for the production of equipments, tools and other allied materials. The feasibility survey was completed in 1977; the memo had been written and hydrological survey had also been completed by Skoda Export of Czechoslovakia who are going to be the Chief Financier of the project if it is ready to take off. What then prevents our government from galvanizing them into action?

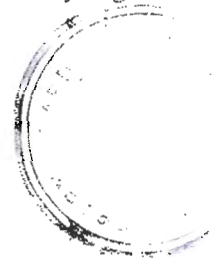
I pray to the government to make sure that within the planning season this year, the industry is made to start no matter how far it has gone. I can see really the sum of ₦3 million being allocated for it in the budget, and the part to be contributed by the Anambra State Government is ₦15 million, but since production is expected to take off early 1983, I think it will be proper if the amount is raised to ₦5 million for this budget year, so that by next financial year a bigger sum of money may be provided for it.

It is estimated that the skilled labour, when in full swing, if it starts early 1983, will be three thousand skilled labour. If three thousand skilled men are put there, then we know really what the government has achieved. First, a nucleus of a modern urban centre is being made; secondly, the people are being served, and thirdly, the products are obtained, and since it is going to be one of the first industries in Nigeria, other parts of the country will come and buy the products of this industry, and we will actually recover the loan we procured either from the Skoda Export of Czechoslovakia or the Federal Government is to contribute ₦40 million.

Also, Sir, when things go like this, propaganda, falsehood and other allied machinations go about. I will ask the government to prove the detractors wrong, by showing that the delay or neglect does not emanate from a calculated effort of using that as a political dangling bait for vote hunts and support hunts. So, Sir, we know really that the present government is only seven months old and still we have some three years-plus to go, and we will make sure that what were not started this time, probably, by the next budget in January, we will make sure that most of them are taken care of.

Our government will also avoid, as I have said earlier, siting new industries in already dense areas like the capital city of the State, because by doing so, it means then that the rural areas will be left out, and if the rural areas are left out, job seekers and other people will rush to the towns, and if they rush to the towns, then the problem in the society resultant from such influx of people in the big cities will be great. I do not need to flog this so much because a number of hon. Members had already made mention of that, but my appeal is that most of these proposed industries be made to take off immediately to our own credit.

Coming to roads, a number of contributors had earlier harped on the need to have passable roads all year round. There is one road I would wish to crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker, to make reference to. There was a chart given to us by the Ministry of Works and Housing showing, among all other roads, that Atani-Ozubulu Road has been completed. In fact, this is not so. It remains a three-kilometre stretch of that particular road, but they received their money, and when the survey was made, the new Onitsha-Owerri Road was not in existence. It was the Ihiala-Nnewi Road that was in existence and that was in the contract survey plans; when the M.C.C. signed the contract with the Ministry of Works and Housing nobody knew really how it came about, but they left a stretch of three kilometres of the road. This actually locks out the people living in that area because under the present condition of the road, they can neither get to their local government headquarters, nor get to the nearby big market at Nnewi.



[MR MBASO]

So, it is my humble appeal that the Ministry of Works be made to either add that to the contract of Oba-Nnewi-Okigwe Road so that they will do that as a spur or as a by-pass or anything so analogous, or find other means to make sure that it is completed. Sir, we have been promised that the Oba-Nnewi Road which has always been in the news, is now made to extend to Okija-Junction. We are grateful for that. What we are praying for is that it should be implemented.

Electricity: I won't dwell on this so much because the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe*) yesterday dwelt exhaustively on that, but I have to draw the attention of the government to a small town left out between Oraifite, Nnewi and Ojoto which is Ichi, and if the neighbouring towns get electricity, and that town with a very meagre population has not got, it will actually appear as if they are neglected. It is my humble appeal that the government should extend its right hand of fellowship to this particular people, and make sure that Ichi is included in the plan so that they will get light when others get. Some citizens of that area can establish industries in the areas and stop going to the township to start hankering for rooms and houses here and there. And any amount they collect as salaries, will not be enough as the landlords increase their rents. But if they go to their homes where they have electricity and establish industries there, there will be no need going to the big cities.

During the budget speech by His Excellency, he promised that car loans and basic allowances would be made available to workers. May I then appeal to His Excellency, through the Legislature, to implement that. There are other neighbouring States that have already implemented theirs. It is not as a result of the fact that we are too poor, but let us advert our minds to that. I know that when our government adverts its attention to that particular aspect, it will be accomplished and these workers will be happy, and whenever they are happy, they will also give us good results in their offices. In *King Lear*, we know that Shakespeare has taught us that when the mind is at ease, the body has leisure to be delicate.

Water-Supply: We must observe that most of the services of the out-posts in the Ministry

of Public Utilities are stifled by insufficient supply of other equipment or gas or oil for pumping water in the areas that have already got pipe-borne water. What will prevent the Ministry from making sure really that services already existing set to work, so that we know and the government will know the areas that remain? There are some communities who, out of their own efforts, have contributed money sufficient for the sinking of boreholes and sumo pumps. Government has taken custody of the funds of these areas but has not actually adverted its attention to the particular needs of those areas. I am humbly appealing that the government does so without delay, so that the people in the affected rural areas will also drink clean water. If they drink clean water, they have good life, and when they have good life, the products are great.

Coming to *Education* and to schools in particular, in recent months we had the tragedy of schools being blown down by tornados. Most of the hon. Members here have been harping on that. I think this incident happened before the Executive brought this Estimates and unfortunately it is not reflected in the Estimates. That is, the fund for the reconstruction of all these damaged schools have not been reflected in the budget; schools have reopened and this is rainy season. Then it would be an appalling sight and deplorable for anybody to find young children of tender age schooling under mango trees, under whistling pines and other trees around there.

In the first place, it is the tallest tree that attracts the thunder. Say if they are under those trees and the lightning strikes, we may have lost the lives of innocent citizens who we owe, as a duty and responsibility, protection.

So Sir, I am humbly appealing to the government to see what it can do to remedy the situation before it goes out of hand. We know that during the rainy season, pneumonia is rampant.

Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr C. O. Emehelu*): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. My point of Order is on timing. The gentleman has spoken for over thirty-five minutes.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi South West (*Mr Mbaso*) should please round off.

Mr Mbaso: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am actually rounding off. I know where we met last night and that was why the Deputy Chief Whip (*Mr Enehelu*) didn't want me to stay long. (*Laughter*)

Then coming to the hon. Members' houses, Col. Abubakar's regime provided ₦1 million for the construction and building of houses for Legislators. During our Supplementary Budget, we also approved additional ₦2 million for the construction of houses for Legislators and in the present Estimates, we are expected to approve a further sum of money for the construction of houses for Legislators. If the houses have been started all along, by now, a number of them would have been ready. If it is being delayed, because as we hear from aside that there is no land, there is no need for other government projects that are intended to be sited in the capital city here for I believe there is land and since there is land, let it start . . .

Many hon. Members: Landlord ! Landlord !

Mr Mbaso: So, Sir, it is ridiculous to know that in spite of the provisions of the relevant sections of Decree No. 6 of 1978, we are being treated with the semantics that we have no land for the construction of houses in a capital city like this. But when one goes out of the Assembly Building and looks to the northerly direction, one would see vacant arid land on which no houses were erected.

So, Sir, apart from this again, our government needs revenue-yielding businesses or establishments. We know the importance of the Survey School at Agbogwugwu but no amount has been allocated for it and in the Estimates, government intends to pay ₦770,000 for the procurement of private surveyors to do government jobs. The government can reactivate the Survey School at Agbogwugwu here and then obtain whatever their needs may be from the pool. So, Sir, it is my humble appeal to the government that attention should be directed towards this.

Then coming generally to the housingscheme, we have been treated with exhilarating bonanza of four thousand houses promised by our Governor as opposed to the meagre two thousand proposed by the Federal Government. We are happy we will now get more houses. But then in order that we will make sure that everybody will benefit from these houses, attention must be paid to the areas that need, and most of these areas are: Nnewi (*Laughter*) Abakaliki (*Interruptions*). Please don't worry, please audience: Nnewi, because one has to be mindful first of himself, Abakaliki, Eha-Amufu farm settlement area, Igbariam farm settlement area, Isieke farm settlement area, and then a specified number to other local government areas, to make certain that everybody benefits.

Also, we know really that there is a landmark, an historical landmark in this State—the area that formerly housed the airport in the then "Biafra" (Uli). That area has vast land. Why can't we harness that. It can even take a university. So, let us draw attention to that and see what we can do at least to make sure that particular relic is not left alone or forgotten. (*Applause*) We know how far that area sustained our lives. We are not owing our very existence to that because it is not God. But we know really that it contributed immensely . . . (*Interruptions*) So Sir, with the few points already raised before pressure of time started calling from left, right and centre, I intend to commend the submissions to the government through the Speaker, so that attention would be paid *quo cum que*. (*Laughter*)

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, for allowing me some period to contribute to the debate. I have to make some observations on the budget, generally. In the first place, the Estimates tend to neglect the importance of plants and equipment. Less money is estimated for purchase of plants and equipment. Plants and equipment tend to encourage direct labour in the development of rural areas. If we vote too much money for Capital Expenditure—capital projects, this money will be bundled into the hands of incompetent contractors who will start to meddle with the amount for some period until the contracts either expire or be cancelled with the result that the projects are

[MR OKAFOR]

not completed. For example, the SATT. The amount of money wasted for the SATT contract from the Ninth Mile Corner to Omor would have been used to purchase multiple plants like bulldozer, caterpillars, pale-loaders and give one or two to each local government area while the local government area uses these plants to develop their areas at their pace. But on the contrary, much attention is paid to Capital Estimates. All money is collected and bundled into the Capital Estimates with the result that no general development will be carried out within the financial year. So, I have to criticize the Estimates in this direction, that in future much more will be voted for plant and equipment.

Another point is that the officials of the ministries do not consult enough before planning the Estimates. For example, there is one road they mentioned—Ninth Mile Corner to Otuocho, via Omor, Eke. I do not know whether it is a duplication of the Omor—Ninth Mile Road which is under construction now, or whether they meant another road. And this road does not make enough connections of the communities that lie along the Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area to Aguata. So the planner or the man who included that road in the Estimates has no contact, no consultation; he just put it there for putting sake. It does not have purpose. And they voted only ₦600,000 for that road and ₦600,000 cannot construct a bridge across the Ezu river—because the road they had in mind crosses the Ezu river and one million naira cannot construct a bridge across the Ezu river. One wonders how a vote of ₦600,000 can maintain the road from Ninth Mile Corner to Omor, to Otuocho across the Ezu river. This is another indication of non-consultation and having no idea of what one is doing. That is absolute lack of planning and consultation on the part of that ministry or whoever directed the Estimates.

Another point I want to raise generally is that the Estimates tends to forget health, because I saw ₦5 million for health and ₦19 million for education. The fact is that we tend to forget that health comes before education. There is so much enthusiasm about education that we have forgotten life itself. But who knows what happens here? If one cannot provide hospitals

for the State or for the local government areas to cater for life, how does one go to school and study? It is said that a healthy mind is found in a healthy body. If we forget our hospitals and our health and then we want education, we want general development; why do we fly to America for medical treatment, fly to London, to Japan and other foreign countries for treatment? Why not vote enough money to establish these things here in our State so that we can take care of our lives, because not all of us can afford to fly to London for treatment? Only very few of us can afford it. So all I am trying to say is that in future, more money should be voted for health.

If we go to health institutions in our State, we cannot find enough drugs with the result that the quacks dominate the health service in the State. For example, there is no single general hospital, in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area, so the quacks deceive the villagers. When you are sick and you go to a quack, you may either be given wrong drug or expired drug—then you will die. So the idea of going to take treatment loses its value and importance because the Government does not regard health as of supreme importance in the scheme of things. Therefore, I am calling on our government to start from today to regard health as being of most importance and to spend much more money on it than on education which, we think, is the most important, but it is not. With this I would like to go to my constituency.

Coming to my constituency, Uzo-Uwani North West, the problems of Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area is so inter-married, so inter-woven that one cannot talk about road without talking about health and education. But I would like us to think of siting a College of Agriculture in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area because foreign companies like the Adarice, the World Bank Rice Project, are all sited in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area for they find favour with the land of Uzo-Uwani. It is so fertile, so food-producing that anything agriculture is sited there. But the government does not think of establishing a College of Agriculture there so that the State can take advantage of the nature of the area because of agricultural equipment. I mean the soil texture, the other facilities that will promote the sort of agriculture and soil study are available there. We have swamps, we have

other dry areas. We have various kinds of soil. That is the topography of the area. It is so diverse and complex that it is good to site a College of Agriculture there so that the students can take advantage of doing their studies there and we have farm settlements nearby. But we forget to make use of this place. Rather, we site college of agriculture in an arid area where crops cannot grow well. So I do not know whether the government wants to make use of fertilizers than making use of the natural fertility of the soil.

Coming to hospital, that is, health, we have some two or three health centres in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. But the funny thing in these health centres is that no staff is serving in each of the three health centres. We have only one lady—Christiana Anichebe who is a native of Adani and she is the only lady who has started to work at Adani Health Centre. That of Ifite-Ogwari is left vacant. It has been operating before the war but nobody is working there now. No drug, no staff. If somebody is posted there, the person will refuse to go because they complain of no road, no amenity. Everything is out of stock. I do not know what the government has in mind in establishing these health centres without staffing them and when somebody is posted there, the person refuses to go and no step is taken. This is a waste of money.

The government should better stop establishing than to establish one and leave it unequipped. It is better to stop wasting money, than establishing a health centre at Uzo-Uwani or hospital without equipping it. So I call on the government to think of a way of sending us drugs and staff to the health centres or authorize us to recruit our own sons to train as doctors and nurses so that after training, they can accept to stay at Uzo-Uwani because the health problem in our place is complex and very, very lamentable. I pray for all of us to join hands in calling on the authority to find a solution to this problem. If not by carving roads to this area, let us declare Uzo-Uwani a special or disaster area so that we can bring our children, for training for us, after which they go back to work for us.

Coming to education, the College of Education is almost universal. What happens in Uzo-Uwani also happens in Aguleri, Nsukka

and every other place. Last time when the Governor visited my area, that is, Adani Secondary School, he promised to give them a generating plant because that school has reached class four and requires science equipment and a plant to help in carrying out experiments there. From that day the school has been waiting for the plant to arrive. But this happened about two months ago and till now nothing has arrived.

I do not know whether they will be taking their own science examination without electricity and such amenities that will help them to do that, and they will be taking the same examination along with others and when they do not do well we will blame them for not being intelligent. We are naturally blessed, we are very intelligent, but we have no facilities to help us do our studies. So if the promise is being forgotten I will call on the Executive and the government generally to think about how to supply the Adani secondary school with a plant to enable the students do their studies with others, because this is the only secondary school there.

Nwobodo Ogbu Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Mr Speaker Sir, on a point of Order. Many hon. Members are snoring.

An hon. Member: Many Members are sleeping.

The Deputy Speaker: I want to request hon. Members that they should please stay awake so that they can hear contributions by other hon. Members. The hon. Member for Uzo-Uwani North West (*Mr Okafor*) should continue with his contributions.

Mr Okafor: Thank you Mr Speaker. The University of Technology . . .

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Speaker Sir, on a point of Order. I cannot imagine my Majority Leader removing his shoes and leaving his legs on the bench as if it were a bed. So let him sit properly, let him put on his shoes and dress well. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: American style !

The Deputy Speaker: The Majority Leader should please dress well in the Chamber; please wear your shoes. The hon. Member who has the Floor (*Mr Okafor*) could continue.

Mr Okafor: I want the government to site a branch of the University of Technology at Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area, because the other College of Education is serving the people of Onitsha Zone including Otuocha to Aguleri then to Awka. The University of Nigeria, Nsukka is serving the people of Nsukka, Igbo-Etiti, Igbo-Eze and the environs. Then the University of Technology here at Enugu is serving the people of Enugu with the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, all serving this area. We are proposing one at Abakaliki, a branch of the University of Technology, all that area, that is Ezeagu, Uzo-Uwani, a part of Aguleri and a part of Igbo-Etiti all in Uzo-Uwani. If a branch of the University of Technology is sited there, every part of the State will have its service and enjoy the progress and amenities.

Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area is the only area that has not got any post-secondary institution in this State and I will like to appeal to the government through Mr Speaker, to site a branch of the University of Technology in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. *(Laughter)*

I do not want people to make me laugh so that I shall not forget my point.

Coming to road transport, we have been calling on the State government to connect Adani, Ifite-Ogwari, Omor-Anaku Road. This really is the major road cutting through the Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. They have been planning wrongly about this our local government area and that is why we always cry about roads. The colonial masters planned a road from Nsukka to Ogwulugwu and that road was intended to help them to go and collect the palm-oil produced at Ogwulugwu. It was not intended to serve the local government area and that was why it started from Nsukka and crossed through Adani which is just a town in the local government area and diverted to Ogwulugwu. So the intention of the colonial masters was to sap the palm produce there and not to help the people of the area.

When the headquarters went to Umulokpa, another road was proposed from Nsukka via Uvulu to Umulokpa, all these towns are just on the border of the local government area,

None has entered into the heart of the local government area because of the marshy nature of the area.

Now that the government has decided to help everyone including those who are in swampy areas and in the arid areas, it is logical to maintain the road which the then Uzo-Uwani County Council constructed from Adani to Anaku, that is crossing through the Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. It connected several towns like Adani, Asaba, Omasi, Umeje, Ifite-Ogwari, Igbeakwu, Omor and Anaku, about ten towns that this road connected this is the only road that is serving the area but all the bridges are broken and the State government never thought of helping them.

Last time the Secretary to the local government requested the Governor to maintain this road when he demanded for a special road from each local government area to be maintained. This road was given to the Governor for grading and maintenance, that was before Christmas I think, but up till now nothing has happened. It has gone to where it used to go, promise without implementation. So I will like us to put it in the Estimates so that this particular local government area will have a sense of belonging.

So with this Mr Speaker, I beg to stop. Thank you.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill. As a matter of fact I am grateful to the Government of this State and the Federal Government, as a whole and all the governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the change in the financial year. There is no need keeping to old things because it was done in the past or the colonial masters laid it down as a rule.

The financial year starting from January to December is quite in order. I know we are making this Appropriation Bill for the remaining nine months and because it is for a very short time, we will regard this Appropriation Bill as a foundation budget. Somebody described it as a starvation budget because there is not much in it or he felt that the workers would not benefit. I know it is very difficult going through this budget, to understand really what is the fiscal policy of

the government. The fiscal policy, well I do not know but I think perhaps in the next budget, that is in January next year, we will be in a position to understand what is really the fiscal policy that the government is pursuing. Is it anti-satirical policy which of course is meant to raise the purchasing power of the workers or is it a long-range type of policy which will eventually level-out at the end? In this case, from the Governor's address which said that they had developed a philosophy of budgeting, project by project, it does not show the fiscal policy of the government. So I think in the next budget we should be in a position to know what is the fiscal policy of the government.

Mr Speaker Sir, I was saying that this is a foundation budget. We expected that a lot should be done but maybe due to arrangement and lack of money, we have not budgeted enough. But it may help the ministries or the departments to lay the necessary foundation so that by January when we budget again, the State will really take off. We do not worsen things in a day, and we do not expect such proficiency or everything done so very well in the first budget of a civil government. So we take it that arrangements are being made for a better budgeting policy.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will like to comment on agriculture. We have been hammering on agriculture every now and again and the government says it is pursuing it. It appears to me that we had continued to make mistakes either as a device or just for convenience. It took inventors so many years, perhaps, to invent a car or a bicycle. But I do not think that it will take a learner two weeks to learn how to drive a car or ride a bicycle. We are no longer in the primitive stage where we keep on doing agriculture in such a haphazard manner and each government comes up with the same policy; we are helping agriculture.

Look at America which appears to feed the whole world. The farmers there are ten per cent. of the population! It does not require everybody to be a farmer in order that we might feed. Other people have to do other things because in America it is only ten percent. of the population who are farmers. Yet they produce so much that whenever there is any trouble anywhere in the world,

they carry their food to that place because they have surplus. Why do we not think of embarking on farming on a large scale—modern farming? If we get people trained and bring in the material for it, we will get food; we will produce a lot of it. It does not require every individual going into farming. So I do not like the question of peasant farming every now and again and giving such farmers little amount of money to go and farm. That type of peasant farming is obsolete.

The population is increasing; we need more food and in abundance too. Therefore, government should think of long-term loan to farmers, not short-term loans that do not scratch any piece of land enough. It is a matter of twelve months and they are told to bring the money that was given to them and they have not even really dug the soil sufficiently to get the return they require. So I think it should be a government policy to think of long-term loan to farmers which will yield greater dividend. But this long-term loan should not go to every Tom, Dick and Harry. It is a question of bringing in modern farming machines and using the right material. Get the planter and in a matter of hours, this machine has done the work which five hundred men will do in a week. So this should be the thing that we should direct our attention to. It is not every year we keep on talking of scratching the land, asking everybody to go to the farm and call it "Operation Feed the Nation"—in the twentieth century? But we can buy aeroplanes and jets and move about. Why can't we direct the money in getting the necessary material? There is vast land for us to use.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will like also to draw the attention of the government to the question of generation of revenue. Yes, somebody did mention it. One of the things we do that looks a little bit mean in trying to look for revenue, is to ask petty traders every year to register their business premises. Registration of business premises! I do not understand it. Imagine, according to government way of doing things, if you are a Limited Liability Company, you will be registered as such in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and once you get the certificate of registration, you will not be called upon to register it every year.

[MR IKEH]

The U.A.C. that registered, perhaps, in nineteen hundred in Nigeria, does not register again except when they are forming a new company. Why is it that every year a petty trader will be asked to come and register his business premises again? Is it to raise money? What sort of money are we raising out of it? It looks a little bit mean. But if you ask people to renew their licences, certainly, that is in order because you are given licence for a period to run certain things which are government controlled one way or the other, such as Beer Parlours. That is understandable. You are renewing the licence and you will be given the authority because there are certain conditions which you are supposed to satisfy to prove that the business you are doing is in order. Such conditions are, sanitation; the place you are doing it, and so on. The Government will inspect it, the Police will come, and the Health Officials will inspect it also. That is all right. But you do not go about checking on how people run their petty trading such as selling of crayfish and other things, and ask them to register their business premises. It should stop automatically. It looks very, very poor.

On the question of generating revenue, there is no doubt that the Internal Revenue Department appeared to be doing its best a year or two ago very seriously. We must realize that the tax authority seems to be either an enemy or a friend to some few. If our private men who make money do not pay sufficient tax, we cannot generate that internal revenue. But it is these people working in the Internal Revenue, the tax authority, who assess them. Well, in most cases, it is the civil servants who pay the highest tax because everything is deducted from their pay. You get a person who may be on Grade Level 06 paying a tax which a millionaire in our society cannot pay a half. Then the arrangement may be, well, I give you something and you give me less income tax assessment.

So I feel that the tax authority, the workers in the Internal Revenue should be well trained, or seminars organized to train them. There should be a way of compensating these people because they stand as enemies to those who want to grab and will never give anything to the State. Their pay should be in line with the salaries of other civil servants. It is not going to be increased specially, but let us

introduce special bonus at the end of the year for these Internal Revenue workers because I do know that people who feel that they were heavily taxed will hate them. The workers seem to be hiding just as the Judges are secluded. They sentence people to death and the relatives of such sentenced people may pounce on them; something like that. If anyone taxes a big businessman heavily, well, he begins to hate the tax official who did so. So we should give them incentives.

The incentive then is to provide a special bonus at the end of the year for these people who assess and collect taxes. Collection of taxes is very important and we should encourage it. If we don't collect enough tax, all the projects we are making and drafting, as somebody said, depends entirely on the Federal Government Statutory Allocation and anything can happen. If Statutory Allocation is not available immediately and the need arises it means we have nowhere to lay our hands. So internal revenue collection is very important. The Government should encourage those people working in Internal Revenue Department.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to draw attention again to the question of industrialization. We talk of industries just like that and any Government or any party wishing to grab power from the electorate will say it is going to do this and do that. That is true, but when they are brought into power instead of stimulating production, they rather stimulate consumption. Everything is to be distributed for consumption and then production is left out.

Now, if we are going to serve our people, we should think of industries that will employ so many people and when the industries are founded, we should at the same time, patronize them. Made-in-Nigeria goods are looked down upon. If the Government and top people look down upon the goods produced in Nigeria, how then do they expect the poor man who would like to be like them to patronize them. If they could fly to London and other places to purchase articles, then the poor man has no excuse to reject the made-in-Nigeria goods. We are supposed to be leaders of our communities. They look on us. The way we try to behave is the way they think is the best.

Some years ago, in the House of Representatives, I tabled a Motion that we should stop the importation of second-hand clothing. It made history that time. I know the man who was in charge in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry received so many delegations on the issue and something must have passed. They killed the Motion but the purpose of that Motion was that we should improve our textile material production and the government should subsidize it so that there would be no question of importing second-hand materials for the citizens of Nigeria. We should produce those goods and let the people use them.

Secondly, whatever we are able to make here, we should patronize it. Let government patronize those materials and not look down on them. There is no point shouting: we are going to industrialize! we are going to industrialize! You do not industrialize by mouth. You industrialize by action, and building something. Where you have raw materials, why not start industries? What of Yam Flour industry there at Abakaliki? If there is production, you can have reserve because after some time old yams become scarce but if you have yam flour industry, it will still continue to supply school and other places that need yam. It was the same thing that we were importing particularly during the civil war. A lot of these things were being imported then.

An hon. Member: Semovita!

Mr Ikeh: E-he, whether semovita or the one that looks like corn meal, all are from America. Even till today America supplies food to India where they cannot get enough food. That is about industry. Let us show example by action and not talking, thereby leaving the people to suffer.

Now, on Education, I would like the State's Commissioners for Education to borrow a leaf from the action of the Federal Government, that is they should meet and rearrange the school year from January to December. Why should we start the primary school year from September to end in July? It is very, very wrong. We imitate very wrongly because it is done overseas, therefore, we should do so. A school year should start in January. I remember that in His Excellency's address, he said that undergraduates will be offered vacation jobs. It would be better and more gainful to the

State if they are employed in teaching primary and secondary schools. Therefore, if we have our school year—January to December, when the universities are on vacation, the undergraduates will take up teaching appointments in both primary and secondary schools. This is the way we can give them real vacation jobs. Those of them who are professionals, like engineers, can go to private building companies to do their vacation jobs.

On education still, let me emphasize that it is very, very important that we need really educated citizens. The tendency nowadays is for people to only look for what will benefit them first before any other thing. Even if you embark on a project, its quick execution depends on what gains those to execute it feel they would derive from it. But where there is no hope to get anything, the file will remain where it is for a very long time. If really we want better citizens, we will have to rely on better education. We have to employ trained teachers to teach our children and pay them well. I have been saying that the best investment is the investment in individuals. God created this world and told man: "Command and control it". What a wonderful command!

Why should we not invest in the workers, pay them well and they will be able to direct affairs? When the people who man the departments are themselves bad, how can they discipline other workers? How can they turn round and say why do you do that? If they give query to be answered within 24 hours it will not be answered in a week. It is here that education matters. But while we are talking about the need for investment in education, somebody wishes it to be diverted to health. He forgets that it is education that will make a person know that he is to live well. Without education you won't even know that rotten food is bad for your stomach. (*Laughter*). Education is important. Those who are not educated use hands not washed to eat food in the past. Education will make you know it is bad habit to do so.

Mr Speaker Sir, I want to draw attention to urban development projects. There is a tendency for us to think more of revenue in certain development projects. There are certain development projects that may not necessarily be revenue earning, but purely for the welfare of the people, service to the nation

[MR IKEH]

When we set aside a piece of land and we want to develop it into an urban area, the tendency will be to cut it into small plots to get people to buy them so that you get more money. This is wrong. In development, Mr Speaker Sir, we should also think of ordinary people like the washermen. They should have a place to wash their dresses. We should see that there is a washerman's stand. We should think of the children, where they are to play. So, I am referring to the development we have in the urban towns, that sometimes you see the villages much better than the urban towns. You go into the village, you breathe in fresh air; you come to the urban towns, you see stinking places—bad gutters here and there with the houses close together and then you will be seeing faeces while you are eating your food in your room on the other side across. This is very bad development.

So we should use a different technique in our urban development and let our town planners think and produce better plans for our urban development. Now, in Abakaliki my constituency, I would like such to be the case. I will like the adjoining areas, now ready for expansion—the town is expanding considerably and it is the gateway to another State. It is important that that place should be further developed and modernized.

The contractor doing the urban roads, I wouldn't say he is not doing his best, but he is not fast enough, that is, the JAS Construction Company. I would wish that they should be fast enough, particularly when they are handling any place where communication is big. They should do it quick and not impede commercial life. This is very important. There is one great mistake which our Ministry continues to make in the building of roads. You give out road construction costing thousands of money but . . .

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): On a point of Order ! Time limit. The hon. Gentleman who has the Floor has consumed most of the time for others to contribute on this particular debate.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Abakaliki Central (*Mr Ikeh*) should please summarize.

Mr Ikeh: Mr Speaker Sir, I agree to summarize. Whenever road construction work was given in the past, you had what was

called a Resident Engineer. The Engineer inspected the specification and quantity. Now you give out a job and nobody inspects it; the contractors go away. Then after six months, a thing that is bound to last for at least ten years a decade, in six months it breaks into pieces. Why can't the government use the old method of posting what they call Resident Engineers. It doesn't mean that he should be resident there but it is his work to inspect the road being constructed and see whether the measurement is in order and whether it agrees with what is in the contract agreement. We shouldn't lose sight of that; that's why we are suffering. After spending a hell of money, you will be called upon to spend that money again after a few years. We should build for posterity.

Mr Speaker Sir, in rounding off, I will like to draw the attention of the Water Corporation to Abakaliki. The area is expanding very heavily. The dam that was built in those days served only a small proportion of the population but if the dam is raised a bit, that is across Abonyi River, the water content will be high. But as it is low, if you pump so many million gallons of water everyday and then the population consumes it, it goes down and no more. So I am appealing to them to consider that it is better to add something on the top of the dam, raise it high, a number of feet, say twelve feet more and then the water collection will be heavy.

You know there had been a lot of people moving from Abakaliki to Obudu cattle ranch, that place is a place of resort, a nice place. It just looks like a temperate zone. If any of you has not been to that place, it is good that you make a trip to that place during the recess. It is a lovely place; if you live there, you have healthy life, that is, on the top of the cattle ranch, the mountain range of the Cameroon. Abakaliki is a place for people to stop before they take off and it is because of this that there was a plan to build an airstrip for tourists, at Ikpoagu. The government should take that into consideration because it is one of the things that attracts tourists and the tourists bring their money, the invisible foreign exchange and import, plus the money we get from other areas. So, that should be taken into consideration. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

An hon. Member: Amen !

ADJOURNMENT

Unserviceable Vehicles

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow Thursday 15th May, 1980 at 10 a.m. In moving this Motion for adjournment Mr Speaker Sir, I don't know why, since we have been discussing this budget, we have been crying for money but some ministries are very careless with the little they had earlier before we came to the government. Each ministry you go to, you see lightly spoilt vehicles lying down for over six months. Why not sell them off and get the revenue back to the government purse. What are they doing there? If the vehicles were to belong to the people responsible for them, they would have sold them off as the Army and other institutions often do. So I request whoever may be in-charge of them in the Ministry of Works and Housing and the State Schools Services Commission to bring out the unserviceable vehicles and sell them.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the post-primary school teachers now on an industrial action. I am pleading with the teachers because this is the time for the secondary school students to sit for their examinations.

An hon. Member: Give them what they want.

Industrial Action

Mr Onyefuru: We know that the Military left some backlog of work for us and the civil servants, the people, the teachers have some pains of emotion because they could not speak while the gun was pointing at everyone. They should give this Administration some time. We appreciate their problems but embarking on industrial action will not really solve the problems. So I am begging them to go back to the classroom while we resort to the negotiating table. This is simply in the interest of our children. We appreciate their problem and I am sure the government will do everything possible to alleviate their problems.

And so with this I come to Members, because I have heard somebody telling the teachers "oh! as soon as the budget is approved", so they are now laying the blame on us.

With this problem outside this House, I am appealing to hon. Members that we should, in view of the present problem facing us, that is the teachers, do everything within our means to see if this problem could be solved.

With this Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Don't blame the Legislature

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I just rise to support the Motion for adjournment and to draw the attention of the last hon. Member who spoke to section 114 of the Constitution and for his interest and for the interest of those who don't know that we are not delaying anybody.

Section 114—Authorization of expenditure in default of appropriations:

"If the Appropriation Bill in respect of any financial year has not been passed into Law by the beginning of the financial year, the Governor may authorize the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State for the purpose of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the government for a period not exceeding six months or the coming into operation of the Law, whichever is the earlier:

Provided that the withdrawal in respect of any such period shall not exceed the amount authorized to be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State under the provisions of the Appropriation Law passed by the House of Assembly for the corresponding period in the immediately preceding financial year, being an amount proportionate to the total amount so authorized for the immediately preceding financial year."

So Mr Speaker Sir, it is necessary in the interest of law makers and the general public, that they should know that we are not holding anybody and we shall take our time to do our business in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Okpaga not Ogbaga

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I have to draw attention to two important issues. One is in respect of my name. Several times my name has been spelt and pronounced as "Ogbaga". I don't go by the name "Ogbaga". It is

[MR OKPAGA]

"Okpaga". Last time I met a number of Press and Radio men who asked me and I gave them the corrections. Please my name is "Okpaga" and not "Ogbaga" . . . (Laughter) . . . Yes, that's that.

Come to our Aid

The second issue is about a statement made here some time, a report made here some time about the spread of cholera in Abakaliki Area. Earlier before this time, information had come to light that cholera outbreak was already spreading in Abakaliki. But the unfortunate aspect of it was that a Public Health Officer came out and made a radio announcement to say that there wasn't anything like that. While he was denying an obvious fact on the radio, people were dying in their hundreds. Remember the hon. Member for Abakaliki South (*Mr Igwe*) made mention of more than a hundred people dying in his constituency. He wasn't in the House yesterday, he is not in the House today. Nobody knows what has happened.

In Ishielu Local Government Area, while the Public Health Officer was denying the fact, up to twenty persons died in Okoto alone within that period. Okoto is a community within Ishielu South constituency. There were quite a number of people dying in Mgbo area part of Ishielu Central, East and South. I don't understand why somebody, in whose hands the health of people is entrusted, should come out to deny the fact. If it were killing of twins, it will be televised, it will be written on the pages

of newspapers, it will be broadcast everywhere. But when it comes to saving lives, people deny it. This is most unfair. I am calling upon this House to ask the Ministry of Health to expedite action. By now I don't think that anybody will be a sane man if he denies that people are dying in their hundreds. Whether they call it cholera, whether they call it diarrhoea, whatever it is, lives are being taken and there must be arrangements made right now to check this death toll in Abakaliki area generally. Thank you Mr Speaker, and I ask that the question be now put.

Mr J. O. Akunne (Aguata North Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I will like to draw the attention of this House and the authorities concerned to the indiscriminate parking of cars within this premises. Yesterday, some of the hon. Members who came late could not park their cars. When the visitors come, they just park anywhere without any signs or directions showing them where to park. So with this, I will like the authorities concerned to please find or get some traffic policemen or anybody even traffic wardens to direct the visitors where to park their cars in order that hon. Members will have their cars parked. With this, I ask that the question be put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn until tomorrow Thursday, 15th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 15th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria
Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute to the Second Reading of the Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980. Mr Speaker Sir, I can see that the budget itself is a very, very tight one. It is tight in the sense that it fails to reflect the wishes and aspirations of the people of this State. The budget in itself is fashioned in the old colonial style whereby the privileged few are protected at the expense of the masses.

Mr Speaker, Sir, going through the budget one would observe that health which is the basis of the existence of everybody has not been considered fully. If you look at the budget you can see that ₦5.8 million was set aside on the Capital Expenditure. It seems, therefore, that the budget in itself did not take care of the people of this State.

The breakdown of the figure shows that ₦2 million out of this is set aside for construction of new hospitals. ₦2 million is for the extension and maintenance of existing hospitals. Mr Speaker Sir, it seems that in Anambra State we have about six local government councils which have no hospitals at all. The sum of ₦2 million which is set aside for the construction of new hospitals could only construct two hospitals. This was confirmed by the Commissioner for Health himself who said that one hospital takes not less than ₦1 million. It therefore seems that about four local government areas would go without hospitals. Mr Speaker, Sir, in some local government areas including mine there is no hospital at all. I had expected it would have been mandatory for a hospital to be built at least in every local government area not to mention constituency.

Mr Speaker Sir, if one looks further to roads, one would also see that the government had not taken proper interest in the construction of new roads. For instance, from the Ninth Mile Corner to Eke, Olo, Uzo-Uwani and up to Adani, one would see that only ₦600,000.00 was earmarked for that road. This figure shows that it is only a maintenance amount because about four years ago about ₦11 million was set aside for construction of that road but out of it, about ₦5 million was used, in the present Estimates only ₦600,000 was set aside for the maintenance; I call it maintenance. One will see that for us to have agricultural boost in this State, we must see that our roads are properly in order. We cannot think of having good agricultural boost in this State when our roads are not properly constructed. I say this because when we take care of agriculture we must take it at the same time with roads because two of them are inter-woven in a way.

This State had been known in the previous years for its agricultural concern. Before the war, the former Eastern Region was known for its agricultural and industrial efforts, but it seems that some of these things are dying away. I am happy that the present budget has touched agriculture, but what I am saying is that before embarking on real agricultural industry, they must first of all see that the roads are well maintained, because if you have food or crops and there is no road to transport them, all you have to do is to eat them. If you eat and there is nothing else to your heart's content you can do with food, then you have to throw them into the bush, and that is why they say that some areas eat too much because the roads are so bad that they cannot afford to transport food to other places.

What I am saying, in the final analysis is that we must have to see that the roads and agriculture should go hand in hand otherwise agriculture as an industry in this State will not flourish.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to touch on what is happening to food production in my own area. We have the Oghie Cashew Industry. This is third to the largest in the world. What happened is that after the civil war, the government abandoned this industry in such a way that the shell nuts are lying waste in the bush. I have earlier said that if this industry is properly cared for, it would have afforded,

[MR NWAFOR]
employment opportunities to thousands of people. Hon. Members will be happy at least to know that there is something that we can get from that cashew industry and with your permission I have to mention a few out of the list. From cashew you will get the following if the trees are properly maintained; edible cashew-nuts, shoe polish, hair dye, apple wine, brandy, insecticides for wood preservation, and paper gum. I am saying that if we are to boost agriculture in this State we must see that something like this or things of this sort are properly maintained. Before embarking on new projects we must see that those for which the government had spent a lot of money are properly maintained.

Mr Speaker Sir, going through this budget one would see that what the people of this State need most this time is water, food and shelter, and in some local government areas particularly in mine, one would see about six bore-holes constructed since four years ago but none of them is functioning. The bore-holes have created houses for lizards, and other reptiles. I am therefore appealing to the government to see that those local government areas, where there is no good drinking water are supplied with water adequately. In fact the people would have preferred water and other things like roads and food to the so called television and open space now being advertized everywhere. That is why I said that this budget is fashioned in the old colonial way where the haves continue to have and the have-nots continue to be without. I am saying Sir, that the planners of this budget had not gone far enough to ascertain the wishes of the people and that is why it appears that most of the things are hushed and rushed up and the way the whole thing was presented to us seems that little care has been given to it.

Let me go straight to *rural electrification* I am of the opinion and I associate myself with those who said that on rural electrification the whole local government areas should be considered on equal basis. We must try in one way to kill what we regard as dichotomy in this State. What causes this dichotomy is the development of certain areas at the expense of others. Whatever we do, we must see that it is well spread to everywhere and where possible, the State should consider less privileged areas in

the sharing of amenities. This is necessary so that nobody, or any local government area will grumble.

Another thing is that of local government. I see that the Ministry of Local Governments, Rural Development and Chieftaincy Matters received less amount than what is expected. This Ministry is the government organ that deals directly with the people of the rural areas. I know that before doing so, something is necessary and I suggest that there should be amendment to the existing laws covering the local government councils. I say this because the "power" conferred on Council Chairmen as the chief executive of the various functions, of the community councils, is being abused by some of the Local Government Chairmen. There should be a formula whereby the Secretaries who have been in the administration for many years, and who are the expert, in their own field, should be given a chance to help in the formulation of policies of the local government areas and even in executing them. The result is that with the conferment of Chief Executive to some Local Government Chairmen, they abused this thing by issuing threats and queries to Local Government Secretaries. Some of the Local Government Secretaries feel hurt and in retaliation, some of them do not co-operate fully with the local government councils.

What I am saying in effect is that we should give the Secretaries some measure of autonomy in discharging the Councils' functions, especially in the field of appointment, control of vehicles and properties of the Council. This, I suppose, would be to the best interest of the people of this State.

We need experts in all fields. We know that political appointees by virtue of their offices as head of affairs, their position is to direct the affairs of the Council, but this cannot be effectively done without the co-operation of the experts, that is, the Secretaries of the Councils. Mr Speaker, Sir, if we do this, I think we will be able to give effective guideline for the functions of the local government councils.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I know that many people had spoken about chiefs and I have to say that the new budget has made some allowances for chiefs, but we must have to warn the chiefs not to take part in partisan politics.

This is so because some chiefs who have something to gain from the powers that be, go about and even attend some party meetings. This is quite irregular and uncalled for. They must have to isolate themselves from politics entirely and see that they serve the people without minding their ideological leanings. This, I think, would save them and place them in their right position.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to say finally that the budget should have gone far enough to touch or cater for the interests of the workers so that there should be in effect, an ultimate change of attitude to work. If we show these workers that we really have their interest at heart by making these allowances for them where possible, they would in return show a great interest in their work and this will make for efficiency and more productivity. Mr Speaker Sir, I also think it will be in the best interest of this State that there should be a committee of the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development. The Committee will be charged with the responsibility of fairing Government Estimates, that is, the Estimates from each Ministry before they embark on any project. They have to fair it in such a way that in the end, the thing will be result-oriented. I say this because some of the projects embarked on in this State, are fruitless and some are fashioned in a way that funds set aside go to individual pockets, but if the Ministry of Finance and other interested bodies in the . . .

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. My point of Order is on time limit.

Mr Speaker: Noted. The hon. Member for Ezeagu North (Mr Nwafor) your time is fast running out, please.

Mr Nwafor: Thank you Mr Speaker. What I am saying is that in future, we have to see that proper arrangements are made so that Ministries should not spend money unnecessarily and that whatever they are going to do should be faired by experts so that at the end what we will achieve will be result-oriented.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Madam F. C. Emodi (Onitsha North West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I have little contribution to make towards the debate

for the 1980 Budget, and I have three observations to make and I think I shall be brief as much as possible.

The three observations are as follows. The first is on *Town and Country Planning*. The second is on *Education* which is my field. The third is on *Revenue*. I am particularly concerned with Onitsha township and this is as far as it affects the roads in Onitsha.

Looking at the draft Estimates for the Plan Period 1976-1980, an estimated sum of ₦13 million was allocated and in the years following, the sum of ₦7 million had been spent. I was surprised to find in the Estimates that though I know it is a tight Budget ₦800,000 was estimated for the roads in Onitsha. I understand that the contractors who built those roads are still being owed by the Government. Therefore, they have a backlog of debts.

Now, looking at ₦800,000, I am afraid this meagre sum would not off-set the amount being owed to these contractors, hence the work that started as far back as 1976-77 is still at a standstill. One needs to go to Fegge to understand the situation.

In my constituency, Otumoye, it is fast developing into a slum. If you go down to where we call *Ilo-Oroja* and all the surroundings near the famous Onitsha market, one will not believe that this is the Onitsha, people used to know. It is really a pity. So, this is just a warning. When the Budget was prepared for 1981, I was disappointed to find a meagre sum again being allocated for the roads in Onitsha. I know the people in the rural areas will feel that people in the township need not bother. In this case, I think we should bother, otherwise, the Onitsha we used to know will sooner or later cease to exist. (*Laughter*).

My second observation is on *Education*, Education as I said earlier, is my pet. The officers responsible for the drafting of this Estimates, from my own point of view, are inward looking and not outward looking. The projects of the Ministry of Education are rubber-stamped in such a way that no effort was made in the Draft Estimates to include something like reconstruction of schools. Ever since 1970, they have been operating on this rubber-stamp type of Estimates. The people wrote down in the Estimates things like

[MADAM EMODI]

construction of new high schools. I wonder what new high schools we have to construct when the existing ones are in shambles. Education, we all know is the beginning of development in any country, and I therefore appeal to the Government of which the Legislature is a part to give financial support to development of education in all forms with effect from 1981.

Now, I come down to *Revenue*. This aspect of revenue has been dealt with, earlier by my colleagues in this House. Revenue collection for this State needs improvement. People should pay their tax. The P.A.Y.E. system is the only sure banker we have in this State, but other private businessmen will not pay tax. So it is left for the Government of this State to sit down, and work out a proper system for collecting tax in this State. We cannot all the time be expecting money from the Federal Government and we cannot always think in terms of borrowing when the money is not forthcoming. We should think very seriously of improving the tax system of this country.

Now, to talk of things generally, I take the welfare of women. As you all know in this black man's country, women are never given their place in the society.

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Madam Emodi: Where people think that women are really being given their place in the society, I have not been able to find that place being given to women.

I am here, I quite agree, but I struggled to be here. (Laughter). I fought like every other man to be able to come into this honourable House. The welfare of women in the society and in Anambra State in particular has not improved from what it used to be in spite of the education of our women. I quite agree, people are being considered on their merits, but if you go to various places of employment, you still find that men outnumber women in spite of the fact that if you take a census, you will find that women are fast outnumbering men, and I don't see why women should not be given their place in the society. (Laughter). I know you will laugh because I am really the only woman standing here in this House now, but I promise you that in 1983, we shall be more than twenty. (Prolonged laughter).

Now, on the welfare of women as I have said in places of work in our society, if we want to emulate the white man, for goodness' sake, we should not only do so in wearing ties and coats. We should emulate the white man by giving women the respect they deserve. You all know that women are the pivot of the society. Everything rolls around the woman. If you have good citizen, for goodness' sake, the upbringing of the child starts from the home. We all agree and if there is anybody here who doesn't agree, I will say that person is kidding. If a woman should be given her place in the society, we should start with the home.

As regards women's welfare, I saw in the paper sometime ago and women in Anambra State did go to the Governor some two weeks ago to discuss matters relating to women affair. This was primarily on dowry—bride-price. I think it is the responsibility of both parents—father and mother to look into this very seriously. We would like to have our children trained in schools. We would all like to see our daughters all get married, get into homes, and start building the homes we are talking about. So, it is the business of this Legislature starting with the Members of this House. If you have daughters and people come to marry them, please try to bring down the bride, price. (Laughter).

Several hon. Members: Make it free!

Madam Emodi: Oh yes! We would all have loved to have spoken at length, but as it is at the moment, I am sorry I have talked as much as I can on the issue. I hope I will speak more on it next time. Thank you, Speaker. (Applause).

Mr F. E. Igwe (Ikwo North): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, Sir, I have to state that even though, the Budget is for nine months, one thing is significant; for any government to be popular, it has to strengthen its publicity organ.

With this, Mr Speaker, I have in mind the Presidential System of Government which we are now running. The Government has to indoctrinate the minds of the electorates

to help them retune their thinking and know actually what the Government is doing. The Government has to teach the people through television, radio and newspapers, and because of this, we do not have to over-labour the Government, but we have to help make the Government popular. In doing so, I do not think that any amount given to any information organ is a waste of money rather to help the Government.

Mr Speaker, I have to come down to my constituency, Ikwo. It is said, that civilization travels by road, and where there is no road, it will be very difficult for the people to know what is happening in other places. It is here that you will know that Ikwo is the only local government area that has not seen any road in its area, and this is adversely affecting the people of the area. I wish that the Government could try as much as possible to see that its social and economic developments reach every local government area in the state.

I have also to say that since the Governor has good intentions for the people of this State, the Ministries concerned in the execution of Government projects should be alive to their responsibilities. If a local government area gets at least one grader and one caterpillar in carrying out the grass root development, this will help the people and the State Government. When this is done, the villagers will understand that the Government is really taking care of their needs.

So, Mr Speaker, I am requesting that if the Ministry of Works and Housing is tired of doing its work in the rural areas, it should send money to the Local Government Councils. They should also send graders and caterpillars to be used by the Councils, because it is not good to take the best Ministry that should help the State and tie it to one place. I personally do not like this.

I have also to say that in the last Supplementary Appropriation Bill, there was money approved for the construction of Enyigba road, but up till now the road has not received any attention. Nothing has also been done up till today about Abonyi project which we cried for, days and nights. I do not know whether the Ministry will say there is no money or whether it does not want to work there. In fact, this is

making the hon. Members from that area to appear to be liars which we do not want to be. Mr Speaker, I would like to see that any amount budgeted for a particular project, the Ministry concerned should at least try to do something on that project so that it will not put the Government into shame.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will, therefore, request that adequate financial provision be made to the local government areas. This will help the job of the Government, because the local government area is the very place where all of us come from. Therefore, in developing rural areas, it will make the State and the Government popular in all it wants to do.

On *Education*, Mr Speaker, I am saying that the training of the children in the State is the beginning of a good Government. It is surprising to note that throughout the current Estimates, there was no provision made for equipment and construction of primary schools. If there is any for the secondary schools, I do not know at all. I do not know what the Ministry of Education has in mind; whether it wants everybody to stop where he is. So, the Ministry of Education should understand that most of our children are still learning under the mango shades, using cement blocks as their benches and desks, which is very bad indeed for this Government. We cannot be proud of anything than the good upbringing of our children in this State. So, I wish that the Ministry of Education should see to the problem of the children in the schools.

Also, Mr Speaker, I observed that some local government areas have been regarded as markets where people can go to buy and not to live there. I am suggesting, therefore, that in any type of recruitment in any local government area, the sons of the soil should be given chance so that if they are going for any training and after such training, they should go back to serve their people. In some areas people go to the local government areas to be recruited for training, and after the training none of them will be seen again. This is really very bad. The people within the area should be given the chance or given the priority to take part in Government activities.

Agriculture: Mr Speaker Sir, in my own local government area, Ikwo, there is a Norwegian Church Agricultural Project which was established in 1962 with an amount worth

[MR IGWE]
over ₦4 million. This project which started with the training of the First School Leaving Certificate holders from the area includes agricultural staff and such agricultural infrastructures in the form of constructing earth dam, improved farm land, loans in cash and in kind to selected farmers, fertilizer mechanization and the training of three indigenes as university graduates; establishing standards in all fields of rural agricultural federation, in the field of technical section, animal section, plants section, extension section, nutrition, health centres and spiritual upbringing.

These good samaritans have completed their years of service and will leave by the end of June, 1980. I would like the Government to vote sufficient money to keep up this good job done by the people. I also request that loans from the Government should go to the original farmers and not to second-hand farmers. This, in fact, will help the State and the area concerned to produce the food required for the people of the State. Fertilizer should also be given to farmers on time. These are the sort of things the Norwegian Agricultural Project was doing, and is now handing them over to the people of the State.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is not a waste if any money is given to the Project because I read in their annual production publication that in the plant section they produced about three thousand, six hundred and sixty-six kilogrammes of rice; twenty thousand, five hundred and fifty-three kilogrammes of yam tubers; seven thousand, one hundred and eighty-nine kilogrammes of cassava; that is within the project itself.

In the animal section, they produced two hundred and fifty-two thousand eggs and one hundred and twelve pigs. They have feed mills and incubator of four thousand, six hundred egg-capacity. They have tractors and other things which the Government could continue to use for a number of years if it goes in there. In the Health section last year, they treated 16,215 patients and 6,096 people were vaccinated within last year. In the Extension section, they have 22,708.6 kilogrammes of rice from some groups of farmers. In the technical section, they trained drivers, mecha-

nics, fitters, plumbers and machine operators. They also have tractors and other agricultural equipment.

So, Mr Speaker, all these things which those people have been doing for the Government are sufficient to attract the Government into the project to ensure that the work so well done should not be allowed to die just because the Norwegians are leaving the project.

In Health again, Mr Speaker, I am convinced that you will feel unhappy to hear that Ikwo is the only local government area that has no hospital in Anambra State. It could be imagined what will be the fate of anyone who falls sick in Ikwo. Aware of this problem, Mr Speaker, we have built six Health Centres, including the ones built by the NORCAP, but none of these has been commissioned.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): On a point of Order. May I draw the attention of Mr Speaker to Section 90 of the Constitution on Quorum. I don't think that this House as it is now is properly constituted.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Section 90 of the Constitution says:

If objection is taken by any member of a House of Assembly present that there are present in that House (besides the person presiding) fewer than one-third of all the members of that House and that it is not competent for the House to transact business, and after such interval as may be prescribed in the rules of procedure of the House the person presiding ascertains that the number of members present is still less than one-third of all the members of the House, he shall adjourn the House.

Siting suspended : 11.40 a.m.

Siting resumed : 11.42 a.m.

Mr Speaker: There are thirty-one Members in the House excluding the presiding officer. There is a quorum. The House is properly constituted. The House will continue debate.

Mr Igwe: So, Mr Speaker, as I was saying, Ikwo has built six Health Centres, including the ones built by the NORCAP but none of them has been commissioned. So, I may ask, where do we belong and what sin have we committed? The Ministry of Health should try to save the lives of the people in Ikwo. This is very necessary.

Water-Supply: We have built a total of twenty-one impounded water reservoir in different areas of Ikwo in an attempt to give ourselves good drinking water and throughout the Estimates, I have not seen any single place that Ikwo was mentioned for water. This is really very bad. I don't know what the Ministry is thinking about water for which everyone of us has been crying out here. Mr Speaker, I wish to remind the Ministry of Public Utilities that Ikwo needs good drinking water.

In summary, Mr Speaker, all the seats for Ikwo are given to the Ruling Party—Nigeria Peoples Party. We are not in the minority group. So it is our right to ask for our share in the Government. We will ever remain Nigeria Peoples Party supporters. Therefore, Mr Speaker, taking note of all I have said, I wish that we shall be doing ourselves good by passing the Budget as it remains seven months to start the next one which will give us the grounds for judgment. I regard this as a foundation budget. With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Just on that point, I wish to correct an impression. The policy of this House is that amenities should be extended to all communities irrespective of party affiliation. (*Applause*).

Mr M. A. C. Okekeizuagwu (Aguata West): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute my little ideas to this Second Reading of the Budget.

This draft Estimate, in my view, is a unique one. At least it is supposed to be for two main reasons, because this Budget marks the end of the current National Development Plan, 1976–80 as it affects this State, and secondly, this is the Budget that will usher in the new financial year system which we now intend to operate, that is from the 1st of January to 31 December contrary to the former system which we used to operate from 1st of April to 31st of March.

By my own humble assessment, the budget as a whole can be described as a woe to the common man in that when one looks at the Budget, it has no consideration for the common man. That is my humble view.

I have to associate myself with the views already expressed by the hon. Members of this House who have contributed to the debates

in this Budget, in the roughshod way this Budget was prepared and presented to this honourable House. And may I also seize this opportunity to sound a serious note of warning to the group responsible for preparing the Budget that is presented to this honourable House. They should note that the days of the Military rule are over and in preparing the Budget, they should take into consideration those views and projects that feature very prominently on the Floor of this honourable House. They should take into consideration those aspects of the lives of our people seriously discussed and canvassed for on the Floor of this honourable House. We are the accredited representatives of the people and the views which we normally express on the Floor of this honourable House are not our personal views but the views of the people we represent. It is very pertinent and important that these views should be reflected on the Budget as it affects the people.

I may go further to say that when you look at the provisions made for different projects, the respective amounts provided do not in any way reflect the need of either the Ministry or the specific project, and in some areas, you see a large sum lumped together, say, "Other Roads" so many millions of naira or "Other Projects", so many millions of naira. This type of exercise leaves much to be desired, because when you lump about three or four projects together and allocate to them a lump sum of money, it does not make for effective execution and effective supervision.

I have to take a very critical look at the amount provided for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production. When you look at the Estimates, and see the amount provided for this Ministry, you will feel that something has been done for the purpose of providing food to the people of this State. But when you examine critically, you will see that the whole exercise is quite unrelated to the needs of the people. You will all agree with me that in this State, the main staple food for the people are yams, cassava, and maize. I do not think any day passes without anybody in this State tasting one of the food items.

An hon. Member: What of rice?

Mr Okekeizuagwu: With the possible inclusion of rice. But if you look at the Budget where you have crop multiplication and

[MR OKEKEIZUAGWU]
improvement, you will never see where yams are mentioned. It appears the Government fights shy with regard to the improvement and development of yam cultivation. I must say that about ninety-five per cent. of the farmers in this State cultivate yams. It is my most humble view that the Government should take a very bold and positive step towards the improvement of yam cultivation.

There should be a clear-cut policy of Government giving financial aid to yam farmers either by way of giving them seed yams at highly subsidized price or giving them fertilizers free, or selling fertilizers to them at highly subsidized price. This should also apply to maize and possibly rice. We have some gigantic project for rice—ADA rice, but we forget entirely the little farmers; the farmers in the villages who cultivate and, in fact, supply greater quantities of these commodities to the people.

So, it is my most humble view that the Government should evolve a sort of loan scheme for farmers—small-scale farmers in the villages, and in this way, we shall improve food supply as it affects this State. Also tied up with the production of food is another aspect of our economy which I wish to touch, and that is, the issue of soil conservation. I looked through the Budget but there is no provision made for this purpose under the Head for Ministry of Agriculture, and I think this is very, very important. It is under this Head that the Ministry of Agriculture would have taken very positive steps to fight erosion. The problem we have is that when these erosions start, we take it very lightly until they have reached very serious dimensions, then we start to cry to both the Federal Government and the outside world. May I also seize this opportunity to appeal to the State Government to appeal to the Federal Government to start work immediately without further delay at the site of the Nanka erosion.

Sometime in December last year, the community affected by this erosion heaved a big sigh of relief when it was announced over the radio and television that the Federal Government was coming to fight that erosion with the handsome amount of ₦74 million, but up till now, nothing practical has been

done at that erosion site, and it is my most humble view that if nothing is done on that erosion site before the rains come, the communities living around that monster will suffer a lot, and it will not be exaggerating facts if I say that we may miss about three more villages. This erosion affects such towns as Nanka, Agulu, Ogbu, Okoh, Ndiike, and many other villages around. So it is my most humble view that the State Government should take that matter very seriously.

In this respect also, may I call the attention of the State Government and the Ministry of Agriculture in particular to some areas where you have serious incursions of erosion. One is taking place at Ekwulumili at the boundary between Aguata and Nnewi Local Government Areas. You have another one at Oraukwu and another serious one at Alor and Nnobi. All these are in Idemili Local Government Area. And there are so many other places where we have serious incursions of erosion. The point I am trying to make here is that the Ministry of Agriculture should have a clear-cut policy on soil conservation and should employ, as a matter of utmost urgency, what used to be in the good old days of Okpara regime, erosion workers. There was a class of workers known as erosion workers and they were posted permanently at some places where we have serious incursion of erosion and their work was to plant life trees and check erosion.

Then the other aspect of this Budget which I feel does not take any account of the interest of the common man is as it affects road construction. The Anambra State Government has performed what I may call six nights wonder or a sort of magic in road construction and I refer particularly to the asphaltting of Miliken Hill. This exercise was done in about six nights without disturbing the economic life of Enugu and without disturbing the numerous road users. And it is my humble view that if this type of exercise is taken on other areas of road construction, we would be better off. It is my view (I may be wrong), that when any road construction affects an Urban Area, it is taken very seriously, but where it affects rural areas nobody pays any attention. For this reason you see some roads leading to rural communities which have been under construction for upwards of ten years and no progress; nobody cares. So it is my view that

the State Government should make it a policy that roads which lead to rural areas should be given priority attention.

I have to make special mention of this road—Nnewi/Nnobi/Igbo-Ukwu/Ekwulobia/Umunze/Ibinta Road. This Road was specifically mentioned by His Excellency in his speech to this honourable House when this Budget was being presented and those of us who are greatly affected by the disastrous condition of that road heaved a very big sigh of relief. But when we went and looked closely at the provision made for that specific road, it is not in any way related to the need of that road. A paltry sum of ₦800,000 was provided for this road which is now the longest road in this State and which passes through four local government areas, namely, Nnewi, Idemili, Njikoka, Aguata and also it is a big link, to Oji-River Local Government Area apart from being the gateway from Anambra State through Umunze to Imo State. So, it is a very important road, and I don't see the reason why this road should not be in the priority list of this State Government.

The other aspect of this Budget which I want to mention is that if you look at the projects in the Current Development Plan, you will see that all the roads which affect the rural communities are not taken care of. None of them has been completed. I may mention the Nkpor Junction/Nnobi road, Enugwu-Ukwu-Adazi-Enu-Igbo-ukwu Road, Abatete-Oraukwu-Nnobi Road, Ishielu-Achiagu-Onueke-Noyo Road. These are the roads that were specifically mapped out for the Current Development Plan, but not one of them has been completed in its construction and the cause for this is the attitude of the Government generally on road construction when it affects rural communities and it is most important to note that these rural communities provide food to feed the people in the township.

Secondly, the other aspect of this Budget which pains me very seriously, as it affects the common man, is *Rural Water-supply*. It is very painful to note that in this Head you have a very meagre sum provided for rural water-supply, and in most cases you have one gigantic project for a whole local government area.

May I give an example with the Aguata Water Project which had been on for over twenty years now, and in that Project not even a single community has been sufficiently supplied with water. Aguata Local Government Area is made up of forty-six communities and it is very unrealistic, and unimaginative to say that you will supply these forty-six communities with water from one source and the most painful aspect of it is that within this Aguata Local Government Area, you have many communities as you may get in many other local government areas who contributed money and deposited with the Government before the civil war, and those amounts deposited were inherited by the present Administration but no effort has been made to supply these local government areas with water.

I may by way of example mention a few communities. You have Igbo-Ukwu which deposited a sum of ₦13,000 with the Government before the war and again on the 5th day of February, 1980, the town was called upon again to deposit another sum and it deposited ₦35,000. So right now, the town has ₦48,000 standing to its credit with the Anambra State Government for water-supply but no practical effort has been made in that direction. You have the Nanka Community which deposited a sum of ₦9,277.79 before the war, Oraeri ₦1,800 before the war, Uga ₦4,000 and Ekwulobia ₦8,980. Then Umunze and Ihite donated ₦5,323.32. There are numerous other communities which made these deposits but no effort has been made to supply them with water.

The most painful aspect of this Budget is as it affects industry. I seize this opportunity to call on the Anambra State Government to establish, as a matter of urgency, an Industrial Development Fund. From this Fund Government will pay a certain percentage of amount budgeted every year (solely for the development of industry) to those Government-owned companies and corporations which are viable and make very heavy profit every year, such as, the Universal Insurance Company, the N.C.F.C., the Premier Breweries, the Niger Steel and others. These companies will be made to pay into this Fund a certain percentage of their profits every year solely for the development of Industry.

[MR OKEKEIZUAGWU]

May I use this opportunity to warn that it has been repeatedly said that by the year 2,000 A.D., there will be no more oil in Nigeria and if you look through the Budget, you see that our revenue will depend solely on the grants from the Federal Government. Most of the industries we tap now were those established in the former Eastern Region by the then Eastern Region Marketing Board which was a sort of pool during that regime. So, I am asking this Government to establish an Industrial Development Fund and also to make it a policy to establish in every local government area an industrial estate or an industrial layout before the land grabblers grab all the open spaces. So with these industrial estates or industrial layouts mapped out, it will be very easy to attract industry especially to the rural areas.

May I also call on the Government to increase the

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is on time limit.

Mr Speaker: Time limit. All right. Point of Order is upheld. Honourable Okekeizuagwu please round up.

Mr Okekeizuagwu: Sorry. I am very sorry to have taken some of your time. May I also by way of summary ask that the Government should increase the loan that is given to small-scale industries, at least to help the industrial life of this State.

Mr Speaker Sir, the only aspect of this Budget which bothers me is the issue of the welfare of workers. I must say that the welfare of workers was not taken care of with regard to car loans and basic allowance. Also the issue of housing units, it is very unrealistic to build houses for workers. The most realistic thing to do is to construct blocks of flats, because no honest worker will, in his working life time, save enough to purchase any of those houses. If we construct blocks of flats any worker can save enough to pay on owner-occupier basis and by the time he goes out of service he will own a flat.

Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, for allowing me the opportunity to contribute and I am calling on the people that prepared this Budget

that (in the next exercise) to take very critical look at the interest of the common man. Thank you, Sir.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I am happy to announce the presence in our midst today, of a most distinguished Senator in the person of Senator Echeruo.

General Acclamation.

The distinguished Senator is here on the invitation of the Committee for Tour of Local Government Areas. The Committee will be meeting in Room 121 with some of the other people also invited, for a chat. You are welcome Senator Echeruo. Yes, more contributions.

Mr S. N. O. Edeh (Nkanu North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute my own view on the 1980 Appropriation Bill. I consider this Budget, Mr Speaker, as not all-embracing, in view of the fact that during the electioneering campaign, we made a lot of promises to our people. One would have expected a Budget that could have reflected the aspirations of the people and a Budget that could have taken into cognizance the problems facing our people, constituency by constituency. I say constituency by constituency, Mr Speaker, in view of the fact that in most cases, in provision of amenities, certain amenities go to certain local government areas with the result that only one particular constituency continues to benefit from such project.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like at this juncture to take some aspects of the Budget which appeals to me in the present circumstance.

One of that is land transport, roads and bridges. Mr Speaker Sir, while a handsome sum of money was provided for land transport covering about forty-four roads in the State. Of all these roads covered, none was provided for in my own constituency, Nkanu North. But for Agbani-Amagu-Nze-Imo border Road which was awarded in 1978 and which is nearing completion, no other road was provided for in the Estimates. Mr Speaker, it may be recalled that during His Excellency's Address to this House, he did promise that at least one road each would be constructed in every local government area. Fortunately, my local government area, Nkanu Local Government, did approve the grading of

Amechi-Idodo-Owo-Ubakwu-Amankanu road, covering about forty to fifty kilometres into the heart of the food producing area. Up till now, Mr Speaker, nothing has been done about this road. One would have expected that a provision should have been made to cover these roads as promised by His Excellency. Mr Speaker Sir, although, a sum of ₦9.6 million was provided to cover what was described as *Other Roads*, I hope those roads I have just mentioned will be included in the *Other Roads*.

Mr Speaker Sir, the other aspect, is on Health. There is also a provision for the construction and equipment of General Hospitals in this State. I wish to inform this House that there is a cottage hospital at Orugu in Nkanu North constituency. This cottage hospital was built and funded by the Federal Government under the supervision of the State Ministry of Health. Up till now this hospital is lying waste, and unequipped. I had hoped that if the current Estimates had provided in the way of equipment to hospitals, this particular cottage hospital would have been remembered. The hospital has the following infrastructures: generating plant house and reservoir of about 20,000 gallons of water. I wish too that the Ministry of Health will take note of this when equipment of hospitals and staffing will be considered, and I hope they will do so as soon as this Budget is passed.

Mr Speaker Sir, the other aspect I wish to touch is Education. A provision was also made in the Estimates for the construction of new high schools, but I really got surprised that nothing was said about the equipment of the existing secondary schools particularly those secondary schools built by communities through communal effort. I have one of such schools in my area, namely, The Boys' Secondary School, Amagu-Nze built by Amagu-Nze community. I could have really expected that in course of this current Estimates, the school could have been equipped at least as an incentive to the community that built the school. I also wish that the State Government should begin to think seriously of providing what I may describe as matching grants to communities that have embarked on the construction of secondary schools. This will go a very long way to encourage them. It is only in Anambra State

that communities up till this date, have continued to launch and launch and contribute towards development or construction of schools.

It does not obtain in other States particularly in the Northern States. Perhaps, maybe as a result of the war or the neglect of this State by the Federal Government. Whatever is the case I am of the view that Government should agree to make provision or grant a sort of loans to these communities payable on a commission basis.

I would like to conclude, Mr Speaker, by urging the House to ensure that the meagre provision made under Agricultural Credit Scheme is given to deserving farmers in the rural areas. Deserving farmers, that is, the farmers that would really make use of this money and not what the House has described as the *urban farmer for mouth*.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute my quota to the debate on the 1980 Appropriation Bill now before this august House. As many hon. Members have said, I cannot say that this Budget is a Budget of hope for any community in the State. When I say any community, I mean both the urban denizens and the rural dwellers. I can describe the Budget as a temperate one. Why I say it is temperate is that there is no concentration of development or concentration of money for development on any of the communities. The whole thing is difused. Why I say this is that you cannot say that the urban dweller is going to benefit more from this Budget or that the rural dweller is going to benefit more from this Budget. So, Mr Speaker, that is why I say it is a temperate Budget. It is a Budget of trial for the present administration. My contention is that it is not a question of voting so many millions and millions of naira but the point is trying to make use of the money voted. I remember that in the Supplementary Budget, lots and lots of money was voted but so many roads that were due to be tarred by the amount voted by the Supplementary Budget are yet to be tarred, and now, we are budgeting on the 1980 Estimates. So it is the responsibility of the powers that be to make use of whatever money they have voted out for the good of the common man. It is not a question of

[MR EZENWAKA]
doing it on paper and the actual project not executed and next time the project will come up again in the 1981 Budget. It is good to say one thing and do it.

Mr Speaker Sir, my contribution to the Budget debate with regard to agriculture is very serious. Agriculture has been the mainstay of this State right from the colonial regime. We could remember the work done by M. I. Okpara when he was the Premier of the then Eastern Region. In fact, it was the former E.N.D.C. and then Marketing Board that gave the former Eastern Region money to build the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. There was no oil boom at that time. But now all those good old days and what they brought us are gone. I should suggest that this Government has to revitalize agriculture to the good of the common man.

In doing so, I should say that they should introduce some system of mechanization in agriculture. When you look at our growing population, you will see that we have lukewarm attitude to work especially working with the old outdated implements for farming. The government should explore avenues of making meaningful mechanization of agriculture in order to make the growing generation feel interested in that operational exercise.

When we look at our palm produce you will see that there is a sharp decrease in the quantity produced. There are two reasons which I see as responsible for this. One, there is no device, up to date device, in the cutting down of oil-palm heads. No one likes to risk his life to climb very tall trees, and if you ask somebody to go and cut it down, he will charge you very heavily and when you want to sell it you don't gain. So the best thing to do is to leave the whole thing. I should think that the government should have learnt from the Malaysian countries that have superseded Nigeria in the export of palm produce and learn from them the devices they used in cutting down palm produce. This is a very serious issue. I should also think that the Government should give some agricultural subsidies to our rural farmers.

Another important feature of the Okpara regime was regular visits to palm plantations, rubber plantations, and the large areas where farmers

plant yams especially in Abakaliki. After the annual inspection by the Agricultural Officers, they recommend the amount to be given to those rural farmers to assist them. They were called and some money was paid to them to help keep up their workers in the farms, but that exercise has gone with the war. I think this Government has to revise this system in order to help the common man. Why I am saying this, Mr Speaker is that unless the impact of the present administration is felt in the rural sectors of this State, I do not think that they will take this Government seriously, because when you look around you will see that suffering revolves mainly on the common man. The only way you can help the common man is to help him feed well, then he will say that you have given him the best government. But once a common man does not feed, he suffers from payment of his children's fees, tax for the State, the church and the clubs and almost everything. This invariably leads to death and revolution from below, and you know revolution is an ill wind which blows nobody good.

Then on Industry and Technology much is left to be desired. Loans should be given to small-scale industrialists to help them get on with their industries. In fact, there is a group of small-scale industrialists who are operating in Anambra State who, on cross examination, will say that the Government of Anambra State is the only Government that has not recognized the association of small-scale industrialists. This is very serious. The present Administration should try to help these small-scale industrialists to grow, and by so doing, they could organize trade fairs for these industrialists in order to test the viability and the genuineness of their products, and even give them encouragement or anything that will serve as an incentive. If these small-scale industrialists are helped, it will go a long way in strengthening our economy.

On government-owned industries, I should say that it does not augur well for any government to interfere with the administration of government-owned industries. These privately owned industries should be made to operate and be given enough latitude to manage the day to day operation of their industries. This is so because political interference

often obstructs the smooth running of administration in any industry. Whenever an industry is established, there is always an Article or Memorandum of Association under which it operates, and it is not fair for any part of the Government to disturb the workings of the industry. So, I am saying that the present administration should give them more encouragement, enough latitude in order to operate, and come in only when there is serious crisis.

Another important issue, with regard to industry, is to see that whenever industries are located, the availability of raw materials should be the main criterion for the location of those industries. Political consideration should be a minor issue. It does not pay any government to establish an industry that will cost over twelve or twenty million naira, and after sometime abandon it due to non-availability of raw materials. This is a very serious issue because I see that in the location of industries political consideration plays a lot of part. It should play a secondary part and not a major role.

On co-operative distributorship system in this State, there is little or no progress. Why I say this is that most co-operatives do not receive any of the items or materials allotted to them. Sometimes they miss on the way. Sometimes it is reported that they have been sent to them, but when one gets to those co-operative shops, one won't get them. The Government should revamp this system of distributorship in our co-operative trade. The government should also try to devise a new system which will make those goods intended for co-operative societies reach them in time to avoid missing them on the way or the saying that an unknown person has signed for them. They should try to establish a face to face contact with the chief organizers of those co-operative societies, so that they can reorganize them whenever they come to claim their goods, and not to say that somebody has come along and claimed their own quota of goods. This should be curbed.

On *Road Construction*, much has been said about it, but let me, by way of emphasis, lay a little stress on that, because I think the sense of Legislative debate is to talk and talk

over a matter. In fact, many road contracts were awarded, but the most scathing thing about these awarded contracts is that after they had been awarded and signed, one who gets to the roads would notice that nothing is being done, and now we are on the 1980 Budget. A little time, when one looks at our newspapers, and television screens, or listens to our radio one sees or hears people signing contracts. After signing the contract, it will fizzle away; no work will be done on the roads. I think the powers that be, when executing these projects, should be more alert to their duties and save the common man from decay because the common man is still looking for a saviour which he has not yet seen.

On rural health care delivery and hospitals, I think the Government has to be more serious on these especially in the provision of drugs, and, in my estimation, I do not think that the insufficiency of drugs in our hospitals is due more to lack of funds as due to the method of administration and distribution of these drugs to hospitals. I lay much blame on the officials of the hospitals over their method of distributing the drugs because the slang *out-of-stock* could not mean that our Government has no money. It cannot be so all the year-round. It can be for sometime but not all the year-round. You go to our hospitals, they tell you *out of stock, go to this chemist, go to that chemist*. Why should all these things be?

I think we should think anew and be borne anew because I do not think we have anything to offer to the unprivileged. The unprivileged man is always suffering, and it is the duty of this Legislative Assembly to talk and talk, and see that at least ten per cent. of the suffering masses benefit from this administration.

I want to highlight the case of a Committee on Health and Rural Sanitation in Imo State. While on routine tour, they came to a hospital where one of the doctors was operating in mini-operation theatre in his home, and another out-patient ward in his home all within the same hospital premises. They uncovered this and had the doctor sacked. So many cases of this prevail in other States and even here in Anambra State. It is the duty of the Health Committee of this Legislature to walk round to ensure that medicare is properly carried out in this State.

[MR EZENWAKA]

For private maternities and hospitals, the practice is for the Government to give grant-in-aid to these hospitals. But since the end of the war, the practice has gone with the war. This present administration should reintroduce this in order to give confidence and incentive to the people who are supplementing the medical services the Government should have given to the people. Health technology is basic in all the social amenities which the Government ought to provide for the people. It is worthwhile and well deserved on the part of any government to work out a system of giving grants-in-aid to provide maternity homes to serve as an incentive because the rural health maternities owned by Local Governments and Government hospitals are hardly enough for the ever-growing population of our State.

On education, I feel that the present administration is aware that the standard of education is dwindling day by day, and it is almost at zero point now, especially in the primary school sector. It is unimaginative for an auxiliary teacher to take care of between eighty to ninety children. What productivity is expected from that teacher, while there are so many secondary school leavers and First School Leaving Certificate holders roaming the streets without any work? When we talk of the falling standard of education, the reason is not far-fetched. How can a teacher care for ninety pupils and do his work effectively for a day?

After teaching some two or three lessons, he will be tired and the children will be left roaming about and when it is time for dismissal he or she will ring the bell and dismiss the pupil. When we turn back we cry that the standard of education has fallen and that the teachers are responsible. One can only do the work of one man for one is not an automatic machine which can do everything; even sometimes, a machine breaks down if it is overworked.

For example, the results of the interviews held in Aguata for the recruitment of auxiliary teachers into primary schools are yet to be released and the current academic year is running short. When your child comes back and shows you his report card and if he gets nil in all the subjects, the reason is not far-fetched. The reason is obvious because the

child has not been taught anything in the school. So, I would call on the present administration to make sure that the schools are well staffed.

The Parents Teachers Association (P.T.A.) does a lot of work. It even provides money for the purchase of chalk, renovation of school buildings, and the construction of new primary schools. Why can't the government employ teachers? All these aspects of work I had mentioned should normally have gone to the government but the communities provide them. The government should be up to its task in providing enough teachers to care for the children of those parents who are suffering for the sake of their children.

Post-primary institutions: I am wholly in support of the last speaker who has mentioned giving marching grants to communities which had built post-primary institutions. In fact, I reiterate that the provision of education is the work of the government for it is a social amenity but this responsibility has indirectly gone to the communities. Why can't the government give a little incentive to those communities that are responsive to the provision of social development in their respective communities. Even if it is ₦500.00, it is something; they will value it. So, I pray this present administration to see that grants-in-aid are given to the communities that have completed appreciable community development projects in their areas, particularly these post-primary institutions which cost lots and lots of money.

Then in conclusion, I say that the budget has little or nothing to offer for the agricultural population in terms of agricultural subsidy, improvement in the fallen standard of education, and above all, medicare attention for the rural population and urban population. The government should take note of all these things and make sure that in the 1981 budget they are cared for.

Finally, I would request people who prepare the budget to itemize everything before all such things are brought to this House. Ranging from location of industries and where they are located; road building and the roads to be built; the kilometre length of the roads and what they will cost. All these will enable the hon. Member of this august House to vet what amount should

be allotted to specific projects marshalled out by the people who prepared the budget.

Mr Speaker, with this, I am done. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I humbly rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow at nine o'clock in the morning.

Poor Sanitary Condition

Mr D. C. Nworah (Onitsha South): Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I wish to draw the attention of this honourable House to the poor situation of our toilets. Their appalling condition is embarrassing. If one enters them, in fact, one has got to remove one's shoes. The toilets stink and are covered with water. I hope good sanitation must start from this House. Well, if the cleaners are not sufficient to give us good service, more hands should be employed so that whenever we come to this House we shall have good sanitation. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr G. C. Nwafor (Ezeagu North): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I wish to say or remind this House that two weeks ago I raised a point here that something was happening at the State Library Service Board. I alerted hon. Members on what was described as a twist of democracy in that particular office. I had called on the Commissioner for Special Duties to make a categorical statement to the public as to why the investigation which had been ordered by himself should not be allowed to continue. As I have said earlier, the staff of that Board had indicated in writing their intention to give evidence against those allegations. These staff are now being exposed to various forms of victimization, oppression and being threatened of losing their job. I think it is proper that by now the Commissioner responsible for this particular office . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: On point of Order. Order No. 26 (8) of the Standing Orders reads:

The conduct of the President, Vice-President, Governor, Deputy Governor, Ministers and State Commissioners, Members of the Legislative Houses, Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion:

and in any amendment, question to a State Commissioner or Member or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order. For the purpose of this paragraph a "substantive motion" does not include any motion for the adjournment.

Several hon. Members: Motion for adjournment?

The Deputy Speaker: For the purpose of the above paragraph, substantive motion does not include any motion for the adjournment.

Mr Nwafor: Thank you, Mr Speaker. No dialogue, there will be no dialogue. Thank you.

Remove the decaying Corpse along Emene Road

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to a dead body lying about two kilometres from Emene. It is decaying and is now a source of danger to the surrounding inhabitants and even to passers-by. If I may say so, it appears that in the Nigerian society and even in this twentieth century, we do not attach much importance to human dignity. To allow a dead body to be scattered by vultures, and we look at it and pass-by, is very shameful and it shows we have no respect for human dignity.

So, I am appealing to Enugu Local Government Council or Nkanu Local Government—whichever authority is concerned—to do something about it immediately. It is very, very urgent. We show foreigners that we allow dead bodies to lie on the roads, they may say that we do kill people and allow them to decay like that. I mean it is a sorry situation and it is important that action should be taken immediately.

With this, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Make use of the Bus-stands

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, while supporting the Motion for adjournment, I will like to draw the attention of all concerned to the situation in Enugu Municipality where some humanitarian individuals like the hon. C. E. Okeke and some humanitarian organizations such as the Rotary Club, have lots and lots of money to build bus-stands along major roads in this city,

* [MR DIDIGU]

but none of these bus-stands is being used by bus drivers. Bus drivers do not even come near the stands. They park wherever they like and so passengers do not make use of these stands.

The Enugu Municipal Council, the Police and all concerned should devise means of making these bus drivers use the bus-stands. It is not only inconveniencing to other road users, seeing that these buses park anywhere they like, refusing to use parking lanes that have been provided for them near these bus-stands, thereby causing lots, and lots of traffic jam and sometimes driving themselves to crush some other smaller cars. I am of the opinion that unless sanity is brought to bear on the drivers of these buses, these bus-stands will rot away without being used.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

School Accommodation

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to point out just one thing in supporting this Motion for adjournment. And that is the current registration of children in our primary schools. My experience in the urban area in particular, is that there are so many children that they cannot be accommodated in the schools. These children will not be sent home or to any other place except this place. I am using this forum, Mr Speaker, to call on local government authorities particularly the Enugu Local Government, (the same thing may be happening in Onitsha, Abakaliki and so many other urban areas,) to ensure that enough accommodation is provided for these kids. We shall not stop them from attending schools. It is our responsibility to provide them with accommodation, with teachers and every other thing that will help them in their schooling. It is being irresponsible of us if we cannot provide these kids with facilities for at least, starting the normal primary school education.

This is only what I want to point out. Thank you.

* **Mr M. N. Egwuonwu** (Awgu South): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. In doing so, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Ministry of Works and Housing to the fact that the Awgu-Ndeaboh road is now impassable and the food which is supposed to

be brought out from Ndeaboh, Okpanku, Mpu and Odume to Awgu market is locked up and we are dying of hunger.

Furthermore, I wish to use this opportunity to congratulate the Management Committee of Awgu Local Government. They have performed very well especially the Chairman, Captain Godwin Ude. Thank you.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In supporting this Motion for adjournment, I wish to appeal to the newly constituted Electoral Commission to get to work as quickly as possible . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! We have not approved the appointment of that Commission, please.

Mr Unabia: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to appeal to the general public and to motor cyclists in particular, to place more value on their lives. It used to be common sight to see motor cyclists well kitted, but these days, motor cyclists take unnecessary pride and thereby throw away their lives. It is common feature to see motor cyclists moving, without wearing helmets. Some even go bare bodied. Some would prefer to move with one leg up, negotiating a corner and may be saluting a friend with both hands up. This is actually very dangerous and since there is lapse in checking the motor cyclists, casualties had increased because nobody checks them again. Even the authorities that are supposed to check them take the laws into their own hands and they themselves do not obey the law.

It is my appeal that since it is our duty to protect the lives of our citizens as provided for in section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution which reads thus—

the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

It is my appeal that more stringent measures be taken against those who flout the law.

With this, I beg to support and beg 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 this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Friday 16th May, 1980 at 9 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 16th May, 1980
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, this evening at 5 o'clock, the Speaker will be delivering a lecture titled *public Accountability in the Presidential System* at the Press Club. It is one of the series of lectures being organized by the Anambra State branch of the Nigerian Union of Journalists the purpose of which is to educate the public and members of the Press on their roles in the Presidential System. I enjoin all hon. Members to attend this lecture as I believe there will be a lot to learn from it.

Honourable Members have received correspondence from the Governor's Office signed by the Principal Secretary to the Governor, Mr D. E. N. Agbo which reads thus:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Government House,
Enugu.

15th May, 1980.

GH/S. 612/40.
The Hon. Speaker,
House of Assembly,
Enugu.

Dear Hon. Speaker,
The Reconstitution of the Existing Statutory Bodies and the Establishment of New Statutory Bodies in Anambra State

Further to my letter No. GH/S. 612/38 of 7th May, 1980, I am directed by His Excellency, the Governor, to inform you that a change has been made in respect of the membership of Electoral Commission. In consequence, therefore, you should please delete Mr James Agbo and substitute Mr Stephen U. Uwaemenam in his place.

2. I am copying this letter to the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary to the Government, for information and guidance.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. N. AGBO
Principal Secretary to the Governor

This letter means that the name, *Mr Stephen U. Uwaemenam* will now replace the name, *James Agbo* in the list which was earlier on announced. This means too that the Committee screening members of this Commission will now screen Mr Stephen U. Uwaemenam among others and not James Agbo as earlier announced.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria

Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you, Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute the very few points which I wish to contribute on this Estimates. As a matter of fact, I will not waste much of your time.

An hon. Member: Is the microphone working?

Mr Okeke: It is working. People have said so much about the budget. The budget is made from the old system, in fact, a carbon copy of the colonial style, big for big, and small for small for ever. That is what they maintain as general order. This is what is contained in the General Orders (G.O.), that is, stay where you are. Anyway I don't want to bother you so much on that.

I will now go straight to water-supply which is very essential. Water is now gold and silver in Enugu municipality. If you check on the road, most cars and motor cycles, have all become water tankers. If you see the water they carry it is nothing but mud water. I wonder what has happened to the money we approved last three months to keep essential commodity like water in Enugu. I don't see any improvement. The water problem still remains worse than what it was before the Supplementary Estimates.

The reason is this. We have a Ministry we call Public Utilities which is supposed to take care of this water-supply and we have also the Water Corporation. I don't know which of the two will be responsible for this shortage of water-supply. During the election campaign we promised the electorate that we shall give them good water-supply and good roads.

[MR OKEKE]

I am surprised to see that up till now here in Enugu, one cannot get water but one may get beer. You can buy whisky and other drinks but it is impossible to get common water. Many areas in Enugu, such as Achara Layout, Coal Camp and areas around Coal Corporation have not got water since the end of the war.

The reason is this, the technicians employed by the Water Corporation have all gone back to Imo State leaving behind for us, inexperienced mechanics to man the engines that give us water. I am really very happy to say that the only way out, in order to solve the water problem in the area is to merge Water Board with Public Utility so that we know, which Ministry is responsible for water supply. But I feel the two institutions, Water Corporation and Public Utilities existing independently can never yield a good result. I remember the promises made to some areas here in Enugu. We are talking of immorality in schools. If you leave your house, say in the evening, you will see children between the ages of three and thirteen years carrying containers in search of water.

So, I now appeal to this House to see that the State Water Corporation is merged with the Public Utilities so that the Commissioner in charge will be fully responsible for water supply.

I come to *Agricultural Development Authority (A.D.A.)*. The A.D.A. is a corporation like the Water Corporation. This Office is solely responsible for preserving our grains and cold rooms but you will be surprised to see that since the end of Nigerian civil war, every thing reserved by the corporation is nowhere to be seen. They buy so many machines for their work but you find that they cannot do their work again because the technicians to maintain the machines are not there. The machines are no more being maintained and so the materials are lying waste down there.

If you go to Zik Avenue, the machines are still lying idle there but if you go to the Ninth Mile Corner where they are supposed to have their livestock feed, you will find nothing there because the so-called management does not appear to be serious over those materials. I suggest we better scrap that Corporation and give it a new name. So I am suggesting that A.D.A. should be transferred back to the

Ministry of Agriculture, because they no more serve any purpose. I remember the A.D.A. sold an egg at 3k during the Okpara regime; now their eggs cost more. And they buy from other agriculturists. The cause is best known to them.

Open Maintenance Workshop

I would suggest also that there should be a central workshop to take charge of the maintenance of government vehicles. This central workshop will be set out in the local government areas, getting all the vehicles at one point say the Ministry of Works, Works Unit will not help the present administration because the Works Unit is worn out. The present machines are new and they come with new ideas. If the machines are packed in the Ministry of Works, they cannot be repaired in a month, but if the Works Services Unit is spread out, somebody will be directly responsible for them and this reduces excessive waste.

You buy a machine, after two or three months, you will abandon it because nobody cares and nobody mends it. If you go round to some local government areas, you see many caterpillars lying down in the field. If you ask what is happening, you will be told, "the machines are bad, and there is nobody to repair them. The only place where they can be repaired is in the Ministry of Works". I think it is better if the workshop is sited at the places where the men well trained will repair them easily. This done, will conserve our economy.

Buying a vehicle is one thing but another thing is maintaining it. We vote much money to buy some machines but we do not care to repair them; so, the purchases we make are useless because once there is a breakdown you cannot repair them. I think it is because of the policy of the present government that the machines are lying down there. It may be they have no body to maintain the machines. The people who place the order don't know what they are placing the order for. They simply say part number this, or part number that. They don't know what the parts are all about. In fact, we lack mechanical engineers. The mechanical engineers we have are those who qualify on paper. Real engineers or technicians don't need paper. The paper is as simple as this paper I have in my hand. Real technicians do not care to see the paper; they know where to touch the machine.

If you go to a place like Coal Camp, you will see so many technicians. They are not trained in any University but they serve the purpose. But if you want this machine to be repaired by the University Engineers, they cannot do it because they are not trained on the job. In this regard, you must be an expert in one thing. A mechanic who is well trained in one type of vehicle cannot do well in another type of vehicle of which he has no knowledge.

So I am now appealing to this Government to help reduce unnecessary waste by introducing the central workshop unit, in all local government areas, and it is cheaper because two mechanics are sufficient to man eight or ten vehicles or even twenty vehicles in a month. If you go on the road you see many government vehicles lying down in the Ministry Headquarters. If you ask them what is wrong with the vehicles, they will only tell you, "they are down". This situation gives rise to many drivers manning very few vehicles.

Still on the motor mechanics: the method of employment or the method of workshop users, we don't make these to be experts in mechanical engineering. We need them to be actual engineers who can do the work at cheaper rate, and if possible, by contract because it costs us twenty times to repair. The people in charge do not know that if one buys something, one will repair it. So I am now calling on the Government to help and see these things that happen.

School Year: This is a very painful thing. When schools will reopen by January second or third immediately after Christmas, it does not suit so many families. Mr Speaker Sir, I think every family will feel it as I feel it that after spending for the Christmas and the New Year, the next day is the reopening of schools. If you reopen the schools at that time, the parents and the children are still at home. I would like this school system to go back to the former position, that is, three times a year and not three months.

An hon. Member: Good talk!

Mr Okeke: We adopted the method through our missionaries who knew the best way to handle the school system. So I would like the Governemnt to go back to the old method of reopening schools.

Mr P. U. Unabia (Ezza South): On a point of Order. There is a Motion already in the House for a change in school year, so he should not discuss it here.

The Deputy Speaker: That is noted. You have been informed the hon. Member for Enugu West (*Mr Okeke*) that the Motion is already on the Floor of the House for debate.

Mr Okeke: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me go to salaries. We have our chiefs selected from towns, villages, and our Government recognized them. I wonder why the chiefs are still hanging about without being paid any allowance.

Several hon. Members: Say it loud.

Mr Okeke: I want the chiefs to be paid. They are members of this family. They are chiefs. A chief is an elderly man who is above corruption. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Okeke: Under recognition, I feel they are the first gentlemen from the family or town level to be selected, and therefore, there is no more manual labour to become a chief. A chief buys in the same market, and of course, he cannot remain without being paid. So, Mr Speaker the issue should be taken to the appropriate quarter to arrange payment to all the chiefs; all of them. We choose them, we recognize them, we give them certificates, and therefore, they are entitled to be paid. (*Interruptions*)

I am sure I am protected. With the payment of these chiefs, Mr Speaker, I better stop so far. Thank you.

Mr J. O. Akunne (Aguata North Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognizing me. In contributing to the debate on the Appropriation Bill of Anambra State, 1980, I wish to associate myself with the views already expressed by some of the hon. Members on this issue on the Floor. In fact, I am particularly happy that this budget portrays His Excellency's determination to give this State a new lease of life.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): Say it loud!

Mr Akunne: First of all, I have to remark that this amount of ₦321 million provided in this Estimate is too small compared with what is obtainable in our sister State like Imo. I wonder what this amount will really do if we are serious.

[MR AKUNNE]

I will like to treat my debate in three columns. First is road. I observe that much emphasis is being placed on urban roads than the rural roads. Emphasis should be shifted from the urban roads to rural roads where the bulk of our population is living. It is very regrettable that Nnewi-Nnobi-Ekwulobia-Umunze-Ibinta Road, which is now the longest State Road, has only ₦800,000 allocated to it in this Financial Year. I really wonder what this amount will do to that road even if it is for tarring. It can't even do from Nnewi to Nnobi.

I am therefore appealing to this Government to vote more money for that road in order to make it passable. I am urging this Government to place emphasis on award of road contracts to indigenous contractors with good record of performance. Such practice, if adopted, will help to conserve our foreign exchange.

Water: It is a known fact that many Communities contributed money to the State Water Board for the purpose of providing them with water but it is unfortunate that none of the communities that deposited this money has up-till now seen even a pipe or a drop of water. So I appeal to this Government to see that affected communities are given water immediately or refunded their money with interest.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): No refund. We want water.

Mr Akunne: I am saying this because most of the communities in my constituency are victims of this Government neglect. Towns like Umana, Ikenga, and Ezinifite have all deposited money with this State Water Board even before the war and I wonder why they should not have the water that has been paid for. These people have experienced untold hardship since they could not get the water nor the money they paid to the Government. So, I will like them to have the water or the money refunded to them.

Industry: Mr Speaker Sir, it is very disheartening to see that Aguata with its population and size has not even a natural or artificial industry. (*Applause*)

The Deputy Speaker: Order !

Mr Akunne: In fact, it seems that Government has forgotten the people living in that area. So, I would like the Government to at least site one industry in that area whether natural or artificial. The people of Aguata have been neglected by the previous Government, so I would like this Government to site one industry there. In fact, all the forty-five secondary schools in that area were built by the community including the Anambra State Arts and Science at Oko—they were all built by the community. Since I was born, there has never been a single government project going on in that locality. I would therefore like the Government to remember the people of Aguata this time. If we are not remembered this time, in fact, we may opt to join our sister State, Imo. (*Laughter*)

Town and Country Planning: There are a number of towns which have long been overdue to be accorded urban status. These towns are: Ihiala in Ihiala Local Government Area, Ekwulobia in Aguata Local Government Area, Otuocha in Otuocha Local Government Area, Adani in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area and Awgu in Awgu Local Government Area. I will like the Government to accord them urban status within this financial year as this would help to check the drift of people into Enugu or Onitsha.

Mr S. N. Ozoekwem (Ezeagu South): Thank you Mr Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to the Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980. May I, Sir, start with roads which are the general problem in every local government area now in the State. Mr Speaker Sir, in doing so, I would like to comment more on the road which passes through my local government area. This is a new project road anyway. The road takes off from Ninth Mile Corner-Owa-Ebenebe-Ngbakwu-Enugu-Agidi-Abagana. It was only allocated the sum of ₦1.5 million for a start. I am appealing to the Executive incharge of Works to please make sure they put more interest in this very road which connects a lot of thickly populated and food producing local government areas. Ebenebe as an example, is well-known as an area that produces garri and it even affects a part of my constituency too where garri costs thirty cups for ₦1.

Mr Speaker Sir, why I am clamouring for this road is that not only that it affects so many people in the State, but it is also a short cut and an alternative route to Enugu, at least it will help to reduce the congestion on Enugu Onitsha Road if the road is through. So, I am praying the Ministry incharge of this road to make use of the money voted for the road project immediately and not divert it to another project. At the same time, this my appeal affects the other road which starts from Udi to my constituency. It is the only road we have that fully connects Udi, Amokwe, Obeleagu-Umana and Aguobu-Owa. This road has been there for a long time and has been maintained by the two local government areas all the time. It is the only link road we have to communicate the people of the two local government areas, and I feel that if the road is passable, it will help a lot of my people to evacuate their agricultural products. Now that the rainy season has set in our area is no more passable, and you people can believe me that Ezeagu has no single tarred road, or a well-graded road which you can cross now at this rainy season. That being so, I am appealing seriously to the Executive to please rally round and see what they can do to save us from this hardship.

Secondly, on health, I will only make serious comment in view of the fact that health care is badly needed in all the rural areas. It is my view that hospitals should be extended to more local government areas so as to help lessen the congestion in the township hospitals. If you go to Teaching Hospital today or Park Lane Hospital you will find people who have been there for three days without attention. I feel that if more hospitals are built in the rural areas, it will reduce this congestion. In fact, it is true to remember there is a provision for that in the Appropriation Bill which says that new hospitals will be built. I am still appealing to the Executive when allocating the hospitals that Ezeagu is one of the areas that badly needs a hospital because we have not even the so-called health centre. The health centre which we have, as it were, is quite an empty one; no drugs, no staff there. I do not see how people of over 200,000 in population should live without medical care. If you go to the Teaching Hospital, and assess the patients lying there, you find that most of them are from my area.

Please Sir, on *Rural Electrification*, I wish to inform this honourable House that it appears to me that my constituency is being sabotaged or a victim of what you people call dichotomy. Please Sir, why I am saying this is that I have gone through the whole list of this rural electrification, but my constituency is quite taken off from that very list; not even a single town in that community. I view this omission as a slight on my people, because out of 177 towns scheduled to be given electricity, not even a town in my constituency is included. I have the list here.

Many hon. Members: Read out !

Mr Ozoekwem: Please Sir, in going further, let me comment on *Education* I will only associate myself fully with the hon. Member who has spoken on this very point. There is no need going into it again. I agree entirely with his opinion that the money allotted for the new construction project should be carved out and used for the equipment of secondary and technical schools. I don't see why our children should study under mango trees, while we vote more money to build more higher institutions. I think we have got to maintain the existing ones before we jump into building new ones. Sir, you will please look seriously into this report about the omission of my constituency in connection with rural electrification. I do not know what to tell them. Please Sir, send this message to the appropriate quarters for them to correct the error with immediate effect before things are over.

With this Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker Sir. My point of Order is that we have not formed quorum.

Many hon. Members: He wants to go to Nnewi.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! But quorum was formed before the meeting started.

An hon. Member: Yes. Some of us have gone to committee meetings.

Mr G. A. Enendu (Idemili North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill and

[MR ENENDU]

in doing so, Sir, I have to talk on three cardinal issues some of which we promised the electorate during the electioneering campaign. These are, roads, water and education. On Roads, I will start by congratulating the State Government for having started work on some of the roads in Anambra State, and I wish they will step up that effort. It is alarming or surprising to hear hon. Members complaining of getting poor allocation to their roads while, in fact, the only State road that passes through my constituency, as can be seen in subheads 22 and 30 of Head 2281, has no money allocated to it at all. Well, if that is an omission, I think it is a serious one, and I think something should be done about it. Since we have about ₦9.6 million in the present Estimates unallocated, I think it is only wise that this money should be shared to those roads that have no allocation. I wouldn't belabour the point because I know many hon. Members have spoken about the importance of roads in Anambra State.

Coming to *Education*, Sir, we know education is a ladder to social, economic and political emancipation and we cannot afford to neglect it. In the past, we tended to think so much about secondary schools or universities, forgetting the primary schools which is the child's basic foundation into the education career. It is really unfortunate that ten years after the end of the civil war, our people still study under very inhuman environments. In many of these village schools, the teachers have no stools, no tables and at times, no blackboards. The children who go to such schools sit on muddy floors and use women benches for desks. The walls of the schools are not plastered not to talk about painting which is regarded as luxury.

We often say that we owe a lot to the children of Anambra State and I am suggesting that the only way we can show that we actually want to assist them is by giving grants to all the primary schools. I am therefore calling on the Government to make a grant of ₦5,000 to every primary school in Anambra State. We have allotted ₦2 million to Universal Primary Education, and if you give ₦5,000 to each of these schools, it will not be up to ₦2 million. Why I make this point is that this money should be utilized by the headmasters of the schools, to the advantage of the schools with the strict supervision of the Education Officer in-

charge of the Local Government Area. The headmasters know their problems, and they know what they want to do with the money.

In the past, we will stay in Enugu and award a contract for 50,000 desks to a contractor somewhere. He does the job haphazardly, deliver it to the schools and these desks get damaged within two to three weeks. Besides, if it costs ₦50 to build a desk here in Enugu, certainly the headmaster will use ₦25 to build it in the village. This is why I am suggesting that some money be given direct to these schools so that the headmasters can take proper care of their schools.

An hon. Member: Good talk !

Mr Enendu: Still on *Education*: On bursary award, I remember we passed a Motion in this House, urging the Executive to make adequate financial provision in this present Estimate so as to give bursary award to the students of Anambra State origin . . .

An hon. Member: It is there in the Estimates.

Mr Enendu: Unfortunately, the Government has come up with what they call selective bursary. If we embark on this selective bursary award, we will do more harm than good. The only thing we are going to achieve is probably to disintegrate the students, because certainly, when one student receives bursary award and others do not get there would be no cordiality among them. So, I am suggesting that we should urge the Executive to give bursary award to all students of Anambra State origin. Some States give bursary awards of up to ₦400 to ₦700 per annum. We are not asking the Executive to grant them ₦700 or ₦400, but all we need is to give the students a sense of belonging; simply to show them that their State Government recognizes their existence. We can start with anything and then leave the students to play the role of 'Oliver Twist' who always asks for more and we will listen to them. So, I am urging the Executive to pay heed to our Motion; the Motion that was passed unanimously in this House.

If we embark on this selective bursary award, what is the basis? Who will receive it and who will not receive it? How are we sure that god-fatherism or as man-know-man. (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member: Or godmotherism !

Mr Enendu: . . . And other things that had plagued this State for very long. So, I am suggesting here that bursary awards should be made available to all the students of Anambra State origin. Policies are made with genuine intentions, but at times, we detect some foul play in the course of their execution.

Now, coming to *Water*: water is one of the basic needs of the people and that is where our people want the greatest help. Water we know is one of the necessities of life, next to air and we shall leave no stone unturned in our effort to give water to our people, particularly in the rural areas. If you look round, you will see that some sea tsare vacant in this House. Sometime ago an hon. Member complained of cholera outbreak somewhere, and since then the hon. Member has not been here.

An hon. Member: He was here yesterday.

Mr Enendu: Oh! he was here yesterday, I am happy to hear that. More often than not we always hear about boreholes being sunk here and there, but I must emphasize here that all the towns in my constituency have no water-supply. Ogidi, one of the first towns to launch water scheme in the then Eastern Region uptill today has no water. The scanty water we have at Ogidi serves only the Iyi-Enu Hospital and few houses around it. I am calling on the Commissioner for Public Utilities to check these facts himself and see that something is done about that.

It is disheartening also to note that the current Estimates for water scheme and improvement of existing water-supply have no definite allocation which shows that probably, those areas with unfinished water projects may not be touched this financial year. As you all know, no one can do without water. Water is one of the essential necessities of life and I share the view of the hon. Gentleman who said that it will be wrong to leave water-supply in the hands of the Corporation. I am calling on the Government to dissolve the Water Corporation and its functions transferred to the Ministry of Public Utilities which is the basic reason for which that Ministry was created. In fact, if we extract electricity and water-supply from the Ministry of Public Utilities, what then is the use of that Ministry ?

Only environmental sanitation will be left. So I am calling on the State Government to disband the Water Corporation and transfer its functions to the Ministry of Public Utilities. These people are the right people to handle the job of water-supply in Anambra State.

Mr Speaker Sir, as I have said earlier on, many hon. Members have actually touched most of the points, but I hope that when we go into the Committee of Supply, we will make some adjustments in the Estimates.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill.

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to contribute. As a matter of fact, I very much associate myself with the views already expressed by some hon. Members. I have nothing but praises for those who prepared this Bill. In fact, as I see it, it conforms with the provisions of the Constitution by ensuring that amenities would be spread in the next nine months to all parts of the State urban and rural areas alike. It is also noteworthy to observe that priorities are well placed. My only fear Mr Speaker, is in the area of road construction. While it is appreciated that ours is a developing country, where we have little or no technical know-how in some areas, I think we will be harming ourselves if we do not take care in the way contracts are awarded, particularly to indigenous contractors. You will agree with me that most of our indigenous contractors are never serious in their jobs. Some of them abandon their jobs, some are not interested in executing them. As soon as they append their signatures on the contract agreement, they begin to think of flashy cars that they will buy, they begin to think of how many girl friends they will acquire.

So, Mr Speaker, I am insisting that we think of foreign contractors. Some of our indigenous contractors are not in a hurry to execute the job, but they are impatient in enjoying the profits in advance, that is, before the job is completed. So we have to be very careful in that area. I know many people would want to hang me for saying the truth. But personally, as the representative of my constituency, if I had my choice, I would prefer a foreign contractor to an indigenous contractor. It is true that

[MR OBUNA]

some of them are good and we should always remember the good ones. In fact, I have not heard of any foreign contractor abandoning his job, unless that contractor is working under the cover of a Nigerian contractor.

An hon. Member: SATT !

Mr Obuna: But our Nigerian contractors take delight in abandoning their jobs. If the huge sum of ₦26,125,000 allocated to Land Transport, Roads and Bridges in the Capital Expenditure is to benefit all, I suggest that well tested and reliable contractors get these contracts so that the Government will be saved the embarrassment that always accompanies such abandonment. Here again, I would like to warn that the I.T.T. and the Water Board should be told in the language they will understand, that wherever they damage the road in the process of installing one thing or the other, they should at the same time mend it before they leave the spot. In Enugu here, you see a lot of spots being damaged by these people and leaving them like that unrepaired.

On *Agriculture* Mr Speaker, it is my submission that agricultural extension services should really extend to rural areas. I have in mind communities in Awkunanaw who are in dire need of these services. These workers should go to the villages, teach them how to apply fertilizer to their crops and some other jobs. It is unfortunate that these peasant farmers in Awkunanaw like their counterparts in other areas are being treated the way they are now being treated. They struggle daily to produce food items that are sent to Enugu for the teeming masses of Enugu, but they are never encouraged. They are not given loans, not educated on how to use modern implements. So I think that would be the job of the agricultural extension services.

We know very well that before the war, there were areas in this country that were being described as barren lands, but today they produce more food than those areas that were termed fertile. The reason being that they were encouraged, particularly in the North. They are being encouraged, given them modern implements and loans. Irrigation projects are going on there too. So you find that they are producing more food than the southern part of this country. So it is up to this Government to help our peasant farmers.

Again, it is very unfortunate that in this part of the country, somebody who is a lawyer by profession, who has never cultivated any farm, and who has not even a poultry farm is chosen as the best farmer of the year and perhaps, sent overseas to tour overseas countries hoping that he is representing the farmers.

On *Health*, I think the five point something million naira voted for this Ministry is, in my mind, not sufficient. I think the problem of shortage of drugs in our hospitals has no solution except perhaps the establishment of a drug manufacturing company. In this State, I think, we have reached a stage where we should think seriously about setting up a drug manufacturing house. We all know that it is a fact that if you go to some of our hospitals and a doctor prescribes medicine, the pharmacy division will tell you *not in stock come back tomorrow*. If you go back tomorrow, you will receive the same reply. So, I suggest the government should go into drug manufacturing or encourage some businessmen to go into it. That would definitely help us.

Mr Speaker Sir, I wonder what impact the ₦30,000.00 would make on project 30 subhead 13 on Capital Expenditure—construction and equipment of eye hospitals. It is a common knowledge that eye diseases are so rampant in this country and time has come when we should think of setting up of eye hospitals. Only recently, I heard that over three thousand people in this country are blind and that we may be lucky that the percentage is not high. But they say that prevention is better than cure. I would therefore suggest that we think seriously of setting up of an eye hospital.

On *Water-supply*, I am happy that ₦3.7 million has been set aside for the construction and improvement of urban water-supply. I earnestly hope, Mr Speaker, that Achara Layout, Idaw River Layout, Awkunanaw—
(Interruptions)

An hon. Member: Ekwueme !

An hon. Member: Shehu Shagari !

Mr Obuna: . . . And particularly the four communities that were merged with the Enugu urban in 1976, namely, Amechi, Akwuke, Obeagu and Ugwuaji are given. These were considered to be fit for the development planning of Enugu municipality but unfortunately, when it comes to amenity, they

are completely forgotten. I think what is good for the urban dwellers is also good for rural dwellers, and since they are merged with the urban, it is only good that they should be treated as such. That is, they should get all the amenities that are seen in the urban areas. I therefore urge the Ministry of Public Utilities to bear in mind that what is good for the urban dwellers is also good for the rural dwellers.

Education: We all know, Mr Speaker, that in Anambra State, there is a group that is backward educationally, while the other group is comparatively advantaged in all aspects of education. This is why these educationally backward groups find it difficult to get employment anywhere. You find that they are only considered fit as drawers of water, hewers of wood, messengers and night-watchmen. Whilst these other groups secure lucrative and high posts, I believe that there is a way out, and that way out, Mr Speaker, is to evolve a sort of crash programme, so that these educationally backward people will catch up with the other group. I am saying this with all amount of sincerity that this type of thing breeds dichotomy. (*Interruptions*)

And this time that these trampled groups are trying to raise their heads, there is noise everywhere. So, Mr Speaker, we should try to guard against such things if we are really one united State. This thing I am suggesting happened in the North and the Federal Government took a wise decision by having a sort of crash programme so that the people in the north were made to go to certain schools in order to catch up with the southerners.

An hon. Member: Are they catching up really?

Mr Obuna: Yes, they are catching up.

An hon. Member: All crash programmes will crash!

Mr Obuna: Or if we are to bridge the gap between the haves and the haves-nots.

An hon. Member: Kill the haves!

Mr Obuna: The only way out is to make sure that education is made a very serious programme in this part of the country.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I appeal to everyone of us in this House of Assembly, to guard our speeches to make sure that we do not incite

certain people. Our motto is *Peace and Unity* but unfortunately in this august House, I noticed that some hon. Members are talking of blood flowing. I do not know what it means.

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. It is Order No. 26 (6) of the Standing Orders on imputation of motives. I feel that the hon. Member who has the Floor now is imputing improper motives and also insinuating this House. May the Speaker please direct him to use proper words.

The Deputy Speaker: May the hon. Member for Enugu South (*Mr Obuna*) please confine himself to the debate on the budget.

Mr Obuna: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am only imploring my fellow Legislators to realize that they are leaders in their own right and should behave as such. They should know how they talk and it should not do us any good because I know that those who live in glass houses do not throw stones. If they know that by imputing motives... (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, please protect me. All I am saying, Mr Speaker, is that we are leaders and should show good example.

Thank you very much.

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker. It is Order No. 8 on the Standing Orders on Quorum of the House, and I quote—

The quorum of the House shall be not less than one-third of all the Members of the House.

I am calling the attention of the Speaker to the fact that the quorum of this House is not formed. One-third is not present.

The Deputy Speaker: I am fully convinced that we had formed quorum before we started. Furthermore, the Finance Committee of the House is meeting right now and it is a part of the Assembly.

Mr F. A. Azegba (Igbo-Eze Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I like to say that this Bill is in a way objective and real, and should be considered with some caution and precaution. Mr Speaker Sir, now that we are operating a new system of Government in the country, we must not adhere strictly to the old ways and means of

[MR AZEGBA] doing things. This new administration is destined to guarantee the welfare of all citizens. It is also destined to guarantee an even distribution of amenities to all corners of the State.

On the strength of this, Sir, I am urging this honourable House to introduce what I may call *Constituency Budget*. This type of Budget will clearly indicate, apart from the personal emoluments, what is allocated to each constituency every financial year. (Applause) There is certainly no spot or area in Anambra State that does not belong to a constituency, and there is no need setting aside amounts of money for certain areas and townships, because we belong to certain constituencies. This type of budget is necessary because people in certain constituencies have suffered for many years because of lack of amenities. We cry not necessarily because we have little money in the State, but because of the way this money is spent and the way it affects individual constituencies. I have to comment on a few items on the budget.

On agriculture, we cannot boast of mechanized agriculture in our State at the moment. We have, therefore, to make use of what we have, that is, our local farmers. As some hon. Members have rightly pointed out, our farmers are not given due incentives. The real farmers should be encouraged. In some areas, what is obtained during agricultural show is funny as some hon. Members have pointed out. A clerk in the office may win the first prize simply because he showed a tuber of yam which he probably bought from the market.

On roads, Mr Speaker, I want to say that the people of my constituency have not at the moment, experienced or felt the existence of this new Administration as far as road-work is concerned. All the roads in Igbo-Eze Local Government Area are now very bad and not even one of them is tarred. What we need now is grading of our local roads.

The following roads in my constituency are not passable at the moment: Umuida/Unadu/Akpanya, Ogrute/Igogoro/Okpo and Ogrute/Umuopu Roads. The roads are now very bad. I therefore call on the Government to send to Igbo-Eze some tractors or graders to work on these local roads. I also call on the State Government to take over some of the local roads in Igbo-Eze.

On *Education*, the sum of about ₦40 million set aside for education this financial year is commendable. There is an aspect of education which people try to forget always, and that is, adult education. This is neglected and the aim of establishing adult education is, therefore, grossly defeated. The Government has failed in its duty here as provided in Section 18, subsection 3(d) of the Constitution which states that Government should eradicate illiteracy by providing free adult literacy programme. The Ministry of Education has drawn a programme for adult education. The instructors are paid a paltry sum of ₦5 per month. This is very shameful. Nobody has ever seen adult education certificate, registered textbooks or educational materials. The Government should do something to provide a real programme for adult education. ₦200,000 estimated for adult education this financial year is just child's play.

On *Health*, good health is a human right. A person is said to be in good health only when he is in a state of complete physical, mental and social alertness and not just free from disease. When we talk of health, we normally think of the number of hospitals built not the number of health centers or dispensaries. Little efforts are directed to the environments where the masses live. We do not think of the good water we drink, the air we breathe, the houses we live in, and even the clothes we wear. We don't even think of the food we eat, whether it is balanced or not. We do not even think of our essential services, our recreational facilities and our health services. These are very important to health and I am, therefore, calling on the Ministry of Health to organize an enlightenment campaign on public and private cleanliness. In fact prevention is better than cure.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

ADJOURNMENT

Unused Vehicles

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till Monday at 10 o'clock. In moving this Motion for adjournment, Mr Speaker, I still repeat my statement or my request two days ago as regards thousands of unused vehicles lying down in some Ministries. What are they there for? We lack money

to purchase new vehicles and yet we cannot maintain the existing ones. I still request the authorities to endeavour to clear those vehicles from the Ministries and dispose of them by auction sale.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehele): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, Mr Speaker, I would like to raise one of the issues which I consider very effective. First of all, I will start by congratulating His Excellency the Governor for making certain appointments to some Commissions in the State in compliance with Section 187 of our constitution; in fact, in particular; I have in mind—

THIRD SCHEDULE

PART II

C—State Electoral Commission

7. *The Commission shall have power—*

- (a) *to organize, undertake and supervise all elections to local government councils within the State;*
- (b) *to tender such advise as it may consider necessary to the Federal Electoral Commission on the compilation of the register of votes in so far as that register is applicable to local government elections in the State.*

In short, Sir, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of organizing and delimitating council constituencies. That is my understanding. I am mentioning this because in Enugu Local Government Area, there are about thirty wards. Out of these wards, the entire Nike Community with a population of about 31,000 has only two representatives as against the rest of the population of 370,000 that make up Enugu Local Government Area. On the average, these thirty will make up councils in the Enugu Local Council. On the average each council represents 5,000. But then with a population of some 30,000 making up Nike, you find that with only two representatives, one councillor represents 15,000 as against 5,000. I think this anomaly should be corrected. I am saying this as a kind of reminder to enable the newly constituted Commission keep it in view in the future for purposes of organizing the future elections in the Enugu

Local Government. This population statistics as I have quoted is correct and the source is from the Officials Edition 4 of the Anambra State Population Estimates with the projection for the year, 1980.

Having said that, I would also like to emphasize that it is partly due to lack of effective representation that all these areas I have mentioned must suffer from utter neglect because unless you have people to speak for you effectively, you are left out in the scheme of things. As a matter of fact, that was the former council established in 1976. The people who were at that council did not even know the extent of Enugu Local Government Area let alone speaking or asking to ensure an even development in the State. Much of the problems facing these people are attributable to neglect by the local government because many of their problems, if not all their problems, can come within the ambit of the Local Government Council.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, I would like also to draw the attention of this House to the sorry situation in Abakpa Nike. This time the problem arises from lack of water. Before the Military handed over power, that area used to have water constantly, but it is unfortunate that as soon as we took over, for one reason or the other, all the taps dried up. As a matter of fact, in the past six months no drop of water has appeared in the area, and I am seizing this opportunity to call on the Commissioner for Public Utilities to please go into this problem, even if it means rationing the water in such a way that they have water twice a week. I appreciate the problem but let them have water at least twice a week. It will help very much at least in improving the sanitation of the area.

I don't intend to take much of the time of the House, Mr Speaker, and I am seizing this opportunity to ask that the Question be put.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would please ask that there be love. Some of the statements or references being made on the Floor of this House are systematically becoming too emotional bordering on sentimental fanaticism. I would like us, Sir, to regard this House as one unit and confine ourselves to the

[Mr OJUKWU]
happenings in this House and not to connect what happens in this House with any outside influence, otherwise, we shall make mistakes.

I was just wondering why an hon. Member should, on the Floor of this House, suggest having a special school for special people in special area in the baptismal name of catching up. That would mean discrimination. I think if somebody wants to get taller, the only thing the person has to do is to explore ways and means of making himself tall or taller; not to undercut somebody who is already taller than the person and make him shorter so that he will be taller. This is the basic principle. Personally, I didn't cherish the idea and the venom of sentiment that was expressed in trying to discuss or deliberate on the group that is looked upon as educationally backward. Nigeria as a whole is a developing country. I don't see why a particular area should choose to be described as being wise all alone.

Having said this much, Mr Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the gloom that is gathering momentum now. The gloom is that secondary school teachers are on industrial action as at now, and I would like to say that it is advisable to open enough fronts as you can police. Yesterday it was I.M.T., today it is secondary school teachers, tomorrow we don't know whose turn next. I would urge the powers that be to nip this struggle in the bud and summon those concerned to a round table conference. I believe in the civilization of dialogue, not arms, not the use of bullets, or trying to develop thick-skin. After all, the Government has got privileges as well as responsibilities.

We have the privilege to make laws. We have also the privilege to listen to complaints of the citizens. I would rather suggest that something be done and let that thing be done immediately too to get the teachers concerned to see reason and to look into their case and if it is reasonable, to implement. All I understand they are asking for is harmonization. I don't think that there is any problem in that. It is a question of getting the statistics and making comparisons. These things cannot be done with the sword. This will be done with the will that it be done.

So, Sir, with this, I beg to support and ask that the Question be now put.

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): I stand

to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, Sir, I want to use this forum to call on the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Production to the starvation, disease and death threat posed by cassava diseases in this State, and in my Local Government Area in particular.

The diseases in question include cassava mosaic bacteria, blight and miliebug diseases which are currently attacking and destroying the young cassava plants in this State and in Awgu Local Government Area especially my constituency. The cassava strands attain a few millimetres height and die away and even those that are nearing maturity die away too with the result that when you harvest them, you get practically nothing.

This actually is dangerous to the economy of this State more especially when one realizes that the majority of our people, are subsistent agriculturists who live on this all important food item. I therefore, would say that it is high time the Commissioner concerned mobilized his team of agricultural research experts to go into fact-finding as to the cause of these diseases and possibly the method of destroying them and or in the alternative, to discover the type of specie cassava that could resist these diseases so that the people of this State in particular continue to enjoy their three square meals a day.

The Old Awgu-Enugu Road

Again, on my Local Government Area, I want to draw the attention of the Ministry concerned to the deplorable condition of the road from Awgu to Enugu, that is, the old road before the Express Way was constructed. The road has many pot-holes so that proper care be taken on it. With this the people who live along the old road would feel a sense of belonging to this State. I do not know if the neglect of this old road is as a result of the Express Road which passes through Awgu. If this is the position, it appears the people who inhabit this old route may not be thinking that they are a part and parcel of this State.

So, with this, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and move that the Question be now put.

Recruitment of Auxilliary Teachers in Ishielu Local Government

Rev. A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, I understand that an hon. Member did move on the Floor of this House a Motion

on the issue connected with the recent recruitment of auxilliary teachers in the local government areas. I am doing this as a sort of emphasis, and this emphasis is so necessary because trouble is looming in my local government area. As the representative of Ishielu West Constituency in Ishielu Local Government Area, I have received verbal and written petitions from my people, of their threat to withdraw their children from the schools till the recent recruitment exercise done is seen and evenly done. Ishielu West Constituency comprises five constituencies and in that exercise, four hundred auxilliary teachers were selected out of thousands of applicants. It is distasteful to note that out of the four hundred people selected, my constituency bagged only nine successful candidates out of five hundred applicants; Ishielu East bagged seventeen out of seven hundred applicants; Ishielu South bagged five selected candidates out of two hundred and seventeen applicants, leaving two constituencies. Ishielu Central and North, to bag a staggering number of three hundred and sixty-nine out of few candidates. In short, all of them were selected. I want to register my disappointment here because we go on talking of dichotomy; we talk of the *Ijekebe* man trampling on the people from the other areas, but here we find the faith of the *Wawa* man thrown into his own hands and he messes up.

Several hon. Members: Imperialism !

Rev. Nwafor: Now this portrays that we are not better than anybody as far as faithfulness is concerned. Again, this points out that people who have been selected as caretaker councillors should now be looked into. I see a friction of power between the Chairmen and the Secretaries of local government areas, and I think that this is because the two sides have not understood the principles of this system.

I want to use this opportunity to remind the Local Government Secretaries that it is the Chairmen of the Councillors that have the executive power, and they should stop throwing their weights about, bringing influence to bear upon whatever is done in the local government areas. This is especially true at Ishielu Local Government Area where the Secretary there has so influenced the Chairman to the end that the exercise done has been a one-sided affair. I understand that the Ministry concerned

and the Local Government Services Commission are already taking action to withdraw the result list. Because I am near the people, I will stand by them to see that Section 14(4) of the Consitution of this Republic is carried out, I won't support them even in the event of their closing their local schools and withdrawing their wards from such schools.

It is known and it may be naive that Abakaliki people do not embrace education. But people will not know that there are so many people who are eager to be educated and people are now denying them of the opportunity. It is unbelievable that in my local government area there are more than five thousand people who are ready to teach. It is unbelievable that within my very village, there are not less than fourteen School Certificate holders who are roaming about without employment. It is unbelievable that right now, I can boast of some girls who want to teach. But these girls, and boys, have not got the opportunity because people are practising; I do not know what to call it this time, as this is brother versus brother.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Ministry concerned and the Local Government Services Commission to hasten in releasing the results because my people will normally march to Ishielu Local Government Office in order to register their protest. With this, I support.

Management Board of Nigercem, Nkalagu

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki Central): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, may I use this opportunity to thank the new NIGERCEM Board. His Excellency, the Governor, two or three days ago, went there to inaugurate the Board. I wish to congratulate the members of that Board and to tell them that they have now got an opportunity to serve the nation. I will like to appeal to those who man the factors of production in Nigeria that it is their duty to serve the nation and not to serve their pockets. Now that the opportunity is offered, we are looking forward to a better era, let me say so, in the distribution of cement and higher production. The demand is great, which means that we are developing, because the use of more cement means that buildings and constructions are going on. Therefore, it is the duty of the members of this Board to see to it that every Tom, Dick and Harry concerned with the use of cement should get a fair share.

* [MR IKEH]

People fail to realize that it has never been in history that somebody was recorded as having eaten plenty of food and ridden a Limosine. What is recorded in history is one's achievement for social progress or what people have been able to do. So, anybody who has been given the chance to serve, let him make history and let him not be a person to be talked as of having run down the wheel of progress. Once again, I congratulate members of the NIGERCEM

Board and ask them to make use of their good offices. Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn until Monday 19th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Monday 19th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Submission of Committee Report

Mr Speaker: All the Committees which do not submit their reports to the Finance Committee at the close of business today, will be deemed to have no reports to make. Therefore they should make sure that these reports are submitted this morning.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State of Nigeria
Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr C. J. Ogbuka (Idemili East): Mr Speaker Sir, by way of introduction, I would disagree with the hon. Minority Leader, who, in his contribution to this debate said that this Budget is a budget of despair, nor would I accept another tag given to it by another hon. Member who said it was a starvation budget. What is noticeable, however, is that the entire budget falls in line with two previous budgets of 1978 and 1979.

In presenting the 1978-79 Budget, Col. Abubakar quoted his predecessor in office who for 78-79 Budget spoke of "decline in revenue expectations and the need to operate within the limited resources available". He then said he was doing the same for 1979-80 Budget—that was Col. Abubakar.

For this 1980 Budget the situation has not changed, although we were not told so. A look at the major sources of revenue would show what I am saying. Internal Revenue was ₦26,081,860 in the 1978-79 Budget. It was ₦32,149,280 in 1979-80 and ₦28.88 million for this Budget. Although we are budgeting for just up to December, 1980 there is no guarantee that we shall improve on the Internal Revenue figure of 1979-80.

Again, for the 1979-80 Budget, the Universal Primary Education grants and grants to Local Government Areas together stood at a total of ₦58,431,070. For 1980 the figure is ₦51.45m. Thus, although there is an increase in statutory allocation from the Federal coming to the State from ₦111,459,000 for 1979, that is, excluding the Supplementary Allocation increasing to ₦130.68m for 1980, the pre-occupation of the budget planners for 1980 in this State would have been to find a way of dragging this State out of this recurrent inpecunious circumstance, and one possible way of doing this is to pull all strings that are possible to be pulled for getting more money from Lagos. And for this, I will say a few words sooner on our relationship with the Federal Government would be advocated.

On the sectoral allocation in the entire budget, the assertion is true that the proportion of the budget that goes to recurrent Expenditure is far too high, and it is high time this State tried to find ways of putting under effective check the amount we spend on Staff and Emoluments with the accompanying Ancillary and Other Charges.

Again, because of our lean revenue resources, we should allocate money only to areas where it is manifestly necessary that allocation should be made. For instance, how essential is the allocation of a half million naira for the Executive Council Conference Hall—that is, under subhead 10 of Head 2871. And we may ask, what has happened to the present Hall or the present meeting place of the EXCO? In what company are we trying to invest the money put down under subhead 8 Head 2771 entitled purchase of shares/equity? One million naira was allocated to this.

There are a few other instances where we might find some allocations that are in fact not very essential. Allocation of more funds would have been necessary for roads because of the very clear evidence that has been since October of the deplorable state of our roads in all our Local Government Areas, in such a way that there are many places where people are afraid now that the rains are coming and that they cannot move out easily.

There should be more allocation to crops, agriculture and food production because agriculture remains the mainstay of the State's economy, and it is necessary to move in this

[Mr OGBUKA]

direction in such a way that not only our people find enough food to eat, but that revenue can be generated from agricultural sources.

More allocation would have been made to the Co-operatives because of the need to exploit fully the advantages of co-operative movement idea of agricultural and industrial production through co-operative societies as well as involving Co-operative in production and distribution of goods.

More allocation would have been made to industry because of the necessity for moving radically away from the present distribution to production, as an approach to economic enterprise, so that as much as possible this State no longer becomes a dumping ground for goods produced at Ikeja, Apapa and Kaduna. All I am saying, therefore, is that these areas need more allocations if the central allocation has been pressed for.

Relationship with Federal Authorities A well-known proverb says that those who live in glass houses must not throw stones. In saying this, I am referring to the condition which our impecunious condition places us as a result of our relation with Federal Authorities in Lagos. The disproportionate control of all public revenue of Nigeria left in the hands of Lagos by the Constitution makes it necessary that all the States have to play the good boy to Lagos in order to get some extra financial assistance over and above the usual statutory allocations. Now the centre is the great paymaster and any State which obtains its favour has to get all sorts of allocations given one name or the other, and we ask why shouldn't Anambra State be one of the favoured States?

Principally, because of the civil war which battered our economy badly, Anambra State is an area of great economic depression requiring maximum Federal assistance, but to get this assistance from Lagos, Anambra State Government must be seen clearly to adopt a humble not a petulant attitude to Lagos and it is a matter of common sense. It is very regrettable that the rather negative and unbending attitude of our State Government to Lagos Authorities has not changed. I will not apologize for repeating what I said during the Supplementary Budget that this State must adopt a deliberate collaborationist policy towards Federal Authorities, and that the NPN/

NPP accord as well as the composition of the Federal Executive and the National Assembly gives us enough opportunity to develop and work upon this policy, and at this juncture, I will say that it is not just for the Executive of this State only, I will appeal to the Minority Leader, the Majority Leader and to the Speaker himself that we all join hands and see what we can do to see that this State is pulled out from this economic quagmire we have been in for the past ten years. It requires very serious thinking. On the debate we are having now—Second Reading of the 1980 Budget, the Standing Orders say we are expected to examine the economic situation in the country, with special reference to the financial policies of our Government. I will crave the indulgence of this House to spotlight certain areas in which we should give very serious attention forgetting not only financial assistance but other forms of assistance from Lagos.

1. Special and increased financial aid to the University of Nigeria for research and capital projects which have fallen seriously below expected levels, at least in comparison with other universities in the country some of them younger than University of Nigeria Nsukka itself.
2. Speeding up the pace of moving the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (U.N.T.H.) to its permanent site and stopping the deliberate neglect of the Orthopaedic Hospital here in Enugu.
3. Elevation of Enugu Airport to an International Airport so that our traders will stop travelling to far distant places with their goods from Kano and Lagos International Airports.
4. Immediate implementation of the proposal to build an airport at Onitsha.
5. Immediate establishment of an Anambra office for issuing of import licenses.
6. Reduction to the barest minimum of tariff imposed on raw materials coming into the country for manufacturing enterprises.
7. Reduction to the barest minimum of excise duties payable on goods manufactured locally by our budding small-scale industries and lengthening of the tax-free periods allowed them.
8. Restoration of Federal matching grants for small-scale industrial credit scheme.

9. Location of large-scale industries in Anambra State.

10. Building of modern river ports in Oguta and Onitsha to lessen our dependence on Port Harcourt for goods coming into the country by sea.

Mr Speaker Sir, I now want to speak on the UNITECH blunder. Another matter of policy that should not escape the critical eye of this Assembly in this budget exercise is the startling blunder of creating a State University here "by rote." The Unitech affairs is a colossal blunder for three specific reasons.

First, as an item specifically mentioned in the Concurrent Legislative List, I will call on Members later to refer to items 55 to 58 of the Concurrent Legislative List. It is a matter for which an enabling act or law by this Assembly is clearly indicated. But because of the inexplicable hurry in getting about the affair or imperfect understanding of the constitution, this Legislature was not consulted, and so no enabling legislation was passed before the Governing Council for the University was created.

Secondly, although university, technological and post-primary education is a concurrent matter thus empowering any State to establish a state university, at least two provisions make it very necessary that this has to be done in full consultation with Federal Authorities. Item 57 (e) of the Exclusive Legislative List empowers the National Assembly to establish and regulate an authority "to prescribe minimum standards of Education for Nigeria at all levels". Thus if the concurrence of Lagos Authorities is not got for the Unitech, there is no guarantee that the degrees and diplomas to be awarded by the University in future will be acceptable outside Anambra State.

Thirdly, we have to bear in mind the supremacy clause that:

If any law enacted by the House of Assembly of a State is inconsistent with any law validly made by the National Assembly, the law made by the National Assembly shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

All I am saying is that the Federal Government has a way of circumscribing a future State university here or in any other State if it decides to do so. It is only a matter of common sense and good understanding of the constitution that before a State university is created, the concurrence of Lagos Authorities has to be obtained.

Finally, why I regard the Unitech. as a blunder, is that any serious project to be undertaken by Government of the magnitude of a university requires a lot of forward planning so that before final plans are drawn out, all necessary consultations and all data should have been obtained beforehand so that the circumstances and exigencies of the projects will be fully evaluated and taken care of. To launch such a project and then begin to do that type of homework is to put the cart before the horse, and I dare say that establishment of a university is obviously not a matter for after dinner pronouncements and it is not likeable to fixing a football tournament. It is not easy as that.

Mr Speaker, I want to refer to the issue of geographical spread for projects and appointments in this State. Section 14 subsection 4 of the Constitution says and I quote;

The composition of the Government of a State, a local government council, or any of the agencies of such government or council and the conduct of the affairs of the government or council or such agencies shall be carried out in such manner as to recognize the diversity of the peoples within its area of authority and the need to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the peoples of the Federation.

Under this, therefore, our Government is perfectly in order trying to balance projects and appointments to ensure that areas neglected in the past get something.

Many hon. Members: Say it loud.

Mr Ogbuka: We would congratulate the Government therefore for making such areas as Nkanu, Uzo-Uwani and Igbo-Eze have a sense of belonging. At the same time I will plead with the Government to realise that no single government project has ever been sited in Idemili Local Government Area since Independence. (Laughter)



[MR OGBUKA]

It is startling, nobody will believe it, that no single government project has been sited in Idemili since Independence except the recent school of nursing at Nkpor. *(Laughter)* Just that one! But this apart, Mr Speaker, it is necessary in construing this constitutional clause on geographical spread to avoid an interpretation that will cause or produce disruptive effect or cause hardship on the citizens and communities. This will happen if positions already held and projects already decided upon before the new constitution came into force are altered to the detriment of the incumbents and beneficiaries. A case in point is what happened at Nkalagu in connection with the General Manager, Mr Ilodibe, I will not elaborate as time is against me.

Several hon. Members: Please do! You have enough time.

Mr Ogbuka: Please time is against me. Mr Speaker Sir, I want to make one or two comments in connection with additional provisions that would be necessary in this Budget in connection with Co-operatives. The tempo with which co-operatives were growing in Anambra State before the war has not been reached again. The graph has fallen because from the military era up to the present Government, interests and assistance to Co-operative Societies have diminished considerably. Close to the time of Independence, there used to be one co-operative inspector to an average of a dozen co-operative societies. The number of societies and business they handle have now increased ten fold and yet the number of co-operative inspectors in the State has remained almost static. Areas in which the Government could make effective use of co-operatives and improve our economy thereby include firstly, agriculture.

The work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production should be supplemented by more encouragement of co-operatives in the area of plantation and food crop growing. Co-operative farmers are better organized than individual farmers and financial and logistic assistance to farmers will always be easier and more profitably given to farmers through co-operative farming groups. The co-operative financing agency would be a much more useful organ of economic growth if much more

money is made available to it for interest-free loans to community farmers. A great majority of them cannot obtain loans from the Nigerian Agricultural and Commercial Bank. Distribution of essential commodities including building materials and other goods produced by our companies, government-controlled industries can best reach the workers and the general populace if they are distributed through these co-operative societies and a monitoring system set up to check any abuses of the distribution system. On small-scale industries, the government could encourage numerous artisans we have in all our townships to form co-operative bodies according to the goods and services they produce. Large workshops will be set up for these societies. Machines and tools on hire basis manned by trained maintenance staff could be provided to them. A group that readily comes to mind here is the roadside mechanics whose importance to the economy is often neglected. Without them it will not be easy for us to get our cars going, and it is high time our Government recognized that some form of encouragement should be given to these roadside mechanics and other privately engaged artisans like them.

Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say that industries in the State, although the present budget is a betterment on the previous budgets, as far as industry is concerned, there is a strong case, as the hon. Member for Anambra Central (*Mr Okoye*) said, for the establishment of an Industrial Development Bank. A financial pool of funds is now necessary so that we can plan our industry on a more serious basis from year to year. Adequate financial assistance first and then other kinds of assistance to our small-scale industrialists is very necessary for sound industrial development that will grow from the grass roots. It is known that other States have made more allocations to small-scale industrialists by way of loan for more than ₦3 million than this State. I do hope that this Assembly will before they approve the present budget find it necessary to increase the paltry half a million naira in the budget we are studying for small-scale industrialist in any way possible so that we can come a little way up the ladder in this affair in comparison with other States in aid of small-scale industries.

Finally, I want to say that there are business enterprises and industries which private individuals undertake in this country and make

profits from them, but when they are abolished by Government and run through corporations and Boards, they operate at a loss. We should consider setting up such industries and hand them over to private individuals under mutually agreed terms beneficial to both Government and the individuals concerned. Take a case in point, the Niger Steel, the Housing Development Corporation, the Mineral Waters at Onitsha. If these were being handled by private individuals and groups, they would be making huge profits, but this is not the case as of now. A rethinking of what we do with our government companies and corporations has become very necessary.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the chance to make my own contribution on the Anambra State Budget Estimates for the year 1980. In my mind, I see our budget of ₦281 million as a budget to size. I describe it as a budget to size because I remember fully well that the electorate warned us during our campaigns that they would want this administration eye-mark and no more earmark.

I was looking at it, therefore, as disappointing if we had embarked upon an utopian budget of billions of naira without giving them what they want than saying that we shall spend ₦321 million and giving them what they want. However, Mr Speaker, detailed study of this budget proposals has revealed to me that it is as discriminatory as it is far from achieving the manifesto of the ruling party.

If you may allow me to go a bit into details of one of the warnings these people gave us, or the promise we made to the electorate, we promised them that this administration will surely divert emphasis from urban development to rural development, but I am saying it, without mincing words here, that this budget still lay more emphasis on urban development as against rural development. It is very well known to all the Members here that the people who pay tax in this State, if not throughout the country, are the humble village dwellers and not the urban dwellers. It is, therefore, very unfair to use the money we get from the villagers to build fly-overs at Enugu, Onitsha, Abakaliki and Nsukka, neglecting Izzi, Ezza, Ezzamgbo and Uli at Ihiala. *(Laughter)*.

My Local Government Area, Ihiala, has a population of over 200,000 people, and we pay, by way of tax averagely about ₦130,000. But then I am ashamed to say that this budget has absolutely provided nothing for all the roads we have in Ihiala Local Government Area. Head 2781, subhead 85 has ₦1.1 million provided for it in the plan period, 1976-1980. Now, this plan period has elapsed and the only thing that has been spent on this road was ₦1,000.

Mr Speaker Sir, after a series of dialogue, conference, visit and what have you with the Governor, Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and everybody in the Ministry of Works, all they could eke out for this only Road they remember in Ihiala Local Government Area is ₦100,000.

In fact, as we were going round during our campaigns, the Governor's car got stuck on the Azia/Osumoghu/Ekeututu Road and the natives were happy that he could see for one day what we have been seeing all our lives, and then when we helped him to push out his car, he promised the people that if they gave him their votes, he would tar that road when he won. We gave him all the votes; all the seats we had in Ihiala Local Government Area were given to the Nigieran People's Party Government, and as at now, that road Osumoghu/Ekeututu ... *(Laughter/Prolonged interruptions)*.

An hon. Member: Cross carpet !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Nnaeto: Uli/Egbu Road is a very old State road and it is important to note here that there was no mention made about this road. I will save out time by not going into more details about roads in the Ihiala Local Government Area, but all I am saying is that the Committee for Works should study all I am saying here, and if they find out, like I know it is true, they should remove the unbaptized subhead 51 in that work, and take all that is provided there and put it for Ihiala Local Government Area.

Mr A. E. Okpaga (Ishielu Central): An hon. Member is reading newspaper.

An hon. Member: Which hon. Member ? *(Laughter/Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Honourable Members should not read newspapers in the Chamber, please.

huge profits from them, but when they are established by Government and run through Corporations and Boards, they operate at a loss. We should consider setting up such industries and hand them over to private individuals under mutually agreed terms beneficial to both Government and the individuals concerned. Take a case in point, the Niger Steel, the Housing Development Corporation, the Mineral Waters at Onitsha. If these were being handled by private individuals and groups, they would be making huge profits, but this is not the case as of now. A rethinking of what we do with our government companies and corporations has become very necessary.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the chance to make my own contribution on the Anambra State Budget Estimates for the year 1980. In my mind, I see our budget of ₦281 million as a budget to size. I describe it as a budget to size because I remember fully well that the electorate warned us during our campaigns that they would want this administration eye-mark and no more earmark.

I was looking at it, therefore, as disappointing if we had embarked upon an utopian budget of billions of naira without giving them what they want than saying that we shall spend ₦321 million and giving them what they want. However, Mr Speaker, detailed study of this budget proposals has revealed to me that it is as discriminatory as it is far from achieving the manifesto of the ruling party.

If you may allow me to go a bit into details of one of the warnings these people gave us, or the promise we made to the electorate, we promised them that this administration will surely divert emphasis from urban development to rural development, but I am saying it, without mincing words here, that this budget still lay more emphasis on urban development as against rural development. It is very well known to all the Members here that the people who pay tax in this State, if not throughout the country, are the humble village dwellers and not the urban dwellers. It is, therefore, very unfair to use the money we get from the villagers to build fly-overs at Enugu, Onitsha, Abakaliki and Nsukka, neglecting Izzi, Ezza, Ezzamgbo and Uli at Ihiala. (*Laughter*).

My Local Government Area, Ihiala, has a population of over 200,000 people, and we pay, by way of tax averagely about ₦130,000. But then I am ashamed to say that this budget has absolutely provided nothing for all the roads we have in Ihiala Local Government Area. Head 2781, subhead 85 has ₦1.1 million provided for it in the plan period, 1976-1980. Now, this plan period has elapsed and the only thing that has been spent on this road was ₦1,000.

Mr Speaker Sir, after a series of dialogue, conference, visit and what have you with the Governor, Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and everybody in the Ministry of Works, all they could eke out for this only Road they remember in Ihiala Local Government Area is ₦100,000.

In fact, as we were going round during our campaigns, the Governor's car got stuck on the Azia/Osumoghu/Ekeututu Road and the natives were happy that he could see for one day what we have been seeing all our lives, and then when we helped him to push out his car, he promised the people that if they gave him their votes, he would tar that road when he won. We gave him all the votes; all the seats we had in Ihiala Local Government Area were given to the Nigerian People's Party Government, and as at now, that road Osumoghu/Ekeututu... (*Laughter/Prolonged interruptions*).

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An hon. Member: Which hon. Member? (*Laughter/Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Honourable Members should not read newspapers in the Chamber, please.

Mr Nnaeto: Mr Speaker, on Agriculture, it is my view that the quickest solution to inflation and hunger in this State is growing more food by ourselves. It is, therefore, not surprising that when a professor and a real farmer was appointed the Commissioner for Agriculture in this State, everybody heaved a sigh of relief.

His farm settlement proposal was not only wonderful but welcome. Everybody welcomed it in the State. But then to find out that this farm settlement proposal has not taken off anywhere in the State is shocking. I remember that we gave him ₦600,000 in the supplementary appropriation. I also remember that the Federal Government has another ₦600,000 for any State that starts clearing its own community farm. This time that same Commissioner is asking for ₦810,000. I happen to come from Uli, one of the food-growing areas of the State, and Members will all bear me witness that as far back as . . . *(Interruptions)*. Mr Speaker, protect me please.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Honourable Members should please allow the hon. Member for Ihiala South East (*Mr Nnaeto*) to make his points.

Mr Nnaeto: As far back as November last year, I reminded hon. Members that while the war was raging, Caritas International, a charitable organization was producing food; they were cultivating over a thousand hectares of land on Usham Basin in Amamputa Uli during the war. Then I wrote to the Commissioner and called on all of us here, suggesting that if that farm could carry us during the war, why can't we revamp the farm. The Commissioner for Agriculture and his team has visited this area a number of times, and time does not permit me to read the report of experts, but I have testified before the Committee for Agriculture, the Vice-Chairman is here, and I read the recommendations of the Chief Agricultural Officer.

The only problem they saw when they visited that place was that they had to put up a bridge across a stream, and then the officer recommended that as long as there was an access road from the main road to Usham, that it was not wasteful. In fact they were recommending that a Bailey bridge should be put across Usham, but, Mr Speaker, I am saying that in spite of this expert recommendation, no attention is given to that Usham Basin.

On the Ministry of Agriculture, I will reveal

here, too, that one other thing that makes nonsense of all our efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture is that they say one thing and do a different thing. There is a beautiful scheme they call Supervised Agricultural Loan Scheme. This scheme one would think should go to the actual food producers in this State, but if a million naira is provided for that scheme, they will share it out to people who have rubber plantations, palm plantations, cashew plantations, and leave the people who give us rice from Abakaliki, cassava from Uli, Osumoghu, Azia. They will leave all these farmers and give it to rubber planters, so that eventually we still remain where we are.

On Education, we promised the electorate a qualitative and quantitative education. Mr Speaker, I see the Motion we passed on universal bursary award and our efforts to de-emphasize scholarship as steps in the right direction. However, I hope that the Education Committee when it must have doctored its area of this budget, should provide more money for the Ministry of Education. What we have in the Estimates has provided nothing at all for equipping the schools our communities have built and this is painful to hear. No provision at all was made for the equipment of our secondary schools.

I would also like to remind us here that during one of our visits to the Examination Development Centre, we found out that the building these devoted officers are using is in fact almost falling down. It is so stuffy, a ramshackle. I would like to sum it up by saying that we are toying with the lives of people we need there to work for us. So I am calling on the Committee on Education to repeat that visit and make sure that the whole staff of our Examination Development Centre are removed from that place and I would warn that by the nature of work they do, they should not be kept at any temporary place for a very long time. Otherwise, what happens in WAEC, will be happening with our Examination Development Centre.

On Public Utilities, Mr Speaker, this Ministry is blessed with a team that are so devoted to their duty that they have already started winning this Administration a good name, but unfortunately, this is the Ministry that is given the smallest money to give our people their greatest need. *We want water before every other thing else*, the electorate say and then the Ministry of Utility is charged with the

responsibility of giving Anambra State water and what is given to them is ₦9.6 million. I am suggesting too that the Committee on Finance and in fact the whole House should make effort to see that the money provided for that Ministry should be tripled.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am making a direct appeal to the Governor through this House, to consider seriously severing rural electrification from the Ministry of Works and pass it over to the Ministry of Public Utilities because:

(1) They have established for the short time they have operated that they are performing well.

(2) If the pattern in other States were anything to go by—that is formula.

(3) The Governor while creating that Ministry here in his speech, told us that he was creating the Ministry of Public Utilities to decongest the Ministry of Works.

But then, one wonders how the Ministry of Public Utilities should look after water alone. So please, this is a direct appeal.

On rural electrification still, the Constitution has it that one of the things we must consider in the distribution of amenities whether State or Federal is geographical spread. We also believe that it will be a good guide to consider derivation when we want to share our national cake or State cake. On rural electrification, we have been told that the State has signed a contract for electrifying 119 towns. If we are to consider geographical spread properly, 23 local government areas will have each at least five towns out of a hundred and nineteen towns to be rurally electrified; but then I have studied the hon. Member for Nnewi East (*Mr Unigwe's*) statistics . . .

An hon. Member: The Deputy Majority Leader (*Mr Unigwe*).

Mr Nnaeto: . . . and found out that he is correct to say that there are some local government areas that have upwards of seven communities to be rurally electrified while my own Ihiala Local Government Area had three out of eleven communities for rural electrification. We are not alone in this neglect, there are still very many other people from

many other local government areas. This is where dichotomy, like I described it, comes in again and when I say dichotomy, it is this time the dichotomy of North and South. Like I said in my contribution sometime ago—call it trichotomy—trichotomy of who has a Commissioner or what have you in the Exco. If you study that thing properly, you will find out that the people who are favoured are not necessarily because they come from the South or North but because they have people at the Executive Council. I cannot be deceived with the fact that this contract was negotiated or initiated by the erstwhile Military Administration—an adage had it that *it is he who pays the piper that dictates the tune*—if the Military Administration started it but they couldn't fund it, and conclude it, it is ourselves who fund it and about to conclude it that will feel free to choose the towns that we should give light.

I am also calling on the Committee for Works to make sure that this distribution is properly doctored and all efforts made to have a geographical spread. (*Laughter*).

Industry: Mr Speaker Sir, my question here on industries is, must Anambra State always be a buying State? I am asking this because when you look at what this Ministry has for us, it is clear to us that there is no plan and no programme for making us a marketing State. Rather they want us after spending some millions of naira to remain still a buying State. I do not see why this Ministry cannot map out a programme where every local government area should have at least one industry. It doesn't matter how small. I will be forced to ask this question: Can the Commissioner for Industries tell me why he feels that a branch of the Paramount Hotel cannot thrive very well in Ihiala Local Government Area. (*Laughter*).

The Usham Lake as I mentioned earlier is more beautiful than the Oguta Lake or the Nike . . . (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Are you sure?

Mr Nnaeto: I am telling you they have visited it and feasibility study carried out several times they know it is as good as any other one with all its tourist attraction, but its only sin is because it happens to find itself in Ihiala Local Government Area.

Some hon. Members: Sorry ! Sorry !

Mr Nnaeto: *Medicare:* The entire Ihiala Local Government Area, wants me to ask through this House, to ask the Commissioner for Health what has happened to the proposed Eye Hospital at Ubuluisiuzo.

Osumoghu had a dispensary, they had a court with quarters for staff, they have a rest house and all these things are abandoned and they want to know how they belong to Anambra State. . .

An hon. Member: Join Imo State !

Mr Nnaeto: I would inform this Ministry at this juncture, that we have more than five Health Clinics that are already finished, most of them built by the communities, that are yet to be commissioned. Can't Commissioners in this State, take the kind of tour they took to other local government areas to Ihiala, because out of all the Commissioners we have in the State, it is only the Commissioner for Trade and Co-operatives that has known where Ihiala Local Government Area is. No wonder why they do not remember us in their proposals.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am summing up by saying that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Thank you very much, (*Laughter*).

Rev. Prince A. N. Nwafor (Ishielu West): Mr Speaker Sir, in contributing to the 1980 Appropriation Bill, I have to indulge in a sort of preamble. For my preamble, I would like to say that when the Government of Anambra State came to the helm of affairs on the first day of October, 1979, Anambra State could be likened to the State of Jerusalem in 127 B.C. (*Laughter*). In the year 127 B.C. during the reign of Artaxerxes, Jerusalem was utterly destroyed without infrastructure, without roads and the inhabitants were suffering from hunger. At such a time in the history of all nations, God always needed somebody for reconstruction. And so, Nehemiah the prophet came to the scene. What is the resemblance? How is this connected with our State today? I see Anambra State like phoenix the bird resurrected from the ashes and debris of war. I see Anambra State as desolate as the then Jerusalem and here too, I see Governor

Jim Nwobodo as Nehemiah who came to be used of God for the reconstruction of Anambra State.

An hon. Member: Say it loud !

Rev. Nwafor: And so without prejudice, I am saying that Chief Nwobodo is one of the best things that ever happened to us.

An hon. Member: Chief Nehemiah Nwobodo !

(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Rev. Nwafor: So, I am requesting everybody that we should allow this Budget to go through in order to give the young Governor the instrument for reconstruction. Many people have given various titles to this Bill. For a title, I would suggest budget of reconstruction. I refuse to accept that this Budget is budget of starvation because we have to take cognizance of the fact that one has to cut one's coat according to one's size. This is true remembering our economic state of affairs.

Secondly, for my preamble Mr Speaker, I want to observe that there have been misplaced priorities on the part of the Legislators, on the part of the Executive and on the part of the general public. Why? When the debate started, the hon. Members were lukewarm, and currently there is no member of the Executive within the gallery to hear what we are saying about their Ministries. If you look at both sides of the gallery, you will see that only few people are gathered, but I know that when there was such unholy issue like the Premier Brewery affair, the Commissioners were here, the members of the Executive were here, the masses chartered vehicles, and they were all here, and each Legislator was so prepared to contribute but now that it has come to this particular issue—the Bill—the instrument of the people's welfare, men have treated it with utter levity and lukewarm.

Having rounded off with my preamble Mr Speaker, I want to go to agriculture. Briefly put, since hon. Members have done justice to this particular item; that is the ₦3 million to be given to farmers, I want to request again that this money should actually go to the real farmers. Like the other hon. Members said, we must place our priorities at the right place. We need cassava production, we need yam

production, rice production; in fact, we need rubber and other items of agricultural products, but we needed the former most. I want to use this opportunity to remind ourselves that the period of quasi communism ideas have gone. In Abakaliki there was a time when one did not need to pay money to get labourers. One needed only to summon one's kindred and tell them that one has a piece of land for cultivation and they would disperse to do this free of charge. Today, it is no more like that. So every farmer needs money. A little heap of about two metres in height will cost one ₦1.00 and if a farmer has to cultivate up to one thousand heaps, I want you to imagine how much it would cost him. So, the farmers in the village do not only need money for the crops; they need money for the manpower.

On industry, the Governor said that local industry should be encouraged and mention was made of the following: Glass Industry, Sanitary Ware Factory, Ceramic Ware and Floor Tile Industry, and here I ask, how are these relevant to the need of the masses? I am saying that local industry should take care of what people need. For example, Nigeria is now importing palm-oil. Why? Because there are no more young men who are willing to climb the palm tree. And if you got some heads of palm fruits down, there were not the women who would want to spare their time to thresh the oil from the kernel. If palm produce industries are set up for the communities, Nigeria would then spend the money hitherto used for the importation of palm oil in other fields of our economic growth.

I have discovered that there are many unfaithful borrowers from the speech of the Governor, when he said that efforts have been intensified to collect the money lent to borrowers. This shows that many people have actually collected government money and have refused to pay back. Taking this into consideration, a different *modus operandi* should be evolved whereby only people who will be faithful to pay back could be allowed to collect government money on loan.

Thirdly, on Industry and Technology, I want to refer to the areas of local manufacturers. In the Governor's address, he said that government had directed its offices and parastatals to patronize the products of small-scale industries.

Here, I want to warn that we should not pamper local industries because this would lead them to manufacturing inferior goods. They should be allowed to compete with others. This will make it possible for them to produce such things that would justify the amount of money spent on their goods.

On cement distribution, the Governor said that a system is being worked out for distribution of cement and I want to suggest that quota system should be resorted to. A number of distributors should be given to each local government area. Hitherto, my people have been seeing cement carted out from their home. Really, till now, there are not more than two distributors of cement of Ishielu origin when in fact the factory situates within their own God-given land.

Several hon. Members: Dichotomy!

Rev. Nwafor: On Social Welfare, I have discovered that the sum of ₦1 million is allocated to Social Services. Mr Speaker Sir, within that Head, we have about eleven sub-heads, namely, Anambra Arts Council, Igbo-Ukwu Museum, Remand Homes, Boys, Approved Schools, Girls Approved Schools, Youth Training Centre, Community Youths Centre, Office Complex for organizing Council Art, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre. I want to suggest that identical organizations that belong to the church like the Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Brigade, the Women's Fellowship, the Boys' Scout, and the Girls' Guide should all receive government subvention because each of these organizations is a very powerful youth organization that helps to put the communities in good moral state of affairs.

On Local Government, I want to observe Mr Speaker, that the present system is still not understood in the local government areas. Some Chairmen of Local Government Caretaker Committees, because of ignorance, have actually sold out their offices to the Secretaries and the Secretaries still thinking as in the parliamentary system are throwing about their weight. They have not allowed these Chairmen to exercise their functions, and I want to use this opportunity to remind all the Chairmen of Caretaker Committees that they are the Executives. They should not allow the

[REV. NWAFOR]

Secretaries to mislead them or allow them to throw about their weight to the effect that there is friction of power and things do not get moving. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Whip (*Mr I. Obiekwue*): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is on irrelevancies. Order No. 26 (2) of the standing Orders refers. We are not talking about local councils. We are talking about appropriations and the sooner we continue about the budget the better

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Local Government Councils come under the 1980 Budget and the hon. Member who has the Floor is not out of place. So the point of Order is not upheld. The hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Nwafor*) has five minutes more to round off.

Rev. Nwafor: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I made my last comment because in the Budget Speech of His Excellency, he said he was trying his best to bring the present presidential system to bear upon all the three tiers of government functionaries. I want to refer to constituency offices. I am at a loss whether this is going to come under the Legislative Service or as a part of the local government services.

Hitherto, we find members from our constituencies covering many kilometres to make consultations with the hon. Members, and sometimes they come at very wrong time. They may visit an hon. Member when the hon. Member is preparing to go into the Chamber for debate, or they may come when an hon. Member is preparing to attend one committee or another. I want to suggest that we remedy this situation. An amount of money should be set aside for constituency offices. This must have achieved the following: bringing the government to grassroot; giving the masses we represent the opportunity of consultation without tears; and thirdly allowing the hon. Member the free chance of spending his time here in deliberating on such issues that arise in the Chambers or in the Committees.

On Head 2801—Health, I have discovered that a total of ₦5,883,770 has been allocated to Health. I have tried to find out the area for preventive medicine but discovered that there is no amount set aside for it or for research. Maybe because the Ministry of Health did not

take into consideration the Motions and questions already raised with regards to this particular item. It is said that prevention is better than cure. So. I am suggesting that half of this amount, ₦5 million should be set aside for preventive medicine, and in doing this, the guinea worm epidemic in Abakaliki should be tackled with military precision.

On Land Transport, I want to refer to project 83 subhead 169, that is, the Abonyi Agba Bridge. One would see that this particular project has been recurring. And I am suggesting that this time, meaningful efforts should be made to see that this bridge is reconstructed.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. You allocated specific time which has been exceeded and even with our Standing Orders, the hon. Member who has the Floor has exceeded the required time in that Standing Orders. So I pray you to check him.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Ishielu West (*Rev. Nwafor*) has a minute to round off, please.

Rev. Nwafor: To round off Mr Speaker, on Lands, Transport and Roads, I am suggesting that driving schools should be established in all the five zones of this State because driving has become a real profession and those who engage in it should be well trained.

On education, I want to disagree with one contributor who described the Unitech as a colossal blunder. Here I ask, how is it a colossal blunder? Is it a blunder that we want our children to be educated? Is it a blunder that we want to have our own university? In fact, there is provision for such items in the constitution—that a State is free to establish a university and I want to remind that hon. Member that some universities in Nigeria such as that of Jos came to being many years before the Bill establishing them were passed just recently.

An hon. Member: *Onyeocha* ! Father !

Rev. Nwafor: So, I do not think that the issue of the Unitech. is any blunder. That contributor may be right that many industries are not in Idemili. Idemili may not have industries, but in the area of people who are at the helm of things in Anambra State Government, Idemili comes first, see the Permanent Secretaries, see people at the other areas . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Your time is up, please.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute to the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill. The Draft Estimates covering the period, 1st April to 31st December, 1980 has been presented to us in recognition of the fiscal powers of this House as enshrined in the Constitution.

After studying the draft Estimates, I remembered an old adage or an advice, cutting one's coat according to one's size. Mr Speaker, this age-long advice will not apply in this case. What I think would apply is, if you are given a piece of cloth and it is enough for a pair of trousers, you make one, if it is enough for a coat, you make one and even if it is enough for a handkerchief, you make one. That is how to be practical. That is how to make do with what we have. After all, *afughu ka emelu, emee ka afulu*. This is how to be pragmatic and this Budget is pragmatic in the sense that it really faced the exigency of the situation and the situation is financial constraint.

I looked at the Recurrent Revenue Estimates. It is seen that out of ₦266.96 million, only ₦28.88 million could be raised internally and that is only 12.7 per cent. We expect the Federal Government to give us grant to the tune of ₦198.08 million, that is, 87.3 per cent. What is more, we are going to have a resource gap of ₦62.7 million. This is to be raised by internal and external borrowing. It is here that I support our attitude or a deliberate policy of friendship with the Federal Government. If we are friendly there is no confrontation, then it is better and very easy to catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. The attitude we adopt towards the big father or the big brother who gives us all these things, will really help us.

Mr Speaker, how judicious, how equitable were the scarce finances applied for the overall development of our economic and human resources? Before I hazard an answer, I will only remind ourselves that we have been tutored in the doctrine of geographical spread as enshrined in the Constitution. Also, we have been indoctrinated, and in fact, immersed in the new-fangled evangelism. The protagonists of this evangelism see it as a crusade. Some see it as a Jihad-evangelism of dichotomy. Geographical application of scarce finances was uneven; was lopsided and so unequitable.

To drive this point home, Sir, let us have a horizontal look at the local government areas to which the resources have been applied. Conventionally, you have to itemize the projects vertically. I want, not only to look at these projects vertically, but also to look at them horizontally. (*Laughter*).

To substantiate my contention, Sir, I will exemplify from five items already listed vertically.

In (1) Agriculture, ₦11.56 million or 8.5 per cent. what does each local government get? Either Nkanu or Ihiala or any other local government, should have ₦0.5 million or 0.34 per cent. That is your due.

(2) In Manufacturing and Crafts, ₦9.3 million or 6.9 per cent., each local government should expect ₦0.4 million or 0.27 per cent.

(3) In Land and Transport, ₦26.12 million or 19.7 per cent. each local government should get ₦1.1 million or 0.85 per cent.

(4) In Water-supply, ₦9.6 million or 7.1 per cent., each local government should get ₦0.4 million or 0.30 per cent.

Finally, in (5) Town and Country Planning, ₦14.72 million or 10.9 per cent., each local government should get ₦0.6 million or 0.47 per cent. Total (I am using my example, from these big capital heads), ₦71.3 million and each local government should get ₦3 million or 4.3 per cent.

I will go back to only one point. For instance, in my local government, as the hon. Member from my division pointed out, in agriculture, we are not agricultural or urban, or rural, in fact, I do not really know what we are. In (2) Manufacturing and Crafts, we are not there. But in Land and Transport where we should get ₦1.1 million, we had ₦100,000. That is only 9 per cent. of what is due to us.

Well let me make an appeal here. Meagre as this amount is, please apply it to the construction of Atamiri because you have only remembered one road to connect Okija, Ihiala, that is, the whole division and that is what we have. In water even, I remember part of that division has been having water before the war, but it stopped running. The taps went dry for nearly two years now and I remember in January the taps ran only for three days; but each time

[MR OKOYE]

you hear over the air, water is running. I say that there is no water there. Regrettably there was no provision in the Capital Estimate on (a) uncompleted rural water scheme; (b) Improvement on existing rural water-supply scheme, but a provision of ₦3.7million for urban water-supply was made. Maybe we will go to Onitsha or to Enugu where you have the urban rural water-supply.

I am aware that all the development cannot be spread all over the State at the same time but the little diagram I have made will enable us to look at what each constituency is expected to get, what each territorial district should get and the division so that if you are entitled to ₦3 million and you are given two, then the application of geographical spread and what all of them will be really, perhaps, we will look at whatever we get and be satisfied, that is, you balance geographical spread with dichotomy and the equation will be very fair. Well I am sure you would now know your future from the little exercise. I hope some of the divisions should not be abandoned as the Ihiala Local Government Area. I would then appeal that the sum of ₦0.6 million due to Ihiala for town and country planning should be used to develop a river port Oseakwa as a holiday resort and its environ as modern rice farm. I would love to see this Oseakwa as the Tarkwa Bay of Anambra State. In fact, it used to be an economic bee-hive of U.A.C. Boats still ply from Ihiala to Oguta and from Ihiala to Abonima even from Ihiala to Onitsha.

The river itself was once dredged and widened. The infrastructures are there. The road they have built for years and across the Ulas River you find the largest plot of land. It is there in the forest reserves where it is originated. You can get rice there. During the war, we were really sustained by the rice cultivated in that place. We have fishing pond there. We can even establish wood industry there, so if we remember that place and revamp it as a holiday resort and as a farm, I think it can help us.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will not finish without referring to education. I am in agreement with the people who said we should have the calendar year now from January to December as we have the financial year. Both of them run *paripassu* and if we are really sure and serious to give vacation jobs to students from the university

but couldn't because the calendar year was different, in the future the school calendar year will agree or run concurrently with the university calendar then we should have no excuse for not helping them.

Again on bursary award, I appeal and recommend that we should have universal bursary. The little amount we have for bursary, not scholarship, should be given to all our students in higher institutions of learning on a sliding scale, to undergraduates, graduates and clinical students. Even if it is not enough let the first year and the second year fend for themselves and in the third year or fourth year let the scholarship go round. There will be no loan scholarship. We don't recommend loan scholarships.

Here again, Sir, I want to commend this government and the past government, since 1973, what they have done to proprietors of schools taken over in this State. Between 1973 and March last year out of the sum of ₦3.8 million the part payment this State has paid them is ₦2.5 million. In fact that was up to March last year. They paid also during the last financial year and I am almost sure that they will finish the payment of over 50 schools taken over in the State and you know the Missionaries were not happy for the take-over.

So Sir, I wish to use this forum to call on the Federal Government and the State Governments who have taken over schools, particularly Lagos State, to pay the ex-proprietors. There is no reason why, after you have acquired schools for public use you will not pay. In fact, these schools were taken over from 1976 and some proprietors, at least three of them have died. So I hope they would have to listen to this appeal because in 1976 the military chaps were there, now they have gone and so we can at least speak and tell them that they should pay for public acquisitions.

Finally, Sir, it is only this propaganda, the way we use our newspapers and the way we want to use our radio and if possible the television. The propaganda can only work for a long period if it is peace-time and for a short period if it is wartime. We are not at war now, and for the propaganda to succeed, we should have an element of truth. If we are going to have image projection which is of course welcome, let it be tinted with truth. I hope the chaps, the newspaper boys who might not be all that free to express themselves because we are now

talking of free press request. You could have teleguided press and the press may not be all that free, and if you express yourself as you want, you may get hanged. So, I know you are in combat somehow, but all the same let us read between the lines and know what the propaganada can do and what they cannot do.

Mr Speaker, thank you for having listened to my contribution.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East): Permit me, Mr Speaker Sir, to preface my contributions to the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill by delivering two messages from the people of Anambra Local Government Area.

First, Sir, is to wish the National Leader of the N.P.P., the Right Hon. Chief Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, God's protection throughout his sojourn in the United States of America so that he might continue to discharge his duties to humanity.

The second, Sir, is to convey the deep appreciation of our people to his Excellency, the Governor of Anambra State and his Cabinet, for the reconstruction of the only road linking Anambra Local Government Area with the other parts of the State. The reconstruction of this road has indeed endeared the N.P.P. Government of the State to the good and plain people of the Anambra Local Government Area, but it is regrettable to observe that the thickness of the tar is not sufficient. (*Laughter*).

There is also no drainage system so that within six months the road might be washed away by the rains and then we begin to complain. I am, therefore, using this forum to appeal to the contractors working on the road to make good the drainage system. Although in the current Estimates—Head 2801, subhead 125, provision is made for the purchase of river crafts for the riverian people, but we will rather wish that pontoon be purchased for us because the Local Government Management Committee has succeeded in providing roads in the riverine areas. What we require now is pontoon to connect the riverine side of Anambra with the mainland.

Having said this, Sir, may I crave your indulgence to elucidate, Mr Speaker, on one fundamental issue in which there appears to be some confusion of thought, not only in this

State but throughout the Federation, and that is on the nature of the exercise of Executive Powers. I have said on the Floor of this House, on more than one occasion, that the Presidential System of Government is a government of legality. In recent weeks, the exercise of the Executive Powers has become a subject-matter of great misgiving. I will refer hon. Members in particular to the editorial comment of the *Daily Star* of 17th May, 1980 on the Separation of Powers. That editorial is not only misleading, but portrays palpable ignorance of the constitutional provision, and it goes perilously near and tantamount to contempt of the various legislative arms of government in this State.

Constitutional lawyers are at one in holding the view that there are three basic principles underlying the exercise of the Executive Powers. The first, Sir, is the principle of specific grant. Here, either the letters of the Constitution or the enacted law clearly spelt out the extent or limitation of such powers. The second, Sir, is the inherent authority of the Executive. In this case, the person vested with Executive Power, provided that there is no express legislation to the contrary and acting within his proper sphere of authority, power to act in event of need and necessity for the welfare of the people as the *pater familias*.

The third, but by no means the least, is the residual powers of the Executive. This simply means that where an act is not prohibited by law, the appropriate authority needs not wait for specific legislation before he can formulate policy and take the necessary steps to effectuate the objective. If these three principles are subjected to critical analysis and scrutiny, perhaps, an answer to certain topical and burning issues in this State could be found, but it must, however, be emphasized that any deviation from these three mooring principles of the Presidential System of Government, will render such act not only *ultra vires*, null and void but also of no consequence.

Now, on the budget, Mr Speaker Sir, quite unlike some contributors who expressed some contagion of fear on the budget, I regard the 1980 Budget as one of prudence and responsibility. The Executive has indeed cut its coat according to its size, and the various Committees of this honourable House which deliberated on the budget, to my mind, have shown profound sense of responsibility in

[MR CHINWUBA] tackling their various assignments. There is, however, one Ministry which received unsavory treatment and that is the Ministry of Justice. Sir, in spite of the vital role of this Ministry in the scheme of things, only the sum of one hundred thousand naira has been provided for the Ministry in the Capital Estimates—see Head 2871, Project 193. Little wonder that there has continued to be mass exodus and resignations from this Ministry, and if things are not taken in good time, experienced lawyers might not be found, and in no distant date, only women will dominate this important Ministry.

(Laughter).

Several hon. Members: Hear! hear!

Mr Chinwuba: In order, Sir, to arrest this deteriorating situation, the following suggestions may be made:

- (a) Quarters should be provided for law officers;
- (b) Special salary scale should be set out for law officers;
- (c) In-service training should be encouraged so that from time to time law officers would be sent overseas to enrich their knowledge;
- (d) Law officers should accompany the Commissioners wherever they go on tour, either within or outside this country.

On the Judiciary, Sir, it is acknowledged that the Nigeria People's Party Government is a creation of the Judiciary. It is, however, regrettable to note that in the Current Estimates, only a single subhead containing five hundred thousand naira has been provided for the building of Judges' quarters and residences. Although law does not reside on the breast of any Judge, only a paltry sum of twenty thousand naira has been provided for the purchase of books in the current Estimates. Bearing in mind that Judges and Magistrates have the singular duties of maintaining peace, order and stability in this State, the Judicial Committee of this House has recommended an additional sum of nine hundred thousand naira to be added to the Capital Estimates of the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary.

With the inception of the Presidential System of Government in this country and its attendant separation of powers, the place of

the Judiciary as the third arm of the government has clearly been brought into sharp focus. The Shugaba case in Borno State, the cancellation of certain elections to the Local Government Councils, the nullification of the appointment of a former Judge as Attorney-General of a certain State, all this has made it imperative for the Judiciary to be self-accounting. Therefore, I am using this forum to call for the Judiciary to be self-accounting. This power could be invested in the Judicial Service Commission. It will enable both the Judges and the Magistrates in outside stations to prepare their own budget and submit to this honourable House for approval. Unless this is done, we will not be surprised that in no distant future, one may come to the court and find nobody presiding because no new entrants are entering the lower Bench.

Sir, on workers, I have had the opportunity of going to various offices and it is disappointing to observe that no sufficient accommodation has been provided for our civil servants. Something should be done in this direction. And I may call upon the Federal Government that instead of building a secretariat for the handful of Federal workers in each State, such money should be made available to each State Government which will use it to provide accommodation for the State workers. Thereafter, such a State would hand over one or two buildings to house Federal workers instead of providing huge sums of money to build a secretariat in each State for Federal workers only.

On Housing, Sir, I congratulate the State Government for promising to build 4,000 houses for workers in this State. I also congratulate the Federal Government for promising to build 2,000 houses for workers in this State. But I must say, Sir, that I associate myself with those who feel that the Federal Government should route such buildings through the State Government. In other words, the Federal Government must make the money available for the State Government to provide the houses and not for the Federal Government to build . . .

Several hon. Members: Say it loud . . . !

Mr Chinwuba: . . . and not for the Federal Government to build. To do otherwise Sir, would, in my humble opinion,

amount to an act of subversion. But whether or not houses are provided by the State or by the Federal Government, that will not solve the housing problems of the workers, because not all workers will get houses at once and the same time. Therefore, I associate myself with the views expressed by workers that what is required is a Rent Collection Board, and I utilize this opportunity to call on the members of the public and the workers to send their suggestions to the Judicial Committee of this House. This will enable the Committee to sponsor an appropriate Bill that will make the setting up of a Rent Collection Board possible. Also, I take this opportunity to call on the public to send their suggestions which would enable the Judicial Committee to have a second look at the Dowry Limitation Law, 1956 in order to determine what we could do to help our young men get married because of the soaring high bride-price.

On Bursary Award, I also associate myself with those who feel that selective system should not be adopted. The award of bursary to all students of Anambra State origin must be uniform. It must extend to all students, including Law students, because in the past, they had been discriminated against. The non-extension of bursary awards to all categories of students from Anambra State origin makes students from this State feel inferior among the community of students from other parts of the Federation.

Finally, Mr Speaker Sir, the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill affords hon. Members the opportunity for stock-taking, and here I must have a look on the performance of Members of this honourable House. I must say, Sir, without fear, that the Members of this honourable House have performed very well. Their performance is, in my opinion, praiseworthy. But one Legislator must, in my opinion, be cited as the Legislator of the year. He is no other person than the hon. Member for Awka Central (Mr F. C. Nwofor). (Applause).

This Legislator, Mr Speaker Sir, is always forthright, he is always consistent—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Rev. A. N. Nwofor (Ishielu West): Irrelevancy, Sir. Is the hon. Member for Awka

Central (Mr Nwofor) a part of the Budget? Are we going to sell him? Is he a slave so that the man should tell us his quality?

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I remember that the hon. Member for Ishielu West (Rev. Nwofor) showered praises too. The hon. Member for Anambra North East (Mr Chinwuba) has a right also to shower praises. It is a part of the Budget. (Laughter).

Mr Chinwuba: Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. This Legislator is always forthright, consistent and has always shown a balance and lucidity of intellect which no other Legislator has surpassed.

Finally, Sir, as we pass the 1980 Budget and kick the ball to the Executive, let all concerned bear in mind the shortness of time so that we may avoid a last minute rush. Sir, on section 14 (4) of the Constitution, let me remind hon. Members that this section should not be used as a sword to dismantle the existing system, but rather it should be used as a mere Directive Principle of State Policy. Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. (Applause).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr N. A. Iburu (Ikwo South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Anambra State of Nigeria 1980 Appropriation Bill. Mr Speaker Sir, a clear look at the Draft Estimates shows that the State, as a matter of fact, has cut its coat according to its size. But it is disheartening to note that the Estimates appears to be over-centred on the urban areas. One would start to wonder whether it is not then the rural areas that pay most of the State taxes. Also, one would wonder the more why these rural areas should not have as much amenities, if not more, as the urban areas.

I have only few observations to make and my observations centre on the following:

- (a) Roads and bridges,
- (b) Health,
- (c) Agriculture, and
- (d) Water.

Mr Speaker Sir, in my local government area, a little or no progress at all has been made on roads, to the effect that until now, there is not even one good road to be talked about in Ikwo Local Government Area.

[MR IBURU]

The people of Ikwo Local Government Area pay fully their taxes. In fact, it is a place I have not seen anybody taken to court for defaulting against payment of tax.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Are you sure?

Mr Iburu: Unfortunately, this money they pay as taxes has not been of any use to them. During the 1979 electioneering campaign, a lot of promises were made to this people. After the election, His Excellency visited and made some more promises. Commissioners visited the place and renewed these promises. But it is disheartening to note that until this time, nothing practically has been done for this people.

Our greatest problem is Ebonyi bridge. I must be specific here because I have overheard an hon. Member mention another Ebonyi bridge. This particular Ebonyi bridge is Ikwo Ebonyi bridge. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Sort it out.

Mr Iburu: In fact, the Ebonyi bridge is the connecting link, for Ebonyi River cuts Ikwo into two. It therefore becomes a problem for anyone on one side to see his brother on the other side because of the barrier which the bridge has created over the water.

An hon. Member: Natural dichotomy!

Mr Iburu: When the Governor visited Ikwo, he promised that Government would build this bridge for our people. In the Estimates, provision was clearly made for this bridge, but where this money that has been allotted to this bridge has gone to, nobody can tell.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing and I think if nothing else is done, but the Ebonyi bridge is built, Ikwo people will be happier than any other people.

Mr Speaker Sir, in my own constituency, Ikwo South, there is a track which was built through community effort; it connects the towns of Itigidi, Ugep and many others within this Anambra State. This road is important because it is the only access road through which the people of Cross River State come over to Abakaliki, but it is not cared for. Therefore, I am appealing that something be done to make this road an all-season road.

Health: Ikwo Local Government is the only local government that has no hospital. It has got only one Health Centre and when the Governor visited the place, he promised to upgrade this Health Centre to a hospital. I am surprised that immediately after this promise, the Health Centre rather started degenerating. It has no staff and no medicine. It has got just nothing.

Several hon. Members: Sorry!

Mr Iburu: It is surprising that the death-rate which was at fifty to sixty per month before, has reduced to 1.2 per month. It is also to be noted that there are some Health Centres again completed through self-effort by the people of Okutumikpo, Odumowo and Akwunakwunaikpo... (*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members: *Akwunakwuna?*

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Iburu: But it is very much regretted that these Health Centres have not been commissioned. The ones in progress have never had any marching grant. I appeal to the powers that be to see to it that some inducement be given to this people who are doing everything all by themselves.

Agriculture: Everyone here understands that Abakaliki is known for agriculture. Our greatest problem today is that our land is no more as fertile as it was from the beginning and it requires some fertilizers to reactivate it; but it is surprising that this fertilizer is nowhere to be got, even though in the Estimates there is provision for fertilizer to be supplied especially to Abakaliki area.

I have again, Mr Speaker, to call the attention of this House to the fact that NORCAP is going to be taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture on 1st July, 1980, and I am of the opinion that if the good work of the NORCAP is to be retained, the Ministry of Agriculture should not take over these farms. I would rather suggest that the farms be taken over by the A.D.C. It is clearly understood that the staff of the A.D.C. are paid by the fruits of their labour and as such, they will always be up and doing so that this good work of the NORCAP will not soon die away immediately it is taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture.

I am also suggesting that the sum of ₦103,310 allotted to A.D.C. be increased. Everyone knows that the A.D.C. is the greatest source of agricultural products in this State and it costs much to maintain a good agricultural production. The A.D.C. before the war, was able to give to this State, in fact, all the three Eastern States and suburb, all the agricultural requirements they needed.

But after the civil war, the situation in A.D.C. started to deteriorate. This is because of devastations during the war and the Government has not been able to reactivate it fully. I am of the opinion that if something better is done for A.D.C., we shall be having more food.

Water: I am sorry to say that my local government area, Ikwo Local Government Area, whether it is from nature, is a guinea-worm area, and in a bid to save themselves from the menace of the guinea-worm, the communities in Ikwo embarked to build water dams. These water dams were damaged during the war and up till now, nothing has been done to reactivate them. We have a lot of them in almost all the villages in Ikwo. Since these dams are damaged and the villagers being mainly farmers and cannot do anything to reactivate them, they are forced to go back to the guinea worm infested water.

Education: Mr Speaker Sir, I have to thank the Ministry of Education for taking over the remaining work at the one and only secondary school in Ikwo, the Ikwo High School. I wish more efforts were made to build more secondary schools for the Local Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I humbly call on the powers that be, one, to build forthwith the Ebonyi bridge in order to connect our people on this side with their brothers on the other side. Two, to tar at least one road in Ikwo Local Government Area and improve other existing ones; to upgrade the Agubia health centre; commission the Edemewo health centre and end the problems of others; to abandon the idea of handing over the NORCAP to the Ministry of Agriculture but rather hand it over to A.D.C. so that the good work of NORCAP would not suffer; to distribute without further delay the fifteen types of fertilizer to farmers in Abakaliki area; to give a greater attention to A.D.C. Abakaliki Farm with a view to restoring it to its pre-war status and to reactivate

all the dams in Ikwo which were damaged during the civil war. It is only by this that the people of Ikwo will have a feeling that they have got representatives in this House.

Mr Speaker Sir, with this, I beg to support.

Mr N. Ekuma (Ezza East): Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, to have allowed me to contribute towards the Estimates. I will start with health care delivery. I went to Ezza Local Government Headquarters last week and discovered that the pregnant women there were left, to suffer as they were asked to pay the sum of ₦20 before they could be admitted in the Health Centre. Apart from that, they were asked to go if they could not pay. I saw the women when they were going. Most of them were crying. I asked them what it was all about. They told me that only those women from the rural areas were asked to pay that money but the wives of civil servants would have to remain and take treatment. But the people from the rural areas were asked to go. So I felt very, very disgusted and meanwhile, I am reporting it.

Whether this procedure obtains in other local government areas or is it applicable only to Ezza Local Government Area I don't know. But, I feel if that is only applicable to Ezza Local Government Area, legal action could be taken so that the suffering pregnant women could be helped to survive.

Now on roads: In my local government the condition of roads has been bad before this time. Nobody can even trek it. It is highly impossible. As we talked about ring road from Ishielu to Onueke Imeoha, I could remember that the day His Excellency visited Ezza Local Government, even in the daylight during drought, we used the motor light because of dust. But this time one cannot pass there to Ngweduka High School. To reach there is very, very impossible. At times students going on weekend find it very, very difficult. This clearly shows that the people there are suffering greatly. So, I am just apologizing before this honourable House to take legal step to see that the college does not collapse.

Now Education: I have discovered that what is worrying school children now is changing of textbooks. Textbooks are changed almost each term. When the so-called bookbinders or so meet the author and they consult the

[MR EKUMA]
head of the school, they can perform anything. After all said and done, they will carry the books they prepared from school to school, condemning the ones they were using, thereby putting the school children into confusion. So, I am appealing to this honourable House that that should be stopped immediately, so that the children will know what they are doing instead of changing books everyday unnecessarily. It is just like when a child is going from one school to another, he is required to change uniform. This is very improper. I am just appealing to this House to make school uniform to be uniform, so that when somebody is moving away with his child or children to another school, they continue to make use of the very uniform they were using in the former school.

* **Many hon. Members:** Foul ! Foul !

Mr Ekuma: Not when the person leaves Ezza to Ishielu, the person changes uniform. That is very wrong. So I am appealing that that sort of thing should stop.

I am appealing also that if the Budget is not sufficient that there should be an addition to the amount provided for education, something should be done because in this area, things are not working out well. Now in the class, a child may be asked to pay money for handiwork. I think this is very wrong indeed. There are some children who are prevented from going to school because of this question of handiwork. I wonder why a child should be paying money instead of producing what he or she will be able to produce. If a child keeps paying 10k or more each week, the parents may not afford to do that.

So, I feel that that should be abolished immediately. A child should produce what he or she is able to produce, not when they go to school, if they are not able to pay 10k, then they have to buy handiwork with 40k or 50k. That is wrong, and I am appealing that the practice should stop.

Another problem is Ekeimoha market where they packed some iron. This heap of iron has rendered the road impassable. I am, therefore, appealing that this iron should be removed from there, because as I said earlier, it is very dangerous.

The other day, I was passing and I saw a snake coming out of the heap of iron.

(*Laughter/Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Could hon. Members hear the hon. Member for Ezza East (*Mr Ekuma*) out, please.

Mr Ekuma: This heap of iron serves as cover for snakes and nobody knows who will fall an unfortunate victim. So, I am appealing that the pieces of irons should be removed from there.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to resume my seat.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, and in moving this Motion for adjournment, I thank hon. Members for the nice job being done which has shown the maturity of the people of this Anambra State.

People will see that we mean our business, and we do everything constitutionally. Unlike some other States who have started passing their own Budget without doing the necessary First and Second Reading. Allotting some days for the First, Second, and Third Reading shows pure maturity; that we work with the Constitution and the Standing Orders. Again, thank you, hon. Members, and let us keep the good work going.

Mr L. A. Mbaso (Nnewi South West): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to second the Motion for adjournment by the hon. Majority Leader, and in doing so, Sir, I have to speak in the vein already used by the Majority Leader, to thank all of us for the job well done. In so doing then, I am appealing to all of us to see the handwriting on the wall . . .

An hon. Member: Handwriting where ?

Mr Mbaso: At the back . . . where a number of other fellows from outside this Legislature are trying to place us at juxtaposition, showing that probably, we are not united. We have been working with one voice, with one courage and one effort since we started, except for the past unfortunate Motion which we had here, and I do not see how the Motion . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, please hear him out.

Mr Mbaso: I wonder why contribution or participation in a debate during a Motion would be a matter that will divide us. Why I am saying this is that a number of people outside are trying to cast aspersions on our integrity and show that we are not united. Mr Speaker can even see that correspondence from the State House copied to the Deputy Speaker for information and guidance, and this goes to show that, perhaps, the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker are not in good terms or that they are working on parallel lines which is not so, and we know that here they work together. Whenever there is a matter for the House to deal with, the Speaker does it when he is available, or the Deputy Speaker does it if the Speaker is out of seat, and here, this mere copying thing is an eyesore. These fellows outside there would be made to know that we are one. The Legislature which has its sacrosanctity should not be impinged, should not be corroded and should not be subverted by anybody.

Further, Sir, this goes to what one of the chiefs wrote the other time appealing to the Legislature, Members of the State House of Assembly, to co-operate with the Governor as if we are at war. These people should go and mind their businesses, and that particular chief, I think he has a bakery, he should go and mind his staff. We know really that whenever a traditional ruler crawls out the protective shell granted him by the government, by the law, by the tradition and custom of the area into the riotous arena of politics, he has to be attacked with the vehemence and venom available to the oppressed. Let them be warned. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Enehelu): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to support this Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, Sir, I have to really air my disappointment or should I say dismay at certain comments made by hon. Members on the Floor of this House.

I was thinking that we were actually growing and developing in the process of learning to operate this new system. It is true that we constitute a Legislative House, but it is also equally true that this House does not exist in

vacuum. We, as Legislators, also are members of the public, and as a matter of fact, I think the public has every right to poke nose into what happens in this House. They sent us here. I think it will be wrong if we start to think in terms of constituting ourselves into a class distinct from the public. I have heard the hon. Speaker mention times without number that the public should be encouraged to take part in the legislative process, as you hon. Members rightly observed, during the course of your tour.

I am not of the opinion that we should insulate ourselves from the public. We are part and parcel of the public, and the earlier we learn to accommodate public opinion in everything we do, I think, the better it goes for this Legislature. Thank you very much.

With this I beg that the Question be now put.

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir. I am totally happy for your recognizing me. (*Laughter*). In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I am appealing to this House through the Speaker, to urge the Executive to see that the reports of all the Commissions of Inquiries instituted by this Government and submitted to the Executive, are circulated to all the hon. Members of this House for record purposes.

With this, I support the Motion for adjournment.

Akunne O. C. Sam Okeke (Nnewi South): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion for adjournment till tomorrow morning. In doing so, Mr Speaker, I have to thank the Federal Government for granting a sum of ₦10 million to Imo and Anambra States to fight the menace of erosion in the two States and I have to call on the Ministry of Agriculture in Anambra State to borrow a leaf from the Ministry of Agriculture in Imo State, by going round the constituencies where these disastrous erosions caused a lot of havoc in the villages so that this amount so generously given to these two States should be made good use of. I have to warn also that during our tour of the constituencies, we saw that in some areas these erosions rendered some families useless by destroying their houses. In some places, lives were lost. I have to cite that at Ezinihite in my own constituency, this erosion did lot of havoc there.

[AKUNNE OKEKE]

Mr Speaker Sir, I have to cry out again to His Excellency and the Executive to come to the aid of the people living along Oba-Nnewi Road, because the contractor constructing that road is trying his best, but from Ojoto down to Nnewi, one can hardly pass that road. People are being deceived when they come to Oba junction to take that road, but as they drive along the road, they will find out that from Ojoto to Nnewi is very, very dangerous. Cars and lorries are being destroyed daily on it. I wish to request that these contractors be appealed to, to do something now that the rain has not come in properly.

Mr Speaker, I have to appeal to the Executive, that is, the Commissioner for Works and Housing. This morning, you could notice that I came to the House very late because it rained yesterday and I could not come out from my house to the main road in order to drive to Enugu. I wish to state that the road being constructed by ONUSELUOGU AND RAIDS, that is, Awaka-Etiti, Amichi, Utu, Ukpor and Ubulu-Ihejiofor Road, as I have earlier mentioned throughout this rainy season, nothing has been done at all on it and the people cannot come out of their dwelling places. I am appealing to the Commissioner for Works and Housing to see what could be done, maybe to take away these contracts from these contractors and give them out to somebody who is capable to execut the job.

Now, Mr Speaker, with this, I ask that the question be now put.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion for adjournment. Sir in supporting this Motion, I would very much like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member for Nnewi South (*Akunne Sam Okeke*). I was *opportuned to drive along this road in question on Saturday. Honestly, that road is appalling and I appeal to whoever is responsible to answer to the needs of these people. The road is a death-trap.*

Secondly, Sir, I would like to appeal through Mr Speaker to the Board of Internal Revenue to do everything possible to flush bad eggs in that establishment.

In my own Local Government Area, Oji-River, the poor people there are being harrassed by these paid government workers. The natives who have been paying their tax promptly as and when due, their assessment papers are being delayed. The result is that by the time they get these papers, it is too late. Now, they all are shepherded into the court for having failed to pay their tax. I am appealing that the Board of Internal Revenue should establish or have agents within the rural communities instead of asking them to make journeys of twenty odd miles to the Local Government Headquarters to pay their tax. Sometime, they demand anything from ₦5 to ₦15 in order to remove their names from the list. So I am appealing that this ugly practice should stop in our midst. These tax officials derive actual joy in punishing these people. As some of the natives being placed on this income tax cannot afford a square meal a day, how then are they expected to pay income tax ?

So, I am appealing for a new system and these people involved should be removed entirely from Oji-River Local Government Area and returned to wherever they came from or sacked as the case may be.

With this, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg that the question be put.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, Tuesday 20th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Tuesday 20th May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, it has been raised on the Floor of this House, and on a good number of times, hon. Members have made representations to me about the State-owned newspaper *The Daily Star*, on a number of issues. I am therefore directing the Information, Publicity and Public Relations Committee of the House to invite *The Daily Star* Editor for a chat on issues affecting the interest of this Legislature.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Anambra State
Appropriation Bill, 1980

Order for Second Reading read

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): I thank Mr Speaker for recognizing me this time and for giving me the opportunity to contribute on the general principles of the 1980 Anambra State Draft Estimates.

In the first instance, Mr Speaker, I wish to express the gratitude of the people of Anambra Local Government Area on the issue of Oyeagu-Otuocho Road. I have to add, Sir, that the road has some little problems which may be magnified in the near future. The drainage system is completely not provided and the road stands in danger of being eroded within a short time and that will be a big loss to the State.

Then I want to go to Head 2781, that is Lands, Transport, Roads and Bridges. This Head shows that the State is handling about fifty road projects. Out of these road projects, five of them are Federal and forty-five are State roads. It is observable that this Budget has provided fund for thirty-five roads to the tune of about ₦16.5 million. The fate of the remaining ten roads is in doubt. It is therefore shocking to notice that a sizeable amount of money is allocated to unknown roads while there are still many roads unprovided for. I am particularly concerned in this very matter because I have some roads in my constituency

and in my local government area that are not provided for. I am therefore calling on this House to look into the problems of the road linking Nteje, Umunya up to Oba and then the road linking Nsugbe and Seventh Mile along Onitsha road. These roads are not provided for, yet we have fund for unknown roads.

I have also noticed the reluctant funding of some of our roads. I am particularly afraid of some of the roads that are already awarded on contract and to this very time, the contracts have not been completed. There are many such instances, but I have in mind the Awka-Isu-Aniocha-Achalla-Nando-Aguleri Road. This road was awarded on contract some years past, but the contractor is still scratching the surface up to this very time, yet a meagre sum of ₦760,000 is allocated to this road. I wonder what this amount is going to do. I have to point out that underfunding of projects is purely uneconomic and, in fact, a waste. It is true that this State is not buoyant enough, but I see the delay in handling a lot of projects as pure waste because most of the work done two years ago get eroded and we have to start all over again.

I have also noticed the reluctant funding of the 9th mile-Eke-Oghe-Olo-Omor-Anaku-Nando-Otuocho Road. The meagre sum of ₦600,000 cannot do anything on the road and bearing in mind that we have a bridge which links Anaku and Nando, I wonder if this ₦600,000 can do anything. This is one evidence of reluctant funding.

Finally on the same Head, I have to point out at this time that there was a time, in fact at the beginning of this Assembly, we passed a Motion here calling for the re-introduction of road labourers. The abolition of this road maintenance unit is one of the greatest mistakes made in the history of this State. I am personally convinced that if this maintenance unit is properly reintroduced to handle our roads and maintain them, most of these problems we are reporting here will be reduced to the barest minimum. Some local governments are really taking steps towards this line, but a lot of State roads are left without maintenance. I have in mind the old Awka-Achalla-Nando Road. It is entirely abandoned, yet the alternative road is not forthcoming. Maintenance units have to be reintroduced. The omission of this is a good example that

[MR CHUKWUKA]

the people who prepare our Budget don't take into consideration the Motions we pass here.

On industry, I have to point out immediately that my local government area has no single industry located there. My local government area is purely an agricultural area just like Ogbaru, Uzo-Uwani and Abakaliki and some other local government areas. For a sound economic take-off we have to develop interest in agro-based industry and for agro-based industry to succeed, it must take off in these agricultural areas. My local government area requires agro-based industry and that will boost the economy of this State. I am equally aware that, as I said earlier on, the State is not aspiring as some other States. And that is why we are not having a lot of these industries. I am advocating, Sir, the involvement of social clubs for the establishment of industry. I feel that some social clubs, I give some example, like the Peoples Club of Nigeria, Nwannedinamba Social Club, Igwebuike Social Club, I feel that if these Clubs are properly directed most of the funds they are spending in burial ceremonies, entertainment, etc., will be deployed for establishing industry and that will serve so many purposes. The members of such clubs will reap the fruit of their input when they are alive. Secondly, the State will improve greatly. So I am of the opinion that if we properly organize these social clubs they can assist in economic development of Anambra State. Enough of it as it concerns industry.

On education, I have to say outright that I am vehemently opposed to selective bursary award. I benefited from this award. I know the problems involved in selecting some people and giving them bursary award in higher institutions. Those who do not benefit from this suffer a lot of hardship. It is psychological, sociological and it may even be educational or physical. So for the interest of our students in higher institutions the bursary award must be general, whether it is ₦100 or ₦500, or ₦1,000, the only basis for awarding these bursaries will be by getting admission. Once students get admission it will become automatic, but if it is selective, it would give an unprogressive development as it affects institutions, and I am afraid, it is discriminatory. The Budget lost sight of one particular field

which was funded in the past and that is adult education. This is purely a neglected frontier in this State. Many States have taken steps to ensure that illiteracy is reduced to the barest minimum, but here we unnecessarily assume that this State is educated enough that we do not need adult education. I want to point out that we are losing manpower. Universities and other higher institutions are producing graduates in this field and these graduates are deployed in other States. I am suggesting that they should be properly deployed to improve the educational background of this State. When we educate parents, they directly educate their children.

On secondary schools, many Members have spoken on this very point. About two or three of the secondary schools in my constituency were built by the community. It appears then that the government wants my community to equip these secondary schools after building them for the government. It is entirely the responsibility of the government to establish or to build secondary schools for the State, but a lot of local government areas, a lot of communities in order to assist the government have embarked on community development projects. This has led to the establishment or building of many secondary schools. I think this government will be bold enough to take up the furnishing of these schools. I am equally of the opinion that if other communities should be mobilized, they can build schools so that the question of government building its own school should be ruled out. The government will first of all furnish and equip the existing schools if the qualitative education we are talking about is anything to hope for.

I have just a little remark to make on public utility under a particular Ministry that I would now say is the Ministry of Water-supply, but that is the main function of this Ministry, Public Utilities. The only issue I have to point out there is that I was baffled when I saw the list of towns to be electrified, and going through it I notice that my town was not included. When I went further to find out why, I was not given a convincing reason. I suppose that with the population attached to the towns, it was based on population level. My town is 45,000 populationwise and we pay tax as some Members have remarked. Now if it is

[MR MORAH]
obstacle whatsoever to ensure that there would be universal bursary awards for all Anambra State students in post-secondary institutions. While still talking on the bursary award, I submit that the sum of ₦2 million is rather on the meagre side and I implore this honourable House to ensure that during the next Budget, adequate sum of money will be provided for bursary awards.

Energy and Power: I have been sad to notice that Enugu-Agidi and Nawgu in my constituency have been left out in all the three phases of rural electrification. Mr Speaker I am quite sure that unless we review this contract, it means that some communities might be condemned to perpetual under-development by not being put on the programme of rural electrification. It is certain that communities cannot have industries without rural electrification. Therefore I hope that there will be a review of the programme so that communities which are excluded now will be included in one phase of the programme.

On Health—

Mr E. A. Agbo: On a point of Order. My point of Order is on time limit. If we allow an individual to speak for more than twenty minutes, others will not participate, and today is the last chance for hon. Members to air their views.

The Deputy Speaker: The point of Order is noted. The hon. Member for Njikoka North East (*Mr Morah*) should please summarize.

Mr Morah: Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to round off. On the question of Health, I want to appeal to the Ministry of Health to ensure that the Maternity built by Enugu-Agidi in my constituency since 1973 is commissioned. The community has been employing Midwives, buying drugs and maintaining that Maternity and I think it is high time it was commissioned along with other Health Centres which are in the same category.

Water-supply: I was rather sad to find that only a sum of ₦10e was allocated for uncompleted rural water-supply schemes while ₦4 million was allocated to new water-supply scheme. I have in mind the Nimo-Enugwu-Ukwu Water Project which is supposed to supply water to Nimo, Enugwu-Ukwu, Enugu-Agidi, Abagana, Nawfia and Nawgu.

These communities have actually contributed large sums of money even before the civil war and after. I think it is only equitable that the uncompleted water schemes should be completed first before we embark on any new one. There is no point starting a scheme, abandoning that scheme half-way and then starting a new one which may eventually be abandoned. Why not complete one and then go on to the next?

So Mr Speaker, I shall be very grateful if we ensure that no schemes which have been commenced will be abandoned half-way.

To round off, on the whole the Budget has not really reflected the basic needs of workers and the rural population. In the case of workers, as some hon. Members said, what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. So since other State Governments have taken initiative to restore car advances and basic allowances, we don't have to wait for other actions before we commence our own so that we can motivate our workers.

The rural population too should be taken into consideration whenever basic amenities are being distributed, that is, in terms of water-supply and electricity. If the bulk of the rural population is living in the rural areas, it is only fair that they should have lion's share of the basic amenities.

Mr Speaker, with this, I beg to resume my seat. Thank you.

Mr S. Obeta (Igbo-Eze North): Thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! Side talk is not allowed please.

Mr Obeta: So many people have spoken on the Appropriation Bill with so many criticisms and some praises from certain quarters, but I am not here to criticize the Executive for budgeting within their financial capacity.

After going through the Budget, I can understand that if the proposals are carried out effectively, the aim of the Executive to develop all nooks and corners of this State will materialize. I am also convinced that the electorate has nothing to regret, except that I have some observations to make. That is on industry. I thought formerly that there should be a provision within the financial year to

establish at least four industries in the State, even if it is one for each senatorial zone of the State.

I wonder, because Bendel State with a population of half of that of Anambra State is capable of establishing three or four Breweries but Anambra State is knocking heads with only one, the Premier Brewery. I am saying that if the State Government is able to establish two more breweries in the State, the question of knocking our heads and fighting for frivolities will be a thing of the past.

Mr Speaker, the other day, one hon. Member made a very nice speech on the Floor of this House, though he based his argument mainly on tax collection in the State. He summarized by telling the House that the money collected from the richer local government areas was being used in maintaining some other poor local government areas. I did not share his view at all. I am saying this because the system of tax collection in this State is based on Pay-As-You-Earn. It is not a blessing that after one might have been assessed, one's earnings and so on, including commerce, will give one a tax of twelve naira a year and after Mr A might have been assessed, he is asked to pay ₦2,000. I don't think that Mr A will be very happy because his earnings will attract payment of twelve naira tax a year. This is not based on fair distribution of tax collection.

The best way of distributing amenities in the State is to base it on population.

An hon. Member: Without tax ?

Mr Obeta: Otherwise it will be seen that there are some communities in the State which the Internal Revenue staff could not even reach to assess, not to talk of collecting tax from them because of lack of access road. Sometimes we see them living about sixty miles from the headquarters. How do we collect their tax? They don't see access road for them to sell their products. Do we then abandon them because they are not yielding any volume of tax for us?

I will also remind this honourable House that I am sorry that so many people have very short memory. If I refer to the then Eastern Region whose economy depended

mainly on cash crops and farm produce when we had not got mineral oil in this country, it is known to everyone of us that the areas that were producing palm produce, cash crops are today the areas that fall on the list of poor local government areas according to the honourable statistician. It should be that in those days, the then Produce Marketing Board was functioning well. It was from the revenue generated by the Produce Marketing Board that we established the African Continental Bank and the actual people who produced these crops were left perpetually in darkness till today.

It is necessary that we should be broad-minded in any speech we are going to make on the Floor of this House. Why I am saying so is that it is not a crime whether we are from one side of the State and the other side of the State is being developed. It should be a pride to everyone of us that a part of Anambra State is being developed. We cannot criticize the Government simply because our mothers, kitchen is not being developed and electrified; that has been the order of the day on the Floor of this House. I am also bringing to the knowledge of the hon. Members of this House what we call fair distribution. Whether our distribution here is based on local government Area or senatorial one, that should be the best way of distributing amenities.

In a place like my own local government area, we have not been requesting for anything except water. I know so many people want electricity, industry and so on, but as far as I know the condition of my area we take electricity as luxury. In Anambra State Nsukka and Abakaliki are the most dried parts. On water scheme as it stands now these Teritorial zones are completely neglected. I will crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker to refer to the proposed water scheme in the State.

Abakaliki Zone	₦
Ikwo	130,000
Ishielu	380,000
Ezza	200,000

The three local government areas in that zone.

Awka Zone	₦
Awka	945,000
Aguata	500,000
Njikoka... ..	600,000

[MR OBETA]			
Enugu Zone			₦
Enugu	...	...	1,150,000
Ezeagu	...	...	150,000
Awgu	...	...	230,000
Oji-River	...	...	290,000
Udi	...	...	175,000
Nsukka Zone			₦
Nsukka...	...	...	275,000
Igbo-Eze	...	...	200,000
Isi-Uzo	...	...	150,000
Igbo-Etiti	...	...	50,000

I don't know whether the ₦50,000 for Igbo-Etiti water project is to buy pipes or to dig boreholes.

(Laughter).

Uzo-Uwani	...	...	135,000
Onitsha Zone			₦
Onitsha	...	...	155,000
Ihiala	...	...	251,000
Idemili	...	...	515,000
Nnewi	...	...	178,000

and so on.

An hon. Member: What of Nkanu?

An hon. Member: Nkanu is not on the Map. (Laughter).

Mr Obeta: I am saying generally that in Abakaliki Zone the total money proposed for water scheme is ₦710,000, Onitsha ₦1,620,000, Enugu ₦2,500,000, Awka ₦2,445,000, Nsukka ₦610,000.

Many hon. Members: Eh? Sorry! Dichotomy.

Mr Obeta: Mr Speaker, I am saying I will not criticize the Executive. Sometimes it is a mistake. Provided it is a mistake, let it not be a mistake of the heart. If it is a mistake of the head, it is forgivable, but if it is a mistake of the heart, it is not forgivable. I am saying it without bitterness.

Many hon. Members: Shame! Cross the carpet! GNPP! Waziri!

Mr Obeta: I know so many of us have been so eager to speak so I have to summarize. I am urging the Members of the House to come together with the Executive and do everything unanimously. I am saying that the people that voted us into power and some of the Members think that whatever may befall the Government will blame the Executive. It is not true because the electorate do not

know any other government than those of us who are here. If we tell them that there is another arm of government, they will not understand. They will only tell us that they voted for us so that we do this for them and we refuse to do it for them. So it is better we come together and instead of criticizing, we advise.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief Whip (Mr I. Obiekwe): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute to the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill, and before I do that, there are three observations which I have to make briefly. One is on water, two is on energy, three is on bursary, and others I will keep aside. Before I do that I will like first to call on the Federal Government that there is no need discriminating against other governments that are not managed by the NPN. I say this is in the spirit of the Constitution, Section 39 (1) (b) which stipulates:

A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person—be accorded either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative action, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions.

Why I say this again is that those who contested election in Nigeria like the President and the Vice-President, Anambra is one of their constituencies out of the nineteen constituencies, and therefore what they do to A they should do to B. Also on the Presidential election . . .

An hon. Member: Mr President has one constituency, for your information.

Chief Whip: He has nineteen constituencies which make up one Nigeria. I say this because when I saw some states that have been enjoying the economy, the funds and revenue of this country, the national cake for over thirteen years and still having ₦650 million budgeted and we are talking about half of it, it beats my imagination and it gives a cause for reaction.

Second, I should use this opportunity because I see that most of the areas where I should have talked at length have been treated by Members of the House, to call on the Anambra State Government to have what I

maintain to be Resources Implementation Board. The function of this Board is to do some research work, find out avenues whereby we can raise fund both internally and externally so that by the next time we talk of Budget, our Budget must be fat enough to take care of all the twenty-three local government areas. Because we can see that with such a Board things would be done and done accordingly because the spirit of the Constitution insists that when we are doing anything, diversity should be taken into cognizance, and I will tell Members that if we do not work towards that, we will find that we are going to narrow the possibilities of 1983. I therefore suggest that it is proper for a Government not only to use the whole tax system since we are developing and we are getting civilized, but also we should devise all sorts of means whereby money can be generated into the coffers of the State Government so that we can be self-sufficient at least to a point because if we rely on the Federal and assuming the oil gets finished and dried up what do we do? We will be in an acute financial difficulty. We have no good roads yet. When people are talking about roads here, we have no roads whatsoever because the cost of good road, asphalt road, will be more than even the amount voted by this State Government which is not up to one fly-over in Western Avenue in Lagos. Therefore we can see that we have no funds, and the most important thing like I am saying is that we must generate funds.

I will then come down to issues that affect my constituency because my blessing comes from them, and from them I derive powers. I will like to refer the hon. Speaker to Head 2821 which Head totals roughly about ten million naira, and he will find that when people were contributing they were talking about jobs that will be completed so that it will show a demonstrative government. If for instance the water scheme in Njikoka which reservoir is based at Enugwu-Ukwu and the pumping stream at Nimo, is not completed, I do not think it is fair because if we will put in only small amount of money in that project, we will be able not only to give water to the principal towns which have been taken care of but other towns will be helped out of it too, so that by 1983 we will see demonstrative action.

The electorate who have voted us in are not interested in the type of grammar we speak here. They want to see action, and if we cannot deliver the goods, it will be too bad. Therefore, I am saying that out of that ten million naira, I saw '10e' and '10e' means a token fee, and token fee means we cannot spend anything. I do not know why it went out of the heads of those who were preparing the Budget not to understand that his project is eighty per cent. finished, and if we put extra twenty per cent. the credit will be given to our Government. This job has been done over the years, but the man who takes the glory is the man who hands over the finished product. It is the man the glory will go to. Therefore it will be proper for our Government to make sure that we get this reservoir working instead of lying fallow. Already, in that particular issue, His Excellency has made a lot of promises. Even after the election, he did stop there and promised the people of that area that water will start running before 1st April, 1980 but unfortunately there must be one or two problems in view of the pipes that we saw that got burnt, but that does not mean that we cannot get about and finish all about that.

There is another issue that strikes me most, energy and power, as it affects my constituency. I have seen that rural electrification will not cost Government much because already the indigenes have been spending a lot of money trying to connect the mains to the villages. It will be proper, even if it means putting two or three poles, so that the people will feel that they belong. When an hon. Member was speaking here this morning, he said that some people in Njikoka are civilized Njikoka and others are rural Njikoka, but I will say that apart from the main road that gets up to Lagos, there is nothing the State Government has done for my own area in the proper sense of it. The headquarters that was built was built in all the local government areas, and that is what we can boast of from the Government. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, I will like to be saved. I am saying basically that all we can see in my local government is just the main road that has passed there. Everything that is done there is done by community efforts. People are talking about erosion. I am telling the House that Njikoka is now being attacked by erosion. The rains are coming, and I have looked

[CHIEF WHIP]
right and left in the Budget and do not see any provision for Njikoka Local Government Area. So I will like this honourable House to take cognizance of this and jot it down in case of another Appropriation. That time we will insist that it will be there.

There is one small thing that occurs to me. I remember that this honourable House did talk about bursary award, a Motion which was jointly moved by the hon. Member for Njikoka North East (*Mr Morah*) and my good self. We agreed on the format on which this bursary award will be made. I am suggesting . . .

An hon. Member: Did we ?

Chief Whip: Yes, we did. We did in the sense that the Motion said that this bursary award will be universal and when we were projecting the rationale behind it, we proved that if bursary award is introduced as against scholarship, we will find that many people in Anambra State will benefit from it. That is the rationale, and now if we change to selective bursary it will appear that we are discriminating against other people, and when we are going for election we have got eighty-six per cent. of the people who vote for us. We cannot say that because of fourteen per cent. we will not allow it to be made open. So I am suggesting that it will be proper for this honourable House to consider it necessary to uphold the Motion which they unanimously accepted.

I will like to talk about avenues of getting fund. There are many avenues of getting fund, but I am of the opinion that since we start from the known to the unknown, we know that by pool betting that we can raise enough fund, and there was statistics that was projected before this House which shows that we can realize not less than ₦300,000 on pools betting, and this amount can solve a lot of problems. What will be required for the water that we are talking about in Njikoka will not be up to ₦120,000. So if other people go into that business and service us with ₦200,000, then we will be able to go into other small projects which will help the Government. It will be proper if next time we introduce Motions or Bills we encourage pools betting to be able to generate funds not only that it will allow for employment opportunity but also as our Estimate is very tight, we have to confine

ourselves to what we have. We cannot do budgetary control by forecasting alone. Budget must be controlled and the feasibility should be on how much we have on hand? When we are spending what we have and there are other avenues from which money comes in, then there will be what I may call Supplementary Estimate which may be coming up so that we tidy up what we have extra. So it is very vital that when we are making contributions here, we should think about how to generate fund. We do not come here to play the piper. We have to ensure that our people will maximize out of what we have.

I will like also to state that it is always good to know that there will be no Government functions without enough publicity. I hold the opinion that the Star Printing and Publishing Company should be given enough money. My argument lies on the fact that already they have inherited a lot of debts which will not allow them to function effectively, and unless we clear the debts to push them on to a proper footing, we cannot say whether they are doing well or not. At times the newspapers can publish what A or B does not like, but that does not mean that we will close it up. I do not subscribe to the idea of closing the Star Printing and Publishing Company. It is a very, very vital organ of the Government.

I do remember here that when we were discussing the Supplementary Estimates, Members did insist that more money should be given to the Star Printing and Publishing Company. Why then do we go back to say we should not give them more money now? If according to their information and the books which we saw they are owing three million naira and we are giving them one million naira, we have only solved 33½ per cent. of their problem.

An hon. Member: They should work hard.

Another hon. Member: It is a commercial venture.

Chief Whip: I would like to use this opportunity to say that it will not augur well for this honourable House if we do not gird our loins and see what we can do for our people. We want to see a good Government; we don't want divide and rule. I do not want, if I come here, Mr 'A' will think he doesn't belong to me. We are all hon. Members and we should come

here and move with the pace of our conscience at all times. Let us forget about dichotomy or whatever it is. Let us sit down here and if somebody brings an argument, let us allow him to argue it out. If he argues and we see the light in it, we take it, if we don't, we kill it and then stop fighting the shadow. Let us fight the concrete issues of this State, otherwise, if we are not constructive, we find that we are going to make the greatest mistake of our lives.

We are the first representatives of our people after thirteen years of tyranny by the Army and if by style or by carelessness we make serious mistakes that when our children grow up tomorrow and look at the Hansard and see the type of timidity we played here, I tell hon. Members that some of us by then will be ashamed of themselves. I am begging that we should generate love among ourselves. This is very, very vital. No house stands without love. If someone has a wife and cannot be happy with her at home, because there is no love, he cannot stay with her. The end result is that there must be divorce, and divorce does not pay 'A' or 'B'. We have children! I am warning, and I am using this opportunity . . . (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Is it a part of the Budget?

Chief Whip: Yes, it is a part of the Budget. (*Laughter*).

On industry, hon. Members have already wagged their mouth strongly on industry. Any country or any State that wants to be self-sufficient should have reasonable industries. At least we site an industry with whatever raw materials we have. We are not going to site an industry that will remain an external problem; we want to have an industry where we can use our raw materials and have the end products. We have the raw materials, and I will ask that by 1981 when everyone of us must have learnt properly what it means to have a clear understanding about projections, and we come back on the Floor of this honourable House, we will be discussing as much as twenty-three industries.

On roads, I would like to say one or two things about roads. Under Head 2781, Project 94, Subhead 27, we will find out that Enugwu-Ukwu-Nimo-Adazi Road had N'10e', and this road is very, very vital. It connects Adazi. If

people are in Enugwu-Ukwu and are moving towards Nimo, they will find that it is only one bridge that is there, and if they cross it, they are already on the other side. It will be about fifteen kilometres, but because of that people have to travel all the way down to Amawbia. From Amawbia they will move to Aguata and from Aguata, they will be circumventing the whole area.

So when we are talking about roads, the Ministry that is incharge of roads should do proper study of all the link roads. If we have a better road of 15 miles, why not do it instead of doing 180 miles at once because if we do 15 miles, we are saving a lot of problems for the inhabitants of that area. And from there they will cross from one village to the other, and from one town to the other. If we leave it and start circumventing, we are creating more problems for the road users, thereby making life very difficult for the people.

I hope that by 1981 when everything must have been clear to us, the Budget that we will get here will be a masterpiece, because I take this Budget as being a Budget on trial. It is a Budget on trial in the sense that we as politicians are not supposed to know the details of how budgetary control and forecasting are being done. The person who is incharge of this should do a thorough homework; he should not only sit down in his office. He should tour the areas extensively and be able to project a proper budgetary control by way of advice too, so that at least by 1983 people will see the N.P.P. Government as a viable Government.

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): God forbid! (*Laughter*).

Chief Whip: Since a lot of people are going to speak and we are ending today, with this, Mr Speaker, I beg to sit down.

Mr M. N. Egwuonwu (Awgu South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute on this Budget. In doing so . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr J. N. Agbo (Ishielu South): On a point of Order! Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who has the Floor should use the microphone very well.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Awgu South (*Mr Egwuonwu*) should please continue. (*Laughter*).

Mr Egwuonwu: I am making my contribution on roads. I have to point out the roads mainly in my constituency because over seventy Legislators have contributed here and nobody mentioned any road in my local government area, nor my constituency. Therefore I have to mention them. The most important road in my constituency is Awgu-Ndiabo Road. All the people living around that road are farmers. That is Awgu-Ndiabo-Ngwu-Okpanko Road. These are the people who produce food, just as we get food in Abakaliki and other areas that produce food.

An hon. Member: I thank the hon. member for Awgu South (*Mr Egwuonwu.*) for that

Mr Egwuonwu: This road is now impassable and on roads in the Estimates, I couldn't see the road mentioned.

Several hon. Members: Sorry.

Mr Egwuonwu: When the contract was awarded to Fougerolle (Nig.) Ltd by this Government, that is, Oji-Awgu Road, we were told that the contract would be extended to Ndiabo Railway Station. The company has almost completed the work but stopped at Awgu Post Office. Therefore the Ndiabo-Awgu Road is still at large and within a very short time now . . . (*Interruptions.*)

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Egwuonwu: Nobody will pass there again, and the place will be declared a super-disaster area.

An hon. Member: Point of Order! An hon. Member left his seat to sit in a place allocated to another hon. Member.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order. Order No. 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. No road which is expected to be reconstructed should be at large. (*Laughter.*)

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Awgu South (*Mr Egwuonwu*) meant that no work has been done on the road. He should please continue.

Mr Egwuonwu: Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for defending me. In Awgu South, the Mgbidi-Nenwenta Road is now impassable and is not found in the Budget, Nkwe-Ezere Road is nowhere to be found in the Budget, Maku-Obiagu Road is nowhere in the Budget, Ugwueme-Awgu Road is nowhere in the Budget. I use this forum to appeal to the Ministry of

Works and Housing to make sure they include these roads in the Budget, otherwise this constituency will be cut off and we are on the border with Imo. If the Anambra State does not want that constituency, I am afraid the constituency would not mind.

An hon. Member: Is that a blackmail?

Mr Egwuonwu: What I am saying is a fact. I move down to rural electrification. One hon. Member made a quotation the other day that the Awgu Local Government paid ₦87,000 tax. That is false. I went to the revenue office in Awgu and found that the actual figure was ₦187,000 in the year 1979 to 1980. So with this alone, I am sure that in the rural electrification, although I have not seen the list, they must include all the ten communities in Awgu south constituency.

An hon. Member: Where is the hon. Member for Awgu South (*Mr Egwuonwu*) talking? Where there are no roads?

Mr Egwuonwu: On Water-supply, there had been a reservoir, a pumping house and a borehole built at Awgu to serve Mgbowo and Awgu since 1976 nothing had been done there. I wish the Ministry that is responsible to take proper care that during this financial year that that water pump house and borehole will be commissioned.

Health, the condition of Awgu Midwifery School is so deplorable that even the students cook for themselves. There is nothing there, no light and no water. I wish the Ministry of Health to take note because that is the only Midwifery School which Anambra State has, but it seems the government is allowing it to die and it will not be good. At the Awgu General hospital, any time one goes there and the Doctor prescribes any medicine, all the prescriptions will be marked *out of stock*. I wish the Ministry of Health to take special note and equip that hospital with drugs and all the equipment the hospital deserves.

Education: In Awgu Local Government Area as a whole, there is only one technical school at Mgbidi, and the government should upgrade that technical school to be a government technical school. Of other post-primary schools we have, there is no technical school; it is only that one that is a technical school.

Then car advance to workers: So many hon. Members have made mention that this Anambra State Government would not be an exception because other governments or other States have decided to give car advance to their workers, both basic and mileage allowances. Government should therefore do something about it right now as a matter of urgency.

An hon. Member: Nsogbu !

Industry and Technology: Well, we are happy that the Government has established a University of Technology in Anambra State and there will be two campuses, one in Enugu and one in Awka, and that of Nnewi will take place soon. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! No dialogue please.

Mr Egwuonwu: There is something that beats me hollow and that is the construction of Oba-Nnewi Road. This Oba-Nnewi Road and the Awgu-Oji-River Roads were awarded one day to the Fougerville constructing firm. One has almost been completed, but the other one, that is, the Oba-Nnewi Road, nothing has been done there. I think a proper investigation should be made to know whether the cause is from the contractor or that the people who are to use the road do not want the road to be constructed.

Several hon. Members: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Egwuonwu: Because no body happens to pass through that road now, in fact, that road now is impassable. It is a super-disaster area.

Several hon. Members: Fire ! Fire !

Mr L. Okonkwo (Awka North): Point of Order. Order No. 28 (5) of the Standing Orders. Taking into consideration the shortness of time allowed for contribution, I feel that if we continue interrupting hon. Members who have the Floor we may not finish.

Several hon. Members: Supported !

The Deputy Speaker: The point of Order is upheld. The hon. Member for Awgu South should please summarize.

Mr Egwuonwu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to appeal to the hon. Members that we

should try as much as we can to pass this Budget because the electorate is trying to misunderstand us. They are having the impression that we are delaying the work of the State. They do not know that the government or the executive, according to the Constitution, has signed warrant to be spending about one-tenth of the whole money. They fail to understand this and whatever we say, they will not listen to us. So, let us try and give blessing to this Budget. With this Mr Speaker, I beg to stop. Thank you.

Deputy Chief Whip (Mr C. O. Emehelu): On a point of Order Mr Speaker ! Order No. 18 (1) and (2) of the Standing Orders. Considering the number of people who would want to speak and considering the length of time left for us today, I would like to draw the attention of Mr Speaker to point of Order No. 18 and in particular, 18 (2)—Orders of the Day which reads this:

Orders of the Day not reached before the end of a sitting or appointed for a day on which the House does not sit shall be set down for the next sitting of the House.

An hon. Member: We cannot have it !

Deputy Chief Whip: I am coming. Mr Speaker, what I am saying in effect is that in order to do proper justice to the Second Reading of this Budget proposal, I am suggesting Mr Speaker, that the House takes cognizance of this Standing Orders and acting on it, to survey the possibility of continuing this debate tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: No ! No !

Some other hon. Members: Yes ! Yes !

An hon. Member: Where were you ?

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! The point raised by the hon. Member for Enugu North (*Mr Emehelu*) is noted. So we shall deliberate on that when we come to the end of today's sitting.

Those who wish to speak should please indicate.

Mr Nwobodo Ogbu Nwobodo (Nkanu Central): Mr Speaker, may I say that there is a very big advantage in speaking last in a debate. One can jolly well get up and say that

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everybody has said what one wanted to say and sit down. Be that as it may, I make my little contribution. Various hon. Members have variously described the Budget. May I describe the Budget as a very cautious one; in fact, the very first one under civilian administration since 1966.

The next point I want to talk about is on the relationship between this administration here and Lagos. Again the points have been over-flogged. All I pray is that the period of confrontation with Lagos should give way to peace and negotiations, to persuasion and conviction and to lobbying. We have tried it the Military way and failed. Let us not try it again. Fortunately for this nation, we have humane gentlemen as the President and his vice.

Having said that Mr Speaker, may I talk of roads and water-supply. I do not know the sort of continuity we have between the present administration and the last regime. If we go to Ninth Mile Corner we find piles of pipes there bought by the previous regime. All of a sudden, we were told that the whole thing had been burnt. I wonder whether any investigation was ever conducted and if yes, whether the result of this investigation had been released. Water is such a basic necessity. It is such an essential thing that no Government worth its salt can afford to deny the people that. If we go through the Budget, we find that the sum of ₦9.6 million was allocated. I wish that this amount be doubled. How I wish that even the money meant for the ATV be diverted in order to let the people have water.

Talking about roads, if we go to Achara Layout, we find streets like Egbo Nnaji, Afikpo, and Nnaji Nwede streets not knowing anything like tarring. About two or three years ago, there were some construction companies here in Enugu tarring all the streets. But all of a sudden these companies vamoosed or disappeared. I do not know the sins committed by the inhabitants of these areas whose streets are not tarred. May I call on the Executive, through the Speaker, to see that these remaining streets in Enugu are tarred without further delay.

On rural electrification, we have about one hundred and nineteen towns selected for rural electrification. As we know, electricity is no longer a luxury in modern times; it is a necessity. I am appealing to the Executive to make

sure that there is a systematic approach to the issue of rural electrification. It is morally indefensible to jump one town to electrify the other. If the Budget can carry us through a hundred towns, let us finish with that during the financial year and leave the rest for 1981 Budget. I cannot understand why the towns nearer Enugu here should be left out, while another town farther from here is included, I mean jumping some towns to electrify the other.

An hon. Member: Dichotomy!

Mr Ogbu Nwobodo: Call it whatever we may.

Talking on Works, I would urge the Executive to give every encouragement to Col. Gbulie's team. They are doing a very marvellous job. At the same time, I am calling on our armchair engineers in the Ministry of Works and Housing to leave their air-conditioned rooms and go to the site where we have government projects to see to it that work going on there is carried out according to specifications. I have in mind in particular, the present job going on in my local government area by Hardel and Enic. It seems to me, though not an engineer, that drainage is being sacrificed and since the Udi-Ozalla-Nkerefefi Road is constructed by the Federal Government, I am asking the Engineer in the Federal Ministry of Works here in Enugu to go immediately to supervise the job while at the same time, thanking the State Government for tarring the Agbani-Akpugo-Ihuokpara Road, all in my constituency.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, may I talk on palm produce. I am urging the Executive and the Federal Government of Nigeria to give Professor Modebe's team or Board every encouragement to set up industries in the palm producing areas. I mean the industries that will absorb palm products, palm-oil and palm-kernel. In doing that again, the producers will earn higher price. As we know, the University of Nigeria was built from the revenue generated by the former Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation.

Having said that, I will like to talk on the Anambra State Council of Chiefs. Membership of this body should exclude Chiefs from disputed areas. I have a Motion coming up on this sometime, it is with the Business Committee if they allow it. I strongly suggest that where chieftaincy tussle is going on, popular and democratic methods such as

popular election, plebiscite and referendum should be used to determine the incumbent. It is very, very unfair to the taxpayers to have their money used in paying the Chiefs who are imposed on them. May I again talk on appointments made by this administration since October, 1979. The Nigeria Peoples Party got 80 per cent. of the people's votes. It is therefore morally wrong, morally indefensible for that Government to discriminate in any shape or form in appointment whatsoever. We find some local government areas having one or two appointments. We find some towns like Nkanu, whatever that means to a local government area having two or three appointments when there are other towns without any. There are some individuals... (Interruptions).

Deputy Chief Whip: On point of Order ! Mr Speaker, my point of Orders borders on decorum. The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (Mr Ojukwu) has abandoned his seat.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Nnewi North East (Mr Ojukwu) will please take his seat.

Mr Ogbu Nwobodo: As I was saying Mr Speaker, some individuals have two or three appointments when there are others without any. It is unfair.

May I talk briefly on Education. I strongly suggest that scholarship should remain and that a policy of selective bursary award be pursued. If we go into the Estimates, we find that this Government is owing ₦2.9 million to settle the existing scholarship and only ₦2 million has been allocated for scholarship and bursary, and we have about six thousand undergraduates in our Universities and about four thousand in our Institutes of Technology, bringing the number to a total of ten thousand. Even if we share this ₦2 million among the undergraduates, the amount each student will get will be so insignificant that it will not make any impact at all to solving his/her financial problems. Let us wait until we are as rich as the States of Western Nigeria that pursue universal free education up to university level.

An hon. Member: But they failed!

Mr Ogbu Nwobodo: May I again suggest or appeal that with the sum of ₦35,000 allocated to the Examination Development Centre, our

U.P.E. teachers in Teacher Training Colleges should start in October and not in January. By delaying it, we are contributing to the so-called falling standard in education. I am also appealing that certificates should be issued to deserving candidates promptly and that lost ones should be replaced.

On the School Services Commission, I am suggesting that a well equipped Works Unit to meet contingencies such as P.T.A. projects should be established. Such a body can undertake some electrical jobs, repair of furniture, repair of buildings, some of which were started by the P.T.A. Still on Education, Mr Speaker, I am calling on this administration to do something about the products of our crash programme overseas. It is not uncommon to find here some of the boys who went to Yugoslavia to pursue a diploma course in mechanized agriculture, instead of finding employment in our farm settlements, some of them go into the primary or secondary schools to teach English or Igbo.

On Education, I am calling on this House or Members of this honourable House not to embody dichotomy or contradiction. Let us not embody contradiction. Few months ago, we passed a Motion here, in fact, unanimously that a University of Technology should be established. Today again we are questioning its validity or legality. It seems to me we are trying to embody contradiction. The University of Technology has come to stay.

Several hon. Members: Hear ! hear !

Mr Nwobodo: May I call on the Ministry of Agriculture to go to Nachi and see the colossal waste there. The sum of ₦18 million has been invested in that Nachi Vegetable Oil Refinery, but it has been abandoned. Let us do something to reactivate that scheme.

May I again call on the Executive, if possible, to double the ₦316,000 meant for the maintenance of less fortunate brothers and sisters in the Cheshire Homes at Oji-River and other places like that.

Again I am suggesting that the sum of ₦150,000 meant for acquisition of Works of Arts and collection of Works of Arts should be doubled. Very soon I shall be sponsoring a

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Bill in this House for the establishment of State Archives. As we know, whereas the antiquities are our past objects, archives have to do with our literary past, and we should as a culture-conscious people, do everything to preserve our past heritage. By so doing, we shall dispel the so-called culture vacuum and no history theory being perpetrated by our colonial masters.

Again, I shall be selling a Bill which, if passed, will control satisfactorily the distributorship system of the essential goods throughout the State. I hope hon. Members will buy that happily.

May I say that we should protect our contractors. The system of collecting from ₦500 to ₦1,000 before a contract job is awarded is very, very unsatisfactory; moreso when we consider that in some cases the advertising body goes round to do job. We should also consider that some of these contractors have to borrow thousands and millions of naira from the Banks. The Bank interest is there with the frustrating delay in the payment. Much as we cry that we should generate some revenue, I strongly urge this administration to consider the abolition of payment of non-refundable deposit before contracts are awarded.

The Chairman of the Committee on Technology here gave this House a wrong information two days ago on Nigercem. Any of us who read the report by Chief R. B. K. Okafor will agree that Mr Ilodibia was running the Company as a personal property, and this explains the loss of ₦18 million. It is very, very shocking and strange that Nigercem, of all companies, should be running at a deficit. So I ask the Chairman of the Committee on Technology to inform this House correctly and not to deceive us. We vividly remember the circumstances which led to Mr Ilodibia being asked to proceed on leave. There is a case of pregnant women dying. A case of some women demonstrating. The case of Dr Okonkwo being arbitrarily terminated. We know these things; they are just open facts.

An hon. Member: Which Okonkwo?

Mr Nwobodo: Dr Okonkwo who was in charge of the hospital in the Nigercem. So before anybody brings any information to this House, he should be sure of his facts.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would summarize by saying that the torturing needs of my constituency or local government area include the reconstruction of Nyaba Bridge which runs across the road running through Agbani, Akpugo-Nike and Enugu; densely populated and food-producing areas. We need a Trade Office at Agbani. The town is growing and possesses everything that qualifies it for a Trade Office. We require one or two technical colleges and a trade centre. People may classify us as an educationally backward area.

Eke Agbani Market requires urgent attention. If that market is planned and built, it will generate fund for the Nkanu Local Government Council. As for Enugu, its torturing needs include fly-overs and link roads. It requires water, even if we want to import or bring the Chinese or the Israelis as the chap from ABC said two days ago.

The same thing mentioned earlier at Enugu should be taken into consideration. The only General Hospital at Enugu, I still say it, has no toilet facilities, no mortuary and no bathroom. I remember having brought up this point about two months ago. Something has to be done. It is immensely embarrassing to go to that Hospital, the only General Hospital at the State Capital, to find that it lacks these essential amenities.

With this I have to thank Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute.

Mr S. E. Odife (Onitsha South West): I thank Mr Speaker for recognizing me to speak up on this Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980. I do believe, according to the adage, that *he who laughs last laughs best*. Well there is an Igbo adage which says that *anybody who is eager to have vegetable must first and foremost pray for rainfall*. In this respect my contribution should be married to three major items. Before going into that, I will remind this House that in my own constituency, Onitsha South West, there is a new Layout which has been existing for almost 20 years without recognition by the Government. It has no road, no water, no electricity and that new Layout is Okpoko. I am appealing to this honourable House to urge the Commissioner in-charge of Lands and Survey to persuade the Onitsha Town Planning Authority to go into this area when the time of master plan for Onitsha Urban comes, as was

promised by the Governor of this very State during the campaign period, to go to that very new Layout, survey it and develop it.

The new Layout consists of about 300,000 in population and yet they are bottle-necked. Not only that it is not recognized by the Government but also when it is time of tax drive, rate drive, it is very painful that this very portion of land called Okpoko new Layout contributes heavily for the development of Onitsha Urban and yet they are neglected. On this forum I am appealing honestly through this House to urge the Commissioner-in-charge to see that this place is developed. It is contained in the promise made by the Governor of this State during the electioneering campaign that he is going to give them roads, light and water. If these promises are not fulfilled, it sounds to me and to the very people concerned that political promises are not being fulfilled. I believe that this promise is a promise germinated from the presidential system of Government. It shouldn't be like the one of parliamentary system of Government where bundles of promises are made to the people and none of them will be fulfilled. We must show a good difference. We must show the difference between the parliamentary system of Government and the presidential system of Government.

Before I go into detail in my contribution, I will not forget to thank the Speaker and his Deputy, to thank all the Members of this honourable House for the way and manner they contribute in all the debates and their quick knowledge and quick understanding of this presidential system of Government as it is enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution. I come to the analysis of my first parable.

The Deputy Speaker: If I may say, the hon. Member who has the Floor has only eight minutes.

Mr Odife: Mr Speaker, if my time is so cut with official capacity, I may appeal, I may appeal, in a humble submission, to adjourn and extend my contribution till tomorrow morning because I have a lot to say being a man of the masses, and I am inside the field. This is a special appeal to the Speaker and I am expecting a reply if necessary.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*) should please go on.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): On a point of Information. In view of the fact that the time available to this House is rather very short, and in view of the fact that we still have quite a number of hon. Members who wish to contribute, we should limit every speaker to a maximum of 10 minutes, if it is the wish of Mr Speaker. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: If it is the wish of the House, I will give the information given by the hon. Member for Njikoka Central South (*Mr Alor*) because in Order 64 (3) the provision says that—

... *Provided that if the question on Second Reading be agreed to on a day earlier than the last day so allotted.* . . . So it makes it impossible for us to extend.

Mr Odife: So let me finish. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*) will please continue.

Mr Odife: Thank you very much. Well coming now to my first parable, it is very confusing that some people gave this Budget different names, but in my opinion I call it a Budget of the beginning of the Big Do. If we look at the Budget carefully we see that the main root of development is entirely forgotten and that is the Ministry of Local Government. It is the premier Ministry. It is the Ministry of the wheel of progress and development into grass roots. Without this very Ministry, there will be no development whatsoever to the grass roots. Little money has been provided for this Ministry. In last year's Supplementary Bill and Budget this Ministry was provided with ₦15 million, but this year it is only given token sum of ₦2 million. I do not know what to do with this very ₦2 million as far as the Ministry is concerned with development of the Local Government Areas. Without this very Ministry of Local Government our State should not be developed to the grass roots. Totally, it is going to mean that all the problems facing the Ministry of the Local Government in this State are going to be run on deficit basis.

[MR ODIFE]

For this simple reason, I am appealing through this honourable House to the Executive to use any available means to see that extra money is added to what is already budgeted for this very Ministry.

I take up the Ministry of Health. When we come to this very Ministry, it is provided in this very Estimate that ₦2 million is going to be used for re-equipping the existing hospitals in this State. I agree, but hon. Members will remember that in the Supplementary Estimate this very Ministry was provided with ₦16 million last year yet there is no encouraging improvement in the administration, and some of the hon. Members who have contributed say that if we go to the hospitals where we have specialists, even A P C is out of stock. The very specialists being deployed by the Government are also out of stock. What they do is to go to their clinics, call back all the patients from the General Hospital and refer them to their private clinics. They cheat the Government in two ways. One they transfer all the drugs meant for public use to their private clinics, though not all the doctors do that. Two they use all the available medical instruments in treating their patients and recommend them back to their own private profit-making venture, and at the same time they glorify in professional perfection. (*Applause*).

Several hon. Members: OMATA !

Mr Odife: Coming down to the Ministry of Finance, it is a pity that the registration of business premises is so continuous, in fact, an endless one. There is a policy of registration in all affairs of Government administration.

The Deputy Speaker: Three minutes more please.

Mr Odife: I am winding up, Mr Speaker Sir, I am only sorry that time is against me. I could have elaborated my argument with substantial reason, but it doesn't matter so much. We shall have more time, Sir. I mean that the Ministry of Finance will. . .

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): On a point of Order! The hon. Member who has the Floor should address the Speaker.

Several hon. Members: Old Order!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Ngene: The hon. Member who has the Floor is talking irrelevancies. He has the time to talk with hon. Members instead of addressing the Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Read the Order.

Mr Ngene: The Order is No. 26(2)—Irrelevancies.

An hon. Member: He is reading the old Order.

Mr Ngene: I have crammed it, I don't have my own copy here.

The Deputy Speaker: All right. The hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*) should please summarize.

Mr Odife: In my summary, to the point where the Ministry of Finance is connected, I am appealing through this honourable House that the Ministry of Finance must adopt the laid-down policy for registration. They should see that he who registered this year should not re-register but should only renew it.

Industry and Technology: Being a commercial somebody, I have reliably learnt that Nigercem is running under deficit, at loss. I have to make it clear that during the time of the then civilian government under the premiership of Dr M. I. Okpara, a bag of cement produced by this very Nigercem was sold at the cost of ten shillings and six pence per bag but today it is being sold at a break-neck price of ₦4 or ₦3.70 factory prize while the imported bags of cement are sold cheaper, ₦3, ₦2.80. How then could the customers come up to patronize this factory?

An hon. Member: I wonder!

Mr Odife: All the available instruments, all raw materials are being obtained in that particular factory. None of them is imported. Why should the price be so exorbitant? Is it to drive away the customers? Everything in the production of this very cement is obtainable at Nkalagu. For this simple reason, I am calling on the Government to persuade the Commissioner incharge to reduce the price so that it will have proper attraction for quicker sale and thereby we should gain much.

Several hon. Member: OMATA !

The Deputy Speaker: Would the hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*) please summarize.

Mr Odife: Well, I have seen the microphone very close to Mr Speaker's lips. For this simple reason though I have so many emphasis to lay but time being against me, I beg to stop so far.

The Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. Member for Onitsha South West (*Mr Odife*).

Mr M. O. Igwe (Abakaliki South): I thank Mr Speaker for giving me a chance to make my contribution to the debate on the Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980.

An hon. Member: I hope the hon. Member for Abakaliki South (*Mr Igwe*) is not reading.

Mr Igwe: This Bill is brought for amendments, consideration and approval by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Anambra State. This Budget which covers the sum of ₦331.5 million for the services of this State for nine months starting from 1st April to 31st December, 1980 to my humble opinion is a very tight one but very realistic.

An hon. Member: The hon. Member for Abakaliki South (*Mr Igwe*) is reading.

Several hon. Members: It is allowed.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Abakaliki South (*Mr Igwe*) is not reading. He is using the microphone.

An hon. Member: Is it allowed ?

The Deputy Speaker: I have ruled on that point of Order. The hon. Member for Abakaliki South (*Mr Igwe*) should please continue.

Mr Igwe: This Budget in review covers Recurrent Revenue of ₦174.3 million.

Mr T. N. Ezenwaka (Aguata South Central): On a point of Order ! An hon. Member should take the correct posture in delivering his speech and should not talk to the Speaker as a teacher does to his pupils.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member who has the Floor should please stand properly.

Mr Igwe: All right I have to go straight to the point. In this Budget the main point which I am going to stress is on the rural development. All of us in this honourable House come from various rural communities,

and we are here for rural development. The Federal Government, I can see, is a four-tier government. We have the Federal, the State, the Local Government and our various constituencies. If appropriate step is not taken by this honourable House by way of developing our various constituencies, I don't think we are making any progress in this honourable House.

When I say this, I mean that sufficient grant must be made for the development of our various constituencies. The money is given to local government, but we know the type of local government we are running nowadays; it is a political local government. We all here come from various constituencies. We have about eighty-seven constituencies in Anambra State. So every development amenity that is given to Anambra State should be shared among the eighty-seven constituencies.

If we are here to develop our local constituencies we have seen in the Estimates the highlight of areas of priority so that about ₦9.8 million given to unknown roads should be utilized to buy equipment such as bulldozers, tractors and graders and distribute them to various constituencies, that is, the eighty-seven constituencies for our even development.

On roads, we have seen that there are about four categories of roads in every State, namely, the Federal roads, the State roads, the local government roads and the community roads. This is a proper time we should call on the Federal Minister of Works to come and inspect all the Federal roads in the State to know the appropriate steps to take in order to construct the roads and also the State Commissioner for Works should look properly after the State roads while sufficient grants should be made to every constituency for the construction of local government and community roads.

(*Interruptions*).

Mr N. Ekuma: On a point of Order: An hon. Member is sleeping.

Many hon. Members: He is not sleeping.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ! No hon. Member is sleeping. The hon. Member is sitting like a log. So the point of Order is not upheld. The honourable Member who has the Floor should please summarize.

Mr Igwe: On Education, we know quite well that we have much to do on education these days, but we are thinking very high. We know that on education, the number of people that are illiterate is more than the people who are literate. So we should concentrate more on adult education. That should be the first step.

So hon. Members: Fire ! Fire !

Mr Igwe: In the primary schools, we know that the number of people that is enrolled every year is increasing yearly, and we should try to provide sufficient primary schools for our children in this State. They seem to lack basic infrastructures such as accommodation and equipment. All these things should be provided to primary schools before we begin to talk of university.

The Deputy Speaker: Have half a minute more.

Mr Igwe: If I have a minute, let me round off. On secondary education, it is worse in Abakaliki area. In some local government areas they have about ten to twelve to fifteen secondary schools, but in Abakaliki we have not more than six. So the Government should try to help us to build more secondary schools in Abakaliki Zone, especially in my own constituency where we have not even a single secondary school.

Many hon. Members: Do launching and community effort.

Mr Igwe: On Health.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up.

Mr Igwe: I am sorry Mr Speaker for cutting me short.

The Deputy Speaker: He said on Health, well let him make the last contribution on it.

Mr Igwe: On Health, we know that it is one of the necessities of life. In fact, in my area, that is, Abakaliki Zone, the State Government should try to provide health facilities at least in all the communities there. We have only one general hospital that is catering for all the people in Abakaliki Zone. At least we should have about two or three general hospitals and more health centres in Abakaliki.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up.

Mr Igwe: I thank Mr Speaker.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): I thank Mr Speaker very much. Honourable Members know I moved that we cut this time down, and Mr Speaker agreed. So I am not going to waste anybody's time. I would like to point out just one thing which I think has not been covered by other speakers. We have said all sorts of things and I cannot see what I can now say that has not been said before. I want to describe this Budget as very impressive Budget. It is realistic, objective and in compliance with the priority requirements of the Nigerian Peoples' Party Government. Mr Speaker Sir, it is objective because it took into account the fact that we inherited too much deficit from the military. It is realistic because we cannot cut more than we can chew. In other words, the Budget was sort of presented within the limits of the financial resources of the State. That is why I think it is realistic. I think it complies with the priority requirements of the Party because first and foremost we have no roads at all, and so many people said so. Well we have some roads, maybe they are bad. I would not say we have no roads at all, otherwise I would not have been reaching my village, but they are awful, they are terrible and too bad, and everybody seems to agree to this. Therefore the first priority in our priority requirements appears to be roads, and that is why you can see in the Budget that it appears to take lion's share.

We all want something done; some of us want money here or there. We want good roads; we want good hospitals; we want good schools; we want good water-supply; and we want good everything. Very few of us stop to think of how we can get the money. I think that is the problem. I am going to say a little in that area. What matters really is not what we want to do, but how we shall do it. It is not what we want to build, but where is the money to build it. That is the problem, and we can generate fund internally in the State in various ways, and everyone of us should start directing his or her mind towards this—how do we generate funds?

I would want the roads in my village to be tarred with asphalt, perhaps, with gold or silver or whatever we can think of, but—how do we get the money? We talk repeatedly about the

Government, but who is the Government? We are part and parcel of this Government. Therefore I am thinking in this way, that I can make a little suggestion with regards to where we can generate funds, and I suggest that we can have some sort of indirect tax like Capital Transfer Tax.

Mr Speaker, all the microphones appear not to be working any more, and I do hope this is not sabotage! May I repeat what I have said in case the reporters did not get me.

I was saying the Government can introduce some form of indirect tax like Capital Transfer Tax; like Capital Gains Tax; like Value Added Tax (VAT) otherwise known as Purchase Tax. If we can do this, I am sure we can generate between ₦15 and ₦20 million a year.

On education, we can reduce our expenditure. If we can have a fixed education rate of ten naira per annum as against thirty to forty naira per annum which is now paid in form of the so-called PTA, and I know as most of hon. Members do, that about 90 per cent. of this go into private pockets. If we can put, say, ten naira fixed education rate per student per annum, we can raise a lot of millions and this will help the Government. What I am saying exactly is that we have to think hard. We are part and parcel of this Government, and we have got to think hard on how to generate funds.

Some hon. Members: Time up!

Mr Alor: Having said this much, I can go on, but unfortunately for want of time. I will go on to industry. On this I want to make it brief. I believe sincerely that we can have what we call industrial layouts and estates, but I think that, within the limited financial resources of the State, we cannot afford industrial estates because it is very expensive. I think the Government can afford industrial layouts. Whatever remains, whatever we can have, and whatever we can salvage can be used in financing the small-scale industrialists. They do not require these estates we are talking about. We find them everywhere.

By definition a small-scale industrialist is somebody who is operating an industry between capital value of ₦100 and ₦150,000 and hon. Member will agree with me that we find these people all over the place, in Ogbete

market, in the streets at Onitsha and even in their private compounds. They manufacture one thing or the other. So what they really require is not estate but capital to finance their business. Therefore we can, within the limits of our resources, direct whatever we have to financing small-scale industrialists.

Several hon. Members: Time up!

Mr Alor: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, that time is so short, but I have only done half of it. I will like to mention roads and because of the importance attached to roads, we will have to rethink about the system of awarding contracts. When I say we, I mean the Government. What most of us hated during the military regime was the question of awarding contracts to persons who were non-performers—people who cannot perform just take the contract for the fun of it, and I do not know what happens before they get these contracts, and they never performed.

In my own area, for instance, I will give an example of the road from Agulu to Nnobi. This very road must have faced at least six contractors within seven years, and believe me none performed. It is still what it had been. I do not know if they were paid or not. What I am saying is that we have to rethink and make sure—I don't mind if I am criticized—that we give contracts to big firms, I won't say foreign because no firm is now foreign. I think they are all indigenous, but we will give contracts to big firms that can perform. We will be so selective in this because if we can argue our heads off here and make funds available and contracts awarded for the construction of certain roads and these roads are not constructed, then we are back to square one.

So I am appealing, perhaps, through Mr Speaker that this be made known to the authority; that any time they want to award contracts for road construction, they must be very selective.

Several hon. Members: Time is up! Time is up! (*Interruptions*).

Mr Alor: Mr Speaker, am I protected? I have not done six minutes yet.

[MR ALOR]

Several hon. Members: He has done more than that.

The Deputy Speaker: Would the hon. Member for Njikoka Central South please round off.

Mr Alor: I thank Mr Speaker very much. I would go back to the road in my constituency, and I am sure very many people here pass through that road, that is, Awka-Amawbia-Agulu-Ekwulobia Road which is now under construction, and I am saying that whoever is responsible for the supervision of that contract must be careful because the job being done there is so poor and not as fast as we anticipated. They make things so impossible that with a drop of rain nobody will pass through there, and this applies to most of the roads in my area. It is the U.C.C., and I must mention the name because it is a known fact.

So Mr Speaker, with time against me, I am done.

Mr A. E. Odoh (Nsukka East): I thank Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980. My main concern is not necessarily the question of having budgeted three million or one billion naira but the way this is being shared. The Budget itself, though tight in a way as far as my knowledge can carry me, is not failure. It is not how far but how well, If comparison is anything to go by, I would say that many Governments have come and gone, and the story has been the same. I know very many areas have started feeling a sense of belonging somehow but not my own area. (*Laughter*).

Education: The people of this State are known for their hardwork educationally. To get this spirit going, I would suggest the establishment of one College of Education at least in every senatorial zone.

Several hon. Members: Honourable Ojukwu !

Mr Odoh: Secondary schools built by communities should be taken over by the Government after two years running. This will give a big relief to so many rural communities.

Indiscipline in Schools: Indiscipline in our schools is mostly as a result of the civil war. We know that in the time of war, anything goes.

During the war, very many of our children joined the army, and after the war they went back to their respective schools and refused to be controlled. Furthermore, I would like the conditions of service for the teachers in this State to be improved.

Roads: Agriculture as an industry goes hand in hand with road. I would like to bring to the notice of this House that during the last Agricultural show here in the State, somebody from my constituency came first and was given twenty bags of—(*Applause*)—fertilizer, not knowing that our people don't even need fertilizer because the land is fertile.

Several hon. Members: Sell them !

Mr Odoh: Therefore if Opiagu-Umabagu-Ihalumona-Ndiagu Road will be considered this time, there will be a big news for those in their different townships. I would like to point out that Ikem had been the seat of Isi-Uzo Local Government ever before I was born, but up till now the people from that area have never known what is a coaltar.

An hon. Member: Say it loud !

Mr Odoh: Therefore I would suggest that if Ihalumona-Ikem Road is to be considered this time, the food-producing people from that area will feel that they belong to this State.

The Deputy Speaker: Two minutes more.

Mr Odoh: The much talked about Eme bridge which has not been reconstructed leads to these food-producing areas and they are Ihandiagu, Umabagu, Opiagu and Ugwogo.

Water: Ihalumona water scheme which has not been commissioned, if properly considered, will take care of five secondary schools. These schools, for a long time now, have no water. I would like the Ministry of Public Utilities to take note of this and that if proper steps are not taken, the situation will deteriorate.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up.

Mr Odoh: Industry is the mainstay of any developing State. Therefore I would like, at least for a start, the establishment of one industry in every local government area.

Several hon. Members: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Odoh: With these, I beg to take my seat.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): Mr Speaker Sir, from contributions made so far by hon. Members to this Budget, it does seem that we are all one in our commitment in the provision of good things of life for the people of this State.

Mr F. C. Nwofor: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Didigu: There are differences only on where and when to provide these amenities. From personal consideration of this Budget, it does seem there is lack of serious planning. This is to be expected bearing in mind that, from time immemorial, Budgets have been prepared by the Minister in consultation with his Permanent Secretary and workers and presented to the House of which the Minister was a member. The difference now is that Members of the House don't have any say in preparing the Budgets. In a Presidential System which we are trying to operate, Budgets should be taken more seriously than what obtained both in the Supplementary Appropriation of last year and in the Budget of this year. To this end, I would suggest that an office of planning and budget be established in this State to take care of all future budgets.

This should be a standing office which will collect ideas as to end, ideas as to means both from the public and the Legislature. These ideas can be crystallized in a plan that will meet the aspirations of the people of this State. Budget in itself is a system of decision-making. Needs abound, the decisions have to be made about which need is more pressing than the other. This is to be decided by an office of planning and budgeting. Decisions have to be made about availability of resources knowing fully well that what we want can never be matched with what we have, so it becomes necessary to decide out of the limited income available to the State how much will be spent on what need. To this end Mr Speaker, I do suggest that income in this State can be increased in two ways, either by borrowing or by improving the level of productivity. The latter should be preferred to the former. But then we heard that there are limitations to the amount of increasing incomes. We have in the present Budget an allocation of ₦9.6 million to water and about ₦2.8 million to sewerages and drainages. These together formed 9 per cent. of the Capital Draft Estimates.

We heard that money in this State is centred in the hands of contractors, consultants, traders, businessmen and all what-nots. What part does the State government realize from these group of citizens? It is very paltry indeed.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up.

Mr Didigu: The water we supply to the citizens of this State is being used up by commercial block moulders, commercial vehicle washers, builders and all what-nots. How much do we charge these users for the facilities we provide them? Very negligible indeed.

A third point I would like to talk about in this Budget is accountability. Accountability carries with itself two pronged wheels. What do we account for and to whom do we account?

The Deputy Speaker: Time up.

Mr Didigu: I thank Mr Speaker.

Mr J. N. Agbo (Ishielu South): Mr Speaker Sir, in contributing to this debate I will start by identifying the unknown roads. These unknown roads fortunately fall in my constituency. (*Laughter*). They are Ezzamgbo-Effium Road, Umuezeaka-Odomoke Road, Nteze-Agba-Okpoto Road. I would say if others have not been identified I pray that this money allocated to unknown roads be used for the development of these known roads now. These known roads lead to food-producing areas, these known roads lead to the biggest market in the Abakaliki Senatorial District. If these known roads are not developed within this period I am afraid there will not be enough yam, there will not be enough garri and rice in urban areas within the period under review.

If I can take Members back to the speech delivered to this House by His Excellency on 9th October, 1979 and I quote:

The government under my leadership in this State is committed to evolving a society in which the welfare of every citizen in this State can be guaranteed.

If Members look into this Budget properly, a drift had been made from this assertion in respect of basic health facility. Yes this is very correct Mr Speaker; many hospitals proposed in this State have been half completed and it will be better to finish the work in hand before proposing new hospitals. A case in point is the

[Mr Agbo]
 general hospital at Ezzamgbo. The contract was awarded to a contractor based here in Enugu in 1977, but up to now half the work has not been done. The contractor's cry was that there was no money. I would appeal that the State government come to the aid of this hospital and give enough money to the contractor to finish the work in hand. If the project is finished, the next thing will be the problem of drug. There is no drug in all the hospitals at Abakaliki Senatorial Zone. It is always out of Stock (O.S.), and to this end Mr Speaker I would urge that there be a probe into the activities of the State Health Management Board. Since the inception of this Board there had never been drugs in our hospitals. If we want to give the citizens of this State what they want, first of all, we must make them healthy.

On health: ! In 1938 a disease which was said to be incurable and a curse was leprosy, but in many areas the voluntary agencies have embarked on programme to combat this dreadful disease. I wish the grants allocated to this Head be increased in order to let these volunteers carry on this odious work.

On industry, I will say that this State has opportunity to build one buoyant industry. There is an abundance of limestone in Ngo in Ishielu Local Government Area, and it will be a waste of time, a waste of labour and a waste of manpower to transport this limestone to Nkalagu. The quantity of limestone found there is greater than that at Nkalagu, and it would be better to boost the morale and the economy of this State by building another cement industry.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr L. Njoku (Abakaliki South West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1980 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to brief Members on three important points. They are roads, education and water-supply. Many hon. Members who spoke here have complained of poor allocation to the roads in their constituencies, but to my greatest surprise, the truth is that my constituency has no money allocated to its roads. If this is an omission, I think it is a serious one. Since ₦9.6 million has been voted for other roads, I want and I think that the two roads in my constituency should not be forgotten.

Coming to education, which is the ladder to social, economic and political emancipation, we cannot afford to neglect them. It is disheartening that ten years after the civil war, the children of this State still study under the mango trees. This can be seen in many schools in Abakaliki. I then suggest strongly that grants should be given to all the primary schools in Anambra State and that the sum of about ₦3,000 should be given to every school in Anambra State. (*Laughter*). This money should be utilized by the Headmaster under the strict supervision of the Superintendents in charge of the local government council areas. It is the Headmaster who knows the problems of the school and how to use this money.

On water-supply, we know that water is one of the necessities of life. It is unfortunate that we talk of boreholes and pipe borne water, but in Abakaliki and in my constituency, we don't see such things, and the people of my constituency drink anything in the form of water to survive. That is why we suffer from this dreadful water-borne disease called guinea worm and now, another dreadful water-borne disease—cholera is digging its feet so deep into our communities. I call on the Government of this State through Mr Speaker to come to the aid of the people of Abakaliki by giving them boreholes and pipe borne water.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to sit down.

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): I thank Mr Speaker. I have only to summarise my points because of the time limit. Before doing that, I have to say that the Anambra State Government is an action Government. It is an action Government because it has just within the span of nine months in office done many things, more than any other State in the Federation. (*Laughter*). The Government has constructed new roads, at least one road in each local government area.

Several hon. Members: Foul! Foul! (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Agbo: In the field of Education, the Government has promoted our teachers *en masse* and the Government has built a second University in the State while the other States have not even got one.

An hon. Member: Hear ! Hear !

Mr Agbo: Coming to the Budget, I will speak on roads.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Isi-Uzo Central (*Mr Agbo*) has only two minutes to round off, please.

Mr Agbo: I admire the Government's attitude in the construction of roads, but if the roads are graded and not maintained, it will be of no value, so I am appealing to the Government to re-introduce road labourers and road overseers.

On agriculture, there is a great decline in the production of food in the State and this is being caused by diseases on some food crops. For example, our cocoa-yam has been phased out because of cocoa-yam disease. Now our cassava is being attacked by a disease known as mealy-bug. So if the Government does not do anything now, to attack this disease, if anything happens to cassava, it will spell doom for many of us. (*Laughter*). I should like the Government to re-establish farm settlements as was done by the former Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara. I should like the Government to establish also a Nigerian Agricultural Development Bank in each zone of the State. This will facilitate credit loans to our farmers.

On Industry, no country will boast of economic buoyancy without the establishment of industries. There is no industry in Isi-Uzo, and Orba people in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area have given the Government a challenge, not only to the Government but also to the industrialists. The people have promised the Government or the industrialists both small and large, indigenous and expatriate, free land for any of them that will come to Orba and establish an industry. (*Laughter*). Not only this but also the Government has been promised free labour for the clearing of the area by the people. The people have also promised to pay for the infrastructure existing in the area and to pay for economic crops. So this will be an attraction to the Government.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up !

Mr Agbo: It is not up to five minutes, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Time up. No dialogue.

Mr Agbo: With this Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr W. Ugwuokpe (Isi-Uzo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute to the Anambra State Appropriation Bill, 1980. I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to Head 2791 subhead 11—Adult Education.

Money allocated to Adult Education in this Budget is ₦20,200. I am aware that a sum of ₦100,000 was allocated in the 1976-80 Plan period. From 1976 to 1979, no money was released. I am calling on the Commissioner for Education through this honourable House to take note that Awgu has 80 centres; Igbo-Eze, 27 centres; Nkanu, 25 centres; Ikwo, 28 centres; Ezeagu, 26 centres; Awka, 15 centres; Njikoka, 10 centres; Nnewi, 44 centres; Onitsha Urban, 14 centres; Nsukka Urban, 10 centres; Aguata, 14 centres; Abakaliki, 10 centres; Enugu, 10 centres; Enugu Urban, 18 centres; Uzo-Uwani, 3 centres; Anambra, 1 centre; Idemili, 27 centres; Ihiala, 7 centres; Oji-River, 2 centres; Ishielu, 37 centres; Igbo-Etiti, 11 centres; Udi, 32 centres; but Isi-Uzo, nil. Isi-Uzo has not got even a single centre. No adult education centre in Isi-Uzo. We know that adult education is to educate the adults, those who do not know how to read and write and Isi-Uzo is one of the backward areas in education. I am therefore, calling on the State Government or the Commissioner for Education, or whoever is concerned to consider establishing at least 30 adult Education Centres in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area.

With this Mr Speaker, I beg to round off.

Mr G. N. C. Onyefuru (Oji-River): I thank Mr Speaker for this opportunity. My contribution will be very, very brief indeed. The Budget now under discussion to my mind, is a made to measure Budget. It is very easy to criticize, but I am saying that those whose duty it was to compile these figures, have done their best and we hope that by the next Budget, they will improve upon their present work.

To start with, I will like to call upon the Federal Government to come to the assistance of this State. This State is a war affected area and since the war ended, nothing has been done to uplift the destructions which this State suffered during that period, and it is no use for the Federal Government to shirk,

[MR ONYEFURU]
her responsibility to the people of this State. This State is a part of Nigeria, and I will like the Federal Government to come to our aid. They do not, and they should not expect us to come hat in hand begging them for money. It is their number one responsibility to rehabilitate us, to pull us back into the fold. It is unfortunate that the preceding Governments did nothing to help us as far as our roads, water and other amenities are concerned. Well I thank them for the first gesture made to us, that is, the 2,000 housing units, but I will like to call upon them to realize that this State is an autonomous State. Any project to be carried out in this State must be done by the Government of the State. So they should hand this over to the State. Now we know that they have a Liaison Officer, but as far as this Government is concerned, he is not recognized.

Secondly, I will speak on revenue. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! The hon. Member for Oji-River (*Mr Onyefuru*) has only three minutes to round off.

Mr Onyefuru: I will speak on the improvement of our revenue. Many people have spoken on this, but I have this to say. So many people are evading taxation in this State. May I suggest that we establish a Rent Collection Board and the duty of this Board would be to collect rents. The landlords should be taxed properly. The duty of this Board will also include rent control because the landlords inflate the rent as and when they feel like.

On welfare of workers, it is good for us to call upon the Government to give car loans and car basic allowances to the workers. What about our own workers in this Legislature? We should start from this place to make their working conditions more appreciable. It is only from here that we move ahead to outside. I will also like to call upon the workers to put in their very best. It is not enough to call on the Government to improve their lot, but means and methods must be adduced to check truancy, lateness and other idle activities.

So as it affects my constituency, I call upon the Government to look the construction of Udi-Umuabi-Achi Road as well as Ama-Etiti-Olor road. This road leads to Imo State, and

it will cut short the distance to that State and also to Aguata our neighbouring Local Government.

On discipline, there is great indiscipline in this State. This I say, has resulted from the war, and I am calling upon the Government to ask the schools and the teachers to re-introduce corporal punishment in schools. Also there should be, and this is the duty of the Federal Government to introduce national service in our State. This will inculcate the much needed discipline in our schools. The problem today in our society is that of indiscipline. In the hospitals, the schools, and the offices, the people who are supposed to serve the masses are not anywhere to be found. In the hospitals patients are left to die, and this is simply owing to our educational system. Everybody wants to be a doctor whereas we are not prepared to give the service, and doctoring people simply because some so, so and so are doctors. We must start early enough to test the I.Q.'s or aptitude of our children to know what they are best suited for, and then their education will be poised towards that direction. At the moment, it is only a square peg in a round hole. If this is to be checked, Mr Speaker Sir, I think we shall be heading towards the development of this State and this country manpowerwise.

The Deputy Speaker: Round off, please.

Mr Onyefuru: To round off, I would like to thank the able Speaker, the Legislators and also our Government. We want our Government to succeed, and we are part and parcel of this Government; therefore we shall eschew malice and hatred and support the Government. To see this Government through and continue; that is the right thing to do,

I thank Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr D. O. Ngene (Nkanu West): I thank Mr Speaker very much for allowing me to contribute a little to the Budget consideration. Mr Speaker Sir, a cursory view of the Budget clearly shows that we have cut our coats according to our sizes. I do not want to dwell so much on it because a good number of people who have spoken today talked on the good qualities of the Budget, but there are some people who have the feeling that we have to get some money somewhere, that is, by way of

raising revenue. I just want to caution that we have to realize that that money we are getting from somewhere is diminishing the purchasing power of that individual from whom we are getting it. In other words, in order to raise more revenue, we have to extort ourselves; then the question is posed to us; "Do we want more money for our own private enjoyment or do we want to turn out all that we have to the Government in order to develop the State?" There should be balancing somewhere. My own idea about taxation, Sir, is that tax should be a residual of what an individual normally uses for his maintenance, and if this is the case, we have to be a little careful the way we tax our people. Already the people are crying. The civil servants cannot cope with the inflation. Even the petty traders are not coping up. The economic situation in this State is biting. I believe that the brains that went into the preparation of the Budget thought very seriously of the various revenue avenues open to the Government and came up with what we have here. I agree that the Budget is tight but we cannot afford to budget a billion or two billion naira and so on, but we have to start somewhere.

On provision of amenities, Sir, I believe myself that if my town has been fortunate to be provided with electricity this year, it will not come up next year in the Budget. We have to start from somewhere. The town that gets its own share this year will not get next year. So I believe the Government is quite correct in taking up some of these communities. I know also that much has been said about Information. I have an idea as to Information. I believe it is no use putting up propaganda machinery in the way of Information. I am not interested in anybody making any propaganda out of me. By that I mean unnecessary publicity, but then we have to consider the statement made some time by one of the foremost British politicians. I think he is a Labour politician, Michael Stuart. I am not quoting him rightly, but I will give an idea. He says that where knowledge is lacking, suspicion fills up the space. In this instance, then it is necessary for the Government to inform the people, and this is the aspect of the information that interests me, not propaganda. If we do not inform the people, then we have left them in the dark, and if we leave them in the dark, the people will grope in the dark and suspect

whatever action we have taken.

An hon. Member: Say it loud.

Mr Ngene: If the Government is good enough to adequately inform the people on every step it is taking, then I believe that those who have good minds will follow.

On Industry, Sir, I would like to set my mind back a little bit to 1960-65. I do not know if we do not have to start right now to consider very seriously setting up some of these small-scale industries in our State. It was after the Independence that we started hearing of Glass Industry at Port Harcourt, Nigeria Cement at Nkalagu, this and that. I would want our Government to bend down and start to think of attracting some of these industries we have in the Western world and elsewhere. If we take stock in this State, we will discover that ever since the exit of Dr Michael Okpara, we have had virtually no industries except the Premier Brewery, which to me, will be closed down because it does not contribute much to our economy. The money we get from people is just extorted from them. People drink it anyhow and urinate it the following day. I have not seen what contribution it makes to our economy. So I would advocate that we have more productive industries; industries that will really offer job and raise the standard of living of our people.

On Agriculture, Sir, I would want the Farm Settlements reinstated immediately. If the Farm Settlements have been revitalized, the much talked about scarcity of food will certainly be a thing of the past. When we have the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I will very much advocate that we revamp the farm industries.

I have to round off on the Rural Electrification Scheme. Unfortunately I do not know; I think my own constituency is the nearest to Enugu, but very unfortunately, I do not find any town benefiting in my own constituency. I do not lay the blame on this regime because it cannot start now to review what has been done by the previous Governments. In fact, there is nothing it can do. I have gone through the list of towns that are going to benefit from the rural electrification scheme, and unfortunately, we are just not there. I will therefore plead that in second phase, my constituency has to be considered. All right through the

[MR NGENE]
my constituency has nothing to benefit. No roads, no water, no electrification, no schools and so on. I do not know whether our sin is that we are nearest to Enugu. *(Laughter)*.

The Deputy Speaker: Order ! Order ↓

Mr Ngene: It might be that the sin of my constituency is that we are nearest to Enugu. I will therefore plead, Sir, that in the next Appropriation Bill, we have to be considered very adequately.

I thank Mr Speaker, once more.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole House pursuant to Order No. 64 (5) of the Standing Orders.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 6 p.m. The Deputy Speaker interrupted Business and adjourned sitting till Thursday, 22nd May, 1980 at 10 a.m. without Question put; pursuant to Standing Order No. 5 (7) of the Standing Orders.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Thursday 22nd May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: I would like hon. Members to please send in a postcard copy of their photographs to the office of the Clerk of the House for some brochure which we intend to print. Honourable Members will also be expected to give the addresses of the proposed constituency offices to the office of the Clerk of the House.

Yesterday, some Questions were put on the Calendar, which Questions could not be taken up. I am informed the Commissioner for Public Utilities (*Mr Okoye*) who would have taken on those questions is here today for some other Questions on the Calendar, but if we can find time, he will be able to take the Questions of yesterday as well. So we will start with the Questions of today at the end of which if there is still time, we will take the Questions of yesterday.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

Ministry of Public Utilities

Reinstating the Adada Project

Mr M. I. Ezeugwu (Nsukka Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would want to know from the Commissioner for Public Utilities (*Mr Okoye*) the effort he is making to reinstate the Adada Water Project which has been abandoned.

Mr G. A. Enendu (Idemili North): On a point of Order! The hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) is not addressing the Speaker.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Nsukka Central should please address the Speaker and put his Question in the proper way.

Mr Ezeugwu: Question No. 9. standing in my name; to ask the Commissioner for Public Utilities what steps have been taken to ... (*Interruptions*).

Mr H. C. Udeani (Awgu North): On a point of Order! The Commissioner has a copy of this Calendar. The hon. Member for

Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) should simply ask the Question standing in his name and then resume his seat.

An hon. Member: Point of education!

Another hon. Member: Teach him! Headmaster!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I wish to uphold the point of Order made by the hon. Member for Awgu North (*Mr Udeani*). The hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) should please put his Question the proper way as contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Orders.

Mr Ezeugwu: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I wish to ask Question No. 9 standing in my name.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) having asked his Question, Mr Commissioner would please answer.

Commissioner for Public Utilities (*Mr Chukwuma Okoye*): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Several hon. Members: Is Mr Commissioner sitting down?

Mr Okoye: Oh, well we of the Executive are not used to standing, and it would appear to me really that it is proper to stand because when one stands one really makes an oration.

Mr Speaker: We would like to inform the Commissioner that it is proper in the House to stand while speaking.

Mr Okoye: Honourable Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) I wonder what constituency is that. I am used to calling hon. Members by their constituencies. So I, say hon. Member for Awka West and so on. Honourable Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) may remember that in February, I made a wide tour of Nsukka Senatorial Zone. One of the areas I visited was the Adada area, and on that occasion, at least I made two major statements about the Adada River Project. Those statements were reported both by the radio and the *Daily Star*, and above all my physical tour was relayed over the network of the television. On that occasion, and I should be glad to repeat myself now, I did say that the reason why the Adada Project was suspended was lack of funds.

[MR OKOYE]

It is a project that will cost over ₦17 million. We started this project because the Federal Government gave every indication of paying its own part of the fees that would be required to complete the project. No sooner had the State Government embarked upon this project, contracting it out and, in fact, paying the initial fees to the contractors than the Federal Government, as it were, backed out. The State Government, as all of us know, has even this year budgeted so much for water, but we have only ₦9.6 million. The State therefore could not have embarked upon a single project that will cost ₦17 million in the present circumstances. As to future effort, I am doing everything possible to get that project started, completed and commissioned through contract-financing. I should add straight away so that no more question arises along this line that Enugu Water Project; Onitsha Water Project; Abakaliki Water Project, and I think Awka and Nsukka Water Projects are to be contract-financed, and my Ministry is doing everything possible to get these done. These are what we call regional schemes, and I do not expect that in our present state of financial constraint, the State Government can finance them.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: We will now go on to Question No. 12.

Nimo-Enugu-Ukwu Water-supply Scheme

Mr G. N. Igboka (Njikoka Central West): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to ask Question No. 12 standing in my name.

Mr Okoye: Categorically I tell the hon. Member that the Nimo-Enugu-Ukwu Water Scheme which is supposed to serve at least seven communities will be commissioned before December this year.

Mr Speaker: Any follow-up?

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I want to find out if any effort is being made to make sure that at least Nawfia Community Secondary School will benefit from the water scheme because so far, the main pipes have stopped at the hospital.

Mr Speaker: Is Nawfia in the scheme or not?

Mr Morah: Yes, it is there; it is in the scheme. It includes Nawfia, Enugwu-Agidi as well as Abagana.

Mr Speaker: But what we have on the programme is Nimo-Enugu-Ukwu Water-supply Scheme.

Mr Morah: I know, that is the name of the scheme.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, I grant him the benefit of an answer. The Nawfia Secondary School is going to benefit because once water reaches the town, I can do him the extraordinary good of laying the pipeline to the school.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to ask a follow-up question to this on the Floor. I would like to know from the Commissioner what becomes of the huge funds contributed by various communities towards water projects in their areas but which have not been used to that effect. What becomes of those funds. I have in mind the Agulu-Aguinyi Water Scheme, as far back as 1959 contributions were made and up till today we don't know what has happened.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoh*) will attest to the fact that he, single-handedly, caused me to undertake a tour of Agulu-Aguinyi area. He will also attest to the fact that, during this tour, I did not only almost physically exhaust myself in an effort to reach every community and almost every quarter of every community, and he too was equally involved in this exercise. On that occasion, I made a series of press releases stating that the Agulu-Aguinyi Water Scheme which has its source at . . . (*Interruptions*). I did on that occasion promise three specific things:

- (1) more bore-holes for the area,
- (2) the reactivation of all on going water schemes in the area,
- (3) the supply of water to the various schools.

I want to assure the hon. Member who asked the Question that some of the schools have, in fact, started benefiting from my promise.

Mr E. J. Macduhu (Igbo-Etiti North): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to ask the Commissioner for Public Utilities (*Mr. Okoye*) why it has not been possible for his Ministry to provide both Ekwegbe and Ozalla Communities in Igbo-Etiti North Constituency with at least a single bore-holes despite the fact that the two communities

have separately, before and after the last civil war, deposited various huge sums of money with the State Water Board.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, I should want to say a few things before I go on to the very simple question asked by the hon. Member. I have not touched on one part of the question asked by the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoh*). He asked about money paid by various communities. I want to take this occasion to comment on the money contributed by the various communities. I gave members my word of honour that every community that has contributed money would have its water project completed before 1983. I say 1983 because some of these communities committed money, that in all honesty, I would say is too insignificant, but we realize that this is really their own widow's mite. Water should be part of the Public Utilities as it is now, but it is because of financial constraints that we ask communities to contribute. Right now, in my Estimates for this, I have every community that has contributed up to ₦20,000 the Estimates for this years overs every community that has contributed up to ₦20,000.

There are several, that in fact, contributed less. So we are quite aware that, in the efforts of our people, we must indicate very clearly to them that we are interested in their welfare, more so when they go out of their way to contribute money. I wonder if that satisfies the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Ugoh*). And please I say this not just for the past but even for the future. Should any community exert itself financially and contribute anything to the Water Corporation, I assure Members, that community should have an indication that we are aware of its own efforts. But I want to warn, some communities make the mistake of paying money to the Treasury. This money is not readily available to the Water Corporation. I suggest therefore that any community that has even ten kobo and wants to pay it in for water should pay it direct to the Water Corporation.

This leads me on to the Ozalla question. Sometimes it is possible that the Ozalla community paid in some money to the Treasury; we have no direct access to this money but if the hon. Member can confirm that this is true, I will take steps to recover this money. Regarding Ekwegbe, there is really no evidence that this

community paid money. But that notwithstanding, the Water Corporation had tried to sink two boreholes for this community but experience indicated that it was not possible for us to have water there through boreholes. I should be grateful to the hon. Member if he can identify any nearby stream in his area so that we can, as usual, send in our engineers for feasibility studies. If there is anything we can do to supply these people with water through surface suction, my Ministry should be prepared to do that provided, given that the Estimates period is over, that the community is prepared to support us financially.

Mr Macduhu: Mr Speaker Sir, I will first of all start to answer a part of the question he threw to me. I shall ask a follow-up Question, but the visiting Commissioner has asked one. He wanted to know if actually the Ozalla community deposited any amount of money with the State Water Corporation. He went further to ask if the Ekwegbe community also did so. I am in a position to produce evidence, more especially receipts to show Mr Commissioner that the two communities actually started paying money into the State Water Corporation ever before the start of the last civil war in the country, and immediately after the war, they continued paying money. To the best of my knowledge, around sometime last year some contributions were also made. Then a follow-up to my earlier question. (*Interruptions*).

I still have to complete the answer. In regard to the Ekwegbe Water Scheme, I have heard what he has said about the possibility of supplying the community with water from a nearby stream, and I promise him and the Ministry that we shall render not only our physical help but financial help also, I shall, any time they need me, take some staff of the Ministry to the nearby stream which I am sure will be suitable for the rural water-supply. But a follow-up to my earlier question is this: From the Estimates I discovered that of the various sums of money allocated to various local government areas, Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area got the least of ₦50,000, and I am in a position to say that some little local government areas in the State got as much as ₦175,000, ₦150,000 and ₦125,000... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Macduhu: My Question is that I want to hear from the Commissioner why only ₦50,000 was allocated for rural water development in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area while other local government areas got as much as ₦175,000, ₦150,000 and ₦125,000.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Unless the Commissioner is predisposed to answer this, it is really not part of the main question.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, this is a beautiful marriage, and I am disposed to take on his Questions. I am quite disposed also to do a lot of explanations.

First he talked about the issue of receipt as though I was putting it to him that he was speaking untruth. I am saying that this is not the case. I will be very glad if he can really demonstrate beyond doubt to me that this money is there, and I will use it to help his community so that he may win their votes. There is no problem about that.

Second he said he will assure me that he will go through the area and see if he can discover a stream that can be used, fine. I shall congratulate him if he comes back with a positive answer, but I will congratulate him even more if he can back up his words regarding physical and financial help.

Mr Speaker: Address the Speaker, please.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker, I have taken correction. I hope the hon. Member will fulfill his promise of coming in physically and financially to the aid of the Water Corporation. There is the one which he talked about with some touch of serious emotion. I hope he is quite aware that at Ukehe and Ohodo we have two water schemes, within this local government area. In choosing the areas where we want to start new water schemes, we take cognizance of what has been done before, and I want to assure the hon. Member that if he looks carefully through the Estimates and also make investigations about the previous communities where we have started new water schemes, he will discover that some of them are really pitiable. Some of them haven't got anything near to what they have at Ukehe and other communities. We try to even our

pace. I should now take this occasion to tell the House that for the first time the Government is to bring water to two local government areas in the State where Government presence has never been felt before in any form, and we think it is part of the credit we want to share with the House. Thank you.

Non-commissioning of Rural Electrification

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg leave to ask Question No. 11 standing in my name.

Mr Speaker: Question No. 11 of Wednesday, 21st May, 1980.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, my point of Order is that this Question is misdirected. It ought to have gone to the Commissioner for Works. I think it is misdirected, and that is my point of Order.

Mr Speaker: The point of Order is upheld. Questions relating to the Ministry of Public Utilities should be Questions based on this Ministry. This House is aware that Rural Electrification does not come under this Ministry.

Mr Ojukwu: Mr Speaker, this Question was sent as early as the second week of November, 1979 and by then, by any stretch of the imagination Electricity and Water were under the Public Utilities Ministry.

Several hon. Members: It has changed.

Mr Ojukwu: If there was a change, it should have been the business of the House to direct it to the appropriate quarters.

Mr Speaker: Order! The observations of the hon. Member for Nnewi North East (*Mr Ojukwu*) are noted. Question No. 12.

Re-activation of Water-supply in Nnewi

Mr Ojukwu: Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to ask the Commissioner for Public Utilities Question No. 12 of Wednesday, 21st May, 1980, standing in my name.

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, I think the hon. Member has made things very simple for me because everyone of his Questions and I refer specifically to Questions Nos. 13 and 14 which end with an invitation, and I want to assure the hon. Member that I am prepared to go down to Nnewi with him and see things for myself.

Mr Speaker: Any follow-up?

Mr Ojukwu: The request there is that he goes there to see things for himself. The only follow-up is to know why it has not been done since October last year when this Question was put.

(Laughter).

Mr Okoye: Mr Speaker Sir, I think the hon. Member probably likes my voice and wants to continue to hear it for sometime. The reasons why I have not been there are two.

First, I have had to go to other places and this takes quite some time. The hon. Member is aware that there are at least eighty-seven constituencies in the State, and it is not possible for me to be everywhere at the same time.

The second reason, of course, is that I happen also to have engineers working in these areas who report to me when I am not able to go—and the report of my engineers has not shown that Nnewi is a disaster area, and I do pray that Nnewi never becomes a disaster area, and it will never become.

Finally, I want to reassure the hon. Member that as soon as he is willing to go down to Nnewi with me, I will go with him and why am I inviting him with me, isn't that I cannot go alone but I want to reassure his people in his presence that he is doing his job.

(Laughter).

Mr Ojukwu: Follow-up! Can any day be appointed by the Commissioner here and now?

The Commissioner: Very simple. Could you get ready for Friday next week? I will go from Ojoto to Nnewi.

Mr Ojukwu: No problem.

Mr Speaker: The Questions for the day are over. The Commissioner will feel free to leave.

**ORDER OF THE DAY
PRESENTATION OF BILLS
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PREROGATIVE
OF MERCY BILL**

A Bill for a Law to establish the Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy, presented by Mr R. A. Chinwuba (Anambra North East); read the First time.

Mr R. A. Chinwuba: Mr Speaker Sir, it has been gazetted in the *Anambra State of Nigeria Gazette* of 6th March, 1980.

Mr Speaker: I hope Members have got copies of this Bill.

Several hon. Members: No. No.

Mr Chinwuba: Mr Speaker, I beg leave to ask that the Second Reading be taken on 28th May, 1980.

Mr Speaker: I will not grant that, I will have to consult with the Business Committee because we have the Third Reading of the Budget for the coming week. So I will contact the Business Committee later to have it scheduled on a date it will be convenient.

**CONTROL OF RENTS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1980**

An (Amendment) Bill for a Law to control rents, presented by Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South); read the First time.

Mr O. M. Ugoh: Mr Speaker, subject to the convenience of this House, I am suggesting the 30th day of May, 1980 for the Second Reading.

Mr Speaker: That again will depend on what we have with regard to the Budget. But we take the Second Reading as soon as we are done with the Budget.

Mr Ugoh: As the House pleases.

Mr Speaker: Shall I crave the indulgence of the House to divert from the normal routine just before we go up to the Notices of Motion. The members of the Public Petitions Committee should withdraw for a meeting holding now.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr E. P. I. Omeje (Igbo-Eze West): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until tomorrow Friday 23rd at 9 a.m.

Mr M. N. Egwuonwu (Awgu South): I rise to second the Motion for adjournment.

Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I stand to support the Motion that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow, and in doing so, I want to inform this House that it was unfortunate that I could not finish my contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill yesterday. I want therefore to use this forum to tell this honourable House that the contractor handling the road from Ada Ugwogo-Abakpa Nike and Nsukka-Ikem Roads is very slow in the execution of the contract, and I should like the government to change him and award it to a competent one who could do the work positively. Again this House approved a Motion that the Federal roads in this State should be maintained even if it is by the State Government. When I say this, I mean particularly Nkalagu-Ikem-Obollo-Afor Road. This road is a Federal road, but because of neglect of this road by the Federal Government, the State took the responsibility of reconstructing it. Fortunately the State has done a nice job by reconstructing the road from Nkalagu to Ikem, but unfortunately the job was interrupted and it could not extend from Ikem to Obollo-Afor. Again in the present Appropriation Bill there is nothing approved for the reconstruction of that Ikem-Obollo-Afor Road.

The State Government has endeavoured to take the responsibility of doing the Federal Government's jobs, and it will be too unfair for the State to leave the work uncompleted. The Federal Government has known that the State has endeavoured to do it, but if the State leaves the job uncompleted, it will be very unfair to the people of Isi-Uzo, especially the people of Isi-Uzo North. They are very depressed, and they are feeling neglected by the Government. I want to assure this House that from Nkalagu to Ikem, the road was tarred in the 1950s, and when the road was out of use again, instead of tarring it from Obollo-Afor to Ikem then, they repeated tarring from Nkalagu to Ikem while Obollo-Afor to Ikem is still neglected. So I am appealing to the Government to see that Obollo-Afor-Ikem Road is tarred.

Mr P. Nwambeke (Abakaliki East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I would like to report to this House that the way petrol tankers park on both sides of the road at Emene is dangerous to other road users. They park on

both sides of the road, at the junction for upwards of one or two kilometres. That place has, in fact, been the scene of many of the accidents on that road. Two dead bodies had been found there and nobody knew whether these people were knocked down by tankers or not. I am suggesting that these tanker drivers should be provided with a park because it is dangerous to leave them along our roads. Thank you.

Mr G. R. Okoye (Ihiala West): I rise to support the Motion for adjournment. I only wish to remind ourselves that we have used this forum to sermonize against doing the right thing at the wrong time. Personally I have administered education here in this country for nearly forty years, and whenever something very wrong is being done to education, it makes me very uncomfortable. I am referring to blunders and bungling, and now we have graduated in these blunders and bungling in the University of Technology affairs. I may have been chosen to be hated, abused or scuffed for treading on this ground. But come to think about it, what really has happened. Announcement was made, maybe impetuous, about demonstrations, punishments and investigations, but how were the investigations carried out. You are the judge and the jury, and if the problem or the trouble was with the management and the students, then a judicial inquiry might have been instituted by the authorities or by the government. But since the government was involved, it was an administrative inquiry of fact-finding one that was instituted. It was just like giving one's subordinate a directive to go and hang, and it would be carried out. What do we expect?

Now the heads of departments are ruined, the students' career marred, some expelled and some sent down for a year or more. Do we destroy in order to build? I know that there are so many Universities, in fact, there are thirteen of them now in the country. But I cannot remember any of them having gone to destroy in order to build. I only call on the Government and all men of goodwill to return the University of Technology to its *status quo* as . . . (Interruptions).

An hon. Member: I.M.T.!

Mr Okoye: Yes, I mean the I.M.T. to its *status quo*, as it was at the 1st of January, 1980. Please be reminded about this caption by Mr President, *Don't set up Universities*, and read it very well. Let us not go on confronta-

tion spree, and let us really be very friendly and keep our house in order. With this I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr A. A. Obuna (Enugu South): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to call the attention of the Commissioner of Police in Anambra State to call his men to order. As a matter of fact, some of these policemen who are employed to maintain peace are causing disorder to many innocent members of the public. For example, yesterday in the premises of the Enugu Local Government, I was there; I witnessed it. Some policemen led by a police inspector chased some members of the staff of the Enugu Local Government into their very premises and started beating them. They were so brutal; as a matter of fact, during the fracas which followed that one elderly man lost three teeth, one had broken jaw and others broken limbs. It was an eyesore, and it was so brutal. I appealed to the inspector to be calm, at least to take them to Court and charge them if they had done anything wrong. But he would not listen. In fact, in my attempt to plead, one of them cocked his gun and attempted to shoot me for asking them to take things easy. Surely I felt very sorry. I never thought such a thing would happen in a Civilian Government.

So I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Commissioner of Police to call these men to order. I took the numbers of the policemen, and I am prepared to testify anywhere.

An hon. Member: What did your men do?

Mr Obuna: The policemen were beating and pushing everybody.

Mr Speaker, I have another observation to make. Awolowo Street in Uwani area which happens to be a part of my constituency is almost impassable because of obstruction made by—I do not know whether it is a gutter or something like that, but it is so bad that someone cannot pass through there again. So I am appealing to whoever is responsible to run to that place and see whether he can make amends.

And again in Ngwo field, which is the pride of this township, it is almost being converted to a public latrine. There is human faeces everywhere. I am calling on the Local Government Authority to see what they can do to get that place clean once more.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr G. N. Igboka (Njikoka Central West): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I want to align myself with the views expressed by the hon. Member for Enugu South (*Mr Obuna*). It is becoming a common practice in Enugu urban in particular that we get our roads so bad before the authorities repair them.

While going out of Enugu through Awkunanaw, and just before the Girls' High School, Awkunanaw, there is a real outflow of water on the road because of lack of proper drainage. I do not know whether it is because it is a Federal Government or Local Government road that we allow ourselves to the big damn pit. We see lorries and trailers—everything there get stuck and we say we have a Task Force. If we have a Task Force, it is the duty of the Task Force to remedy the situation before it gets out of hand. But unfortunately, we see people here looking at things going bad until it becomes impossible. With the heavy traffic we have in Enugu now, if we have any traffic jam, it will mean two or three hours, delay before we get home. So I am appealing to all the authorities concerned to take good care of the roads we have in Enugu. We cannot asphalt our roads and allow the asphalt to go bad within six months. It is money that is being wasted. If we know we are going to asphalt our roads, then the drainage should be so well constructed that the asphalt can serve us for longer time.

With this, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr J. N. Agbo (Ishielu South): Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to use this forum to request the Federal Ministry of Communications to complete the Post Office projects sited at Ezzamgbo. The contract for this project was awarded in 1977, but up till now, the contractor who is based in Bendel State went away and left the project. It is also very unfortunate that the contractors who base in this State have been neglected in such projects.

I have also to observe that the President's advice on the siting or owning of university is being misinterpreted in many quarters. The President advised that, owing to the meagre resources of the Government, we could not carry on establishing and owning of universities, but that a State that can finance and

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Friday 23rd May, 1980

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, yesterday I announced that hon. Members should submit the constituency addresses to the office of the Clerk of the House. It appears some of us did not quite understand the message but, of course, it appeared today in the Votes and Proceedings. I want to add to that; that hon. Members should also send in their Enugu addresses, that is, where they reside here in Enugu for easy contact. Sometimes it is difficult to locate hon. Members' residential addresses in Enugu. It would be necessary also to put in the constituency number against Member's constituency address.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Expansion of Nigerian Mineral Waters
Industry Limited, Onitsha

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to crave your indulgence and that of the entire House to allow this Motion to be shifted to a date which I will name later if I am allowed to do so. In asking for this privilege, I have two main reasons. First we are all living witnesses to the fact that the Budget Session had been so tight especially to those of us that are involved in more than three committees. My second reason is that it is within this Budget Session I have been given the assignment to Chairman a Committee that is to plan for a tour of the Assembly men of all the local government Areas. So I had all along been concerned so much with a Budget work and then, this my assignment. I had my facts and figures, records that would help me establish the need for the expansion of this industry, but they are not available here. So Mr Speaker and hon. Members, I pray to defer this Motion to any date as soon as we finish this Budget. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Is the hon. Member for Ihiala South East (*Mr Nnaeto*) saying that he is with-

drawing the Motion, or does he still want to raise the Motion in future.

Mr Nnaeto: Please, this all important Motion can never be withdrawn as far as I am concerned. I am rather invoking Order No. 30 (1) to request for the postponement of the Motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Well, is this Motion supported by hon. Members?

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second the deferment of the debate on this Motion bearing in mind the points already made by the Mover of this Motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Question, That the debate on the Motion be adjourned put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, yesterday we had the First Reading of two Bills. I wish to refer the hon. Members to Order No. 43 of the Standing Orders — Committal of Bills:

When a Bill has been read for the First time, it shall be referred to a Standing Committee for consideration and report back to the House. Bills referred to Standing Committees shall be allocated to a particular Standing Committee by the Speaker whose discretion in this matter is final.

The relevant section is the first section of this Standing Order.

The Bills read for the First time yesterday: The Bill on the Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy, 1980 is hereby referred to the Committee on Social Welfare. The second Bill, the Control of Rents Bill, is hereby referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (*Mr E. A. Itanyi*): Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to move that the House do adjourn till Monday 26th May, 1980, at 10 a.m., and in moving this Motion for adjournment, I want to remind the Government Printing Press not to do like other Government establishments in this Anambra State. From the inception of this House, they were working from morning till morning, satisfying every hon. Member, getting our Hansard ready every morning, and in fact, working just like magic. But this present time, I don't know whether they are sleeping or

[MAJORITY LEADER]
they want us to praise them again. If they want praise, I will praise them. Actually they have been working very, very hard, Mr Speaker, and I beg them to do all they can to get our printed matters ready in time from now. Let them not delay us again.

Mr Speaker, please, I beg to move.

Mr C. E. Okeke (Enugu West): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to support the Motion for adjournment, and in doing so, I have to report the very dangerous threat of the season existing at Coal Camp. What I mean by that is that there is a big gully, more than gutter, of about forty feet deep at Coal Camp opposite the Industrial site and crosses Agbani road which is the only main road or major road that links both sides. The gutter itself which is now threatening to cut off the main road is a big danger to human lives. I am therefore calling on the Enugu Local Government or the Supervisory Councillor for Works in Enugu Local Government to go there himself and see that that place is repaired before we enter the actual rainy season, otherwise we shall get Coal Camp North and South. That will be a sort of natural dichotomy.

(Laughter).

In other words, people know very well that my constituency is in the steep hill. If we go down to Iva Valley, we can see things for ourselves. I am also calling on the very person responsible for that to go to Agu-Abor where he will see that that very bridge—very small culvert—has been removed. The inhabitants there can no longer cross over without getting a small canoe. I am therefore suggesting to the authorities to either repair the bridge and make the road motorable or passable on foot, or possibly buy a canoe to ferry the people over because they are entitled to that small comfort.

I would also like the authorities to go to Ugwu-Alfred and Ugbo-Odogwu and see how the people are suffering there. The people, as we know, live on the top of the hill and they cannot come down easily during the rainy season. They need the help of the Government to see that they have free movement, just like other taxpayers in Enugu township.

As people say, the most essential thing is health. Up till now, we say we employ some

people to take care of our health. If we go to Coal Camp to inspect what are called the sanitary lines there, we will see that there has never been any sign of sanitary work there since the health workers were employed. So I want the Sanitary Inspectors to inspect the small sanitary gutters there which were blocked since ten years ago with the result that the drainage is now protruding from the backyards of buildings.

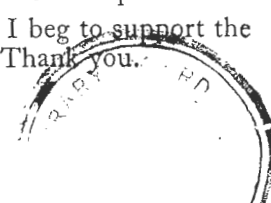
With this, Mr Speaker, I thank you very much, and may the Question be put.

Mr C. O. Emehelu (Enugu North): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In supporting this Motion for adjournment, I would like once more to draw the attention of the Ministry of Public Utilities to the water-supply situation in Abakpa and Emene in Enugu North Constituency.

It is very, very ironical that when the Military was in power, Abakpa, at least, had a fairly regular supply of water, but since this Administration came up, all the taps there have dried up. This is why I am calling on this Ministry, and as a matter of fact, it is now being suggested that there are two factors responsible for this. The first one, I hear, is that the Military Authorities have locked up one of the channels that supply water to Abakpa. The second one is that certain officials in the Ministry are colluding or rather keeping quiet over the situation because they make a lot of money out of it, for it takes about forty naira to purchase a fifteen hundred-gallon tank load of water.

Mr Speaker, I think that these people have suffered enough. For the past six months, there has been no single drop of water, either at Abakpa or Emene. I would therefore like the Ministry to take up this problem of water-supply. I would also like the House Committee on Public Utilities to please throw its weight into this matter and see whether some solution is possible. I believe some solution is possible, if by no other means at least by way of rationing. If the problem is lack of water-supply from the source, then this water will be rationed one way or the other. It is not fair to deny a whole area water when some other areas enjoy. I would also want us to consider the density of population in an area like Abakpa.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment. Thank you.



Mr E. A. Agbo (Isi-Uzo Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Commissioner for Public Utilities (*Mr Okoye*) to the fact that during the expansion of the road from Ninth Mile to Obollo-Afor, the pipes supplying water to the people of Mbanato, Imilike and Orba were removed. This was in 1974 and up to date the pipes have not been reinstated. During the Commissioner's visit to Obollo-Afor, the people there made it categorical that water had been the major problem of the people of Isi-Uzo, especially Isi-Uzo North and Isi-Uzo Central constituencies. Obollo-Afor has the only water borehole sited in Isi-Uzo as a whole, and that is the only water borehole there. It supplies only to a few because of the removal of the pipes during the expansion of the road. So I am appealing to the Ministry of Public Utilities to go now and install the pipes removed during that expansion so that the people of Imilike, Orba and Mbanato will benefit from that water borehole.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I want to crave your indulgence, I have some news from U.S.A. for immediate release. I hope nobody is objecting. I wish to read just a bit of it. It reads:

May, 6, 1980

*"Zik" attends U.S. College Reunion
"Lincoln, Pennsylvania — Nigeria's elder statesman and first President Nnamdi Azikiwe has returned to the United States for a reunion of his college classmates of fifty years ago.*

Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, a short distance from the historic city of Philadelphia, considers Dr Azikiwe one of its most outstanding graduates. The former President of Nigeria was honoured May 3, along with eleven other alumnae from the class of 1930 at a reception in the home of University's President, Herman R. Branson. It was a day of recollection, sharing of memorabilia, and old class photos. There was much joking, smiling, and pointing of fingers among the dozen men who returned to the campus. While Dr Azikiwe is perhaps the best internationally-known graduate, the class of 1930 produced other leaders, including the first black United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Among the seventy-five original class-members were fifteen Doctors of Medicine,

fifteen Educators, seventeen Government Officials, six Ministers, four Dentists, four Lawyers, two Federal Judges and several business people.

Dr Azikiwe commented at the reunion, "No other class before or since has produced so many outstanding graduates."

Affectionately known to his colleagues as "Zik", the Nigerian leader enjoyed his hours walking the Lincoln campus. "The campus is much the same as when we were here. It did not have the beautiful buildings or the wide roads in 1930, but we did not mind, we were here for the education", he said.

Dr Azikiwe and persons accompanying him met with the Nigerian students attending the University, and held a conference with the American Press.

Dr Azikiwe told reporters, "when I became President, the Government allocated 40 per cent. of all funds for education, now it has become 60 per cent. We have 13 universities in our country, but we are so far behind. Our standard of living is such that we need many more educated people. Our struggle for education, which has improved in 20 years from a 5 per cent. literacy rate to a 25 per cent. literacy rate, enables us to keep pace with the technological revolution taking place in this world.

"Political freedom is not enough. The world is interdependent, but we want to stand on our own feet. We encourage our children to educate technologically all over the world."

Dr Azikiwe went on to tell of Nigeria's progress in its 20 years of independence. "In terms of human achievement, our people have learned to stand on their feet and to take pride in their country. That is what we lacked as a colonial territory. We encourage enterprise and self-confidence, to ensure prosperity for our children. We have done our best. We are our own masters, but it is not enough."

Copies of this will be sent to the Members.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: The Chairman of Committee on Agriculture and Food Production and his Vice are wanted by the Finance Committee immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn till Monday 26th May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.15 a.m.

population that is used, I feel that there is no reason why my town and some other large towns should be left out. If the rural electrification is to be economic I think it will go by population because more electricity would be consumed by greater number of people. So Mr Speaker Sir, I am appealing to the authorities that were responsible for selecting these towns to make sure that proper basis is used. In fact, I feel that the present scheme was prepared during the military regime and it should be revised to reflect what we actually need in this State. I have equally noticed in the list provided that it will be funny to jump towns and then provide electricity to others because some towns lie on the same electrical line and then you jump one town and offer electricity to another.

I should suggest that all towns on a particular electrical line should have electricity mindless whether they are large or small.

Mr Speaker Sir, I turn to the civil service. The civil service in this State, I feel, is watching us to know actually what we have in stock for them. I remember again that we have passed a Motion or Motions calling on the Executive to restore vehicle advances and vehicle loans to the civil servants. I doubt if this Budget has anything for this group of people. It will be embarrassing because the civil service is the life-wire of the State Administration. I quite appreciate the fact that the nominal roll of Anambra State Civil Service is one of the largest. I equally appreciate the problem that we lack fund. But all the same, I feel that the Executive did not take seriously into account the problems of the civil servants as it concerns vehicle loans and advances.

Finally, Sir, I have to point out one other thing in my local government area and that is the part of my local government area we call Anambra North. This is as a result of natural phenomenon—that is River. Anambra North is separated by River Anambra so there is no connection between Anambra North and Anambra South... (*Prolonged laughter*). Then again the problem continues. There is no connection between Aguleri and Anambra South and Anambra North and Aguleri again. They are separated by the same River. Again, there is separation between Anambra Local Government Area and their brothers of Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. Now, to connect these places, we need bridges to link

them up. The boats or the river crafts provided would not do anything. I feel that under bridges we have to make allocation to provide bridges between Otuocha and Anam, Nando and Anam, Aguleri Otu and then Aguleri Igbo. This will make the local government area one.

Finally, Mr Speaker, ... (*Laughter*)... Just one thing. I want to point out in a nutshell that when I was going through the nominal roll I noticed that some people have stayed in a particular post for upwards of fifteen years. I will say right here that this is very unprogressive. There is no point sitting on one's promotion. There is no point leaving vacancies to lapse. If you can sit on the promotion of your fellow man for fifteen years what morality have you in doing so. So all I am saying is that all the Committees should try as much as possible to see that this situation does not exist.

With this Mr Speaker, I take my seat. Thank you.

Mr P. I. Eze (Ishielu East): Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to make a short contribution to the debate on the Second Reading of the Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1980. I have to say that I associate myself with most of the sentiments already expressed by the earlier speakers, most of whom were quite constructive in their criticism of the Bill. Nevertheless, I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to make one or two comments.

I have to start with Head 2781—Land Transport. Under this Head, in Subhead 19, a total sum of ₦1,995,712 has been spent. It is Effium/Ezinwokeke/Nwife Road. My disappointment about this expenditure is that this road that is supposed to cover about sixty-five kilometres has got such huge amount spent on it without much done. It appears to me that officials of the Ministry of Works should be asked to find out how much work is done before payments. And now again, in the present Appropriation under debate a large sum of ₦1,278,940 has been estimated. I want to seize this opportunity to ask the Ministry of Works to make sure that before further payments are made to the contracting firms they do some work. They should go there to make sure that work is done. So far for the length of road graded, tarring has not started at all. They are just on the grading stage. They have not graded more than sixteen kilometres of this road and they

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have been paid ₦1,995,712 with an intention to pay about ₦1.3 million this financial year. This is not fair.

An hon. Member: This is robbery!

Mr Eze: It is not fair to the taxpayers to cart away their money to the private pockets of people who do not do anything to justify the payment. So the Ministry of Works should take note of this observation.

¶ The second item I want to talk about is Education. Head 2791, Subhead 1, Project 107—Expansion of Existing High Schools. For this Subhead, ₦1.5 million has been provided in the Current Estimates.

I want to point out that it is paradoxical that everybody is talking in terms of payment to the owners of post-primary institutions taken over by the Government of the then East-Central State, and we inherited these debts. Everybody tends to talk about compensation when there is a situation where the communities have built secondary schools, and they do not need compensation. What they need from the government of the day is just the take-over of these completed secondary schools, but the government is reluctant. Is it not paradoxical?

I am taking this opportunity to call on the present government to take over all community-built secondary schools to ensure adequate supply of equipment and effective running. A case in point is the two community secondary schools built by the people of my constituency. One is Effium Boys Secondary School at Umuezeka. The other one is the Community Secondary School at Umuezekoha. These secondary schools have been brought to a stage in which the villagers find their continuation very difficult. It will be appreciated therefore, if the government comes in, gives them pat on the back and takes over these secondary schools, because the weight of contributions is much on the villagers.

Third, I want to talk about Health. Head 2801, Subhead 14—Basic Health Facilities. Some communities have got hospitals that need expansion. I want to state here that most communities have not got Health Centres, and by basic health facilities, I think Health Centres should come first which is what the

ordinary man in the village needs. The women go there for the antenatal for they cannot go to the major hospitals. The villagers have not got private hospitals, and even if there are such hospitals, they have not got the money to pay for health services. It is therefore necessary that under this Subhead, attention should be paid to the rural areas by provision of as many Health Centres as possible to these communities that are very far away from the nearest Government Hospitals or hospitals of any type.

I remember vividly that during the campaigns and during the town to town tour of the Governor's visit to my constituency, he promised and reaffirmed this promise of building a Health Centre at Ndiaguode in Ishielu East Constituency. I am therefore taking this opportunity to remind the Executive that the fulfilment of this promise is still being eagerly awaited by the electorate in the area.

Fourth, I want to talk on the local government. Head 2861, Subhead 3—Village Integration and Resettlement. A paltry sum of ₦128,000 has been budgeted for this subhead. Our attempt to check the movement of the youths from the rural areas to the urban towns is receiving attention. Most communities are embarking on village integration scheme to give a resemblance to urban life.

I am appealing to this Ministry to send out their fieldmen to go round and find out where efforts have actually been made to collect people and give them a sense of living in the town, which helps to control the movement of the youths from such areas into the townships. A case in point is the two village integration centres in Ishielu East Constituency. One is at Inigiri and the other is at Nwekendiagu. These centres need government assistance by way of technical advice. I am therefore calling on the Open Spaces Development Commission to visit these centres and explore the avenues of developing the open spaces for the children of the inhabitants of these centres. Open space development should not be confined to big townships alone.

Finally I want to talk about the University of Technology episode. University of Technology has been variously described by so many speakers. Some see it as a colossal failure and colossal blunder, while others see it as a success. I am aware that when many people see things,

they interpret them differently just as they are many in number. The reason given by some of the previous speakers was that the enabling Act has not been passed by this Assembly, and therefore it is a blunder. I know that there are some people who do not see anything good in what others initiate.

I remember vividly that during the debate on a Motion on the Floor of this House on the establishment of the School of Basic Studies, all of us agreed that there was the need for the University to take the teeming population of qualified sons and daughters of Anambra State origin who, because of the quota system of the JAMB, cannot get admission into our Universities now. We agreed that what we needed was a University of our own which we can control and direct. If somebody acted somehow over-zealously and started this lofty idea, that does not make it a blunder. I know that enabling Acts for most of the Universities in Nigeria today were just passed in 1979.

(Laughter).

So I want to appeal to all of us to criticise, but to do it constructively. I welcome criticism, but it has to be constructive.

(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members: Who is the hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*)?

(Interruptions).

An hon. Member: Bushman!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Eze: It is not fair for our hon. Members to be abusive. I do not know whom to be described as a bushman; whether a bushman is the man who has no control over himself... (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Ishielu East (*Mr Eze*), should please address the Speaker and concentrate on the issue of the debate.

Mr Eze: All right I thank Mr Speaker. By way of conclusion, I am saying with every sense of responsibility that criticism on the Floor of this House has to be constructive and not destructive.

Mr A. N. Ezenwa (Aguata South): I thank Mr Speaker for giving me the opport-

unity to contribute to this Budget debate. In doing so I would say that the budget is a stingy one. It is stingy in the sense that it is not ambitious. I will also like to identify myself with the views expressed by the previous speakers who described the Budget as a ragtagged one. It was not properly prepared. It does not reflect the efficiency of the civil service of this State which we used to be very proud of and I feel that there is something wrong somewhere.

On revenue, Sir, it would appear that this State is wholly dependent on the Federal revenue. Something radical should be done to generate more revenue like the introduction of taxes on turnover, taxes on entertainment and education tax. In this connection, I am calling on the Executive to set up a committee to look into the revenue collecting machinery of this State with a view to generating more revenue.

On social amenities, I will like to comment very briefly. A lot has been said on roads, hospitals and pipe borne water. When we were contesting the election, we promised our constituencies that we were going to give them good water, good hospitals and so on. Unfortunately my constituency, I always say, has not had any single Government amenity from the birth of Adam. What we have is what we can provide ourselves, and the Government has not given us a mite as a substitute. While the same Government is building schools and hospitals for other areas, I do not know why Aguata should be left out, especially Aguata South Constituency. We have no roads. This constituency was able to provide seven secondary schools within a space of four years and still nothing has been done for them, not even roads. I have always learnt that people who have their wards in this constituency see a hell during the rainy season when they are conveying their wards back to schools. In this connection, I am asking the State Government to link Aguata South with Umunze which is a food producing area. Umunze is our close neighbour, and before we can get to Umunze we have to do a distance of about thirty miles, but we are only separated by a bridge.

On education, we have always complained that indiscipline abounds in our schools but nobody has said how to combat that. To this

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effect, I am calling on the State Government to set up a disciplinary committee—the teachers' disciplinary committee to combat indiscipline among the teachers and the students' disciplinary committee to combat indiscipline among the students.

Teachers' condition of service should be improved. Also the mass promotion of semi-mass promotion of pupils in primary schools should be reviewed. It would appear also that the posting of graduate teachers is a prerogative of schools in the townships. This is too bad. I am suggesting, as everyone of us comes from the rural area, that special incentives should be given to teachers or to graduate teachers who are serving in rural areas of the State. They are denied so many things—electricity, pipe borne water and so on. Something must be done to compensate them.

On unemployment, we have witnessed a lot of armed robbery by our youths who have left schools roaming in search of jobs. To check this wave of crime, I am calling upon the State Government to teach professional courses and skills at post-primary schools. I am also calling on the State Government to be more industrious, to accord recognition to private professional schools and private commercial schools that produce our typists and book-keepers, and to make life in the rural areas more attractive.

Now something has been happening here as an annual occurrence. That is the fire outbreak in our markets. Nobody has thought about it. I feel that the wealth of this State is involved at each fire outbreak in our markets. To this effect, I am calling upon the Governor to set up a Fire Unit in each of our major markets in Onitsha, Enugu, Abakaliki, Nsukka, etc. Electricity in all markets should be controlled centrally.

On industries, we all know that in this State when we speak of industries and mention made of Premier Breweries and the Cement Industry at Nkalagu, nobody remembers that we have such industries as the Nigerian Mineral Waters, the Nigestersteel, and the NCFC. These are money-spilling industries, but if well administered, they can make a lot of money. The NIGERCEM is the envy of everybody. It is just as the Premier Breweries because the management there was able to look into the company and manage it properly. Now every-

body is interested in those companies. Why can't we make the Mineral Waters, the Nigestersteel, the NCFC. and so on the envy of everybody.

In this connection, I am calling upon the Government to find ways and means of restructuring these companies that are not making profits; it doesn't matter if we borrow from our enemies to give more jobs to our youths.

Mr Speaker Sir, a look at our civil service will reveal that the morale of our workers is low. This is caused by the fact that they cannot get what their counterparts in neighbouring States get. If our neighbouring States can give car loans or advances and car basic allowances to their workers, why can't we do the same. Is it because those States are richer? If we do not do what our own sister States are doing, we are looking for trouble from our workers.

An hon. Member: Tell them!

Mr Ezenwa: My contribution is very simple and I thank Mr Speaker, so much.

Mr M. I. Ezeugwu (Nsukka Central): I thank Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to make my own contribution. I have to start off with an impression created by an hon. Member here yesterday. First of all, we are all aware of the financial constraints facing this Anambra State. I therefore share the opinion that something has to be done to bring unity and understanding between Anambra State and the Federal Government.

In my own opinion, this Budget is a bit tight and its tightness could be attributed to the financial mess in which this State has found itself, hence the importance of co-operation between this State and the Federal Government.

An hon. Member: Say it louder!

Mr Ezeugwu: I am pleased in the other way that our State Government, or rather the Executive who prepared this Budget, was able to make use of the little they have very judiciously, though with some shortcomings. For example, it is very unfair to find out that only ₦9 million is budgeted for water in Anambra State. I wish to inform this honourable House that right here in Anambra State, there is a provision or rather there are three major water projects abandoned which the total cost is about ₦27 million.

In Nsukka Local Government Area alone, there is the so much talked about Adada Water Project. This was abandoned since four years ago. I really wonder why it is not reflected in the budget. The most annoying part of it is that few months ago, the Commissioner for Public Utilities was at Nsukka where he made it an open promise. As a matter of fact, the people of this area are not very happy that the water project is not included in the 1980 Budget.

I wish again to inform the Executive, through Mr Speaker, that the only General Hospital serving about seventy communities in Nsukka is at the verge of collapsing. Now immediately after the election, we were promised that something was going to be done at least to take care of our people's health. In one of the visits, the Commissioner for Health did promise my people that he was going to equip the hospital, but unfortunately nothing has been done and the worst of it all is that the lives of the workers are exposed to danger as a result of frequent thunder blasts. It must be annoying to understand that last year two buildings belonging to senior staff were pulled down and the Commissioner saw these things himself and really promised to do something.

From every indication, I don't know whether this thunder proof was budgeted for. I am trying to say that if nothing is done to get thunder proof supplied to this hospital within this rainy season, I am afraid that the people might think of coming down here to Enugu.

I wish to use this forum to thank the Commissioner for Education for the able way his Ministry is handling the affair of the only Trade Centre at Nsukka. I am pleased that with the budgetary provision made, the Trade Centre may be uplifted to a technical school.

Several hon. Members: Technical University!

Mr Ezeugwu: I wish also to use this forum to thank the Commissioner for Works and the Hadel and Enic Constructing Company for the nice job they are doing at Nsukka Local Government, more especially Nsukka Central Constituency.

It will be recalled that at the beginning of this session, I did appeal to this honourable

House that Nsukka should be given a face-lift to make it look like a University town. I am really grateful to this Government that it was able to heed to my call in terms of construction of roads and drainages, but unfortunately we have no water.

(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker, I wonder whether I am safe.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The hon. Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Ezeugwu*) has the Floor. Please give him your co-operation.

Mr Ezeugwu: It is very interesting to give honour to whom honour is due. By this I wish to thank the Area Engineer attached to Nsukka, Engineer Achebe, for the good job he is doing at Nsukka.

Many hon. Members: Nsukka is lucky!

Mr Ezeugwu: I also wish to use this forum to call on the Commissioner for Education to really think out a way of encouraging workers in his Ministry who are actually doing fine job. Now I want to speak again on Education. I remember some time this year our Governor set up a Committee headed by Ikeotuonye to look into the Education policy in Anambra State. Unfortunately the report of this Committee has not been made public. I look forward, very strongly, that this Committee will have something for private commercial institutions.

Many hon. Members: Like that.

Mr Ezeugwu: It is very pertinent, Mr Speaker Sir, to take cognizance of the effort and contributions being made by these privately owned commercial institutions in Anambra State towards the education of our children. Now we are aware of the quest for education and the small number of primary and secondary institutions in Anambra State. I wish that these privately owned commercial institutions should be encouraged. It is very good to understand that our sister State, Plateau State, has already started encouraging schools of this nature. I remember the Nigerian Peoples' Party manifesto which is running the government of Anambra State. I do not see why we should not emulate our sister State.

On workers, it is very unfortunate and indeed very disheartening to note that this Budget is not clear on the remuneration and

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amenities for civil servants. I did move a Motion here some time that rent subsidy should be introduced for all categories of workers and I also marry the opinion that enough budgetary provision should have been made to give our workers, civil servants, all categories of civil servants car loan, car basic allowance and other incentives. Unfortunately all these things are not reflected, and I will want our Government to be very clear on these things because some other sister States have already started to implement these agreements. I do not see why Anambra State should lag behind. I think it is time to take proper care of the civil servants. We know that they are the life wire of every government.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member has three minutes to round off.

Mr Ezeugwu: All right, I thank Mr Speaker. I will want again to speak on roads. I am very happy. I congratulate this Government for its foresightedness in making provisions for unknown roads in Anambra State. (*Laughter*). This provision actually shows well that the village or local government roads construction as promised by the Governor, are going to take off immediately. I wish to inform the Commissioner for Works that in using the money budgeted for unknown roads, attention should be paid to Ugwuogo-Opi-Abakpa Nike Road. I want it to enjoy its own share of this 'unknown roads' money.

With this, I beg to stop and thank you.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I will start my contribution by way of a preamble. I wish to remind this honourable House that it is a sacred privilege to be a Member of this House and to participate in the running of affairs of men.

Madam F. C. Emodi (Onitsha North West): And not of women !

Mr Nwofor: It is a very sacred privilege and we should be very, very responsible in our approach to issues. Some of us who criticise government do so with utmost sense of responsibility because we are entrusted with the destiny of the people of Anambra State, and all of us know that when we came to power in October, 1979, we came with tremendous

good will. We have about 86 per cent. support of the people of Anambra State, but I am to observe that within a short period of six months, this good will has been corroded because of mismanagement of affairs.

Many hon. Members: Lie ! Lie !

Mr Nwofor: Secondly it is our intention to help the Government to recover the good will of our people and finally to restore our credibility. That is the way of preamble. Then coming to the Budget, I will show that this Budget has no philosophy. It is porous. It has no fiscal policy or monetary policy. We shall ask the question whether it is intended to stimulate economy. The Budget does not reflect the manifesto of our great Party, the Nigerian People's Party. I don't know whether the budget is intended to fight inflation or to service on-going projects or to pay old debts. The Budget is full of unfulfilled promises.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will fire my opening shot with the speech of His Excellency.

Mr Speaker: I hope you have no gun !

Mr Nwofor: He said, "The Budget is not flamboyant but realistic and result-oriented". I accept that the Budget is not flamboyant, but how realistic is a Budget to allocate ₦9.6 million to other roads. How realistic is a Budget . . .

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, Order Number 64 (3) of the Standing Orders which states: *Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on Second Reading.*

Mr Speaker: Point of Order not upheld.

Mr Nwofor: I Thank Mr Speaker very much I was asking the question, "How realistic is the Budget that allocates ₦5 million to previous commitments when those commitments are not specified?" So I submit that from the evidence available this Budget is not realistic.

I will start again on agriculture. It is unfortunate that this Government has a half-hearted attachment to agriculture. I will show that no tangible achievement has been shown in the agricultural sector for increased food production. I will show that ADC is suffering from acquired prejudice and also suffering from double standards. I will also show that

it is suffering from wastage of public funds, and this Assembly has the utmost responsibility of ensuring a good government in Anambra State.

I refer hon. Members to sections 4 (6) and (7) of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1979. It is our duty to ensure that this State has good government, peace and progress to the extent that we direct the Government critically on these aspects so that we succeed in our duties. I say that for agriculture in the last Supplementary Budget, we approved ₦600,000 for community farms. I am sad to report to this honourable House as the hon. Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture that up to the point I am speaking, the sites for these farms are not yet ready. Today is the 20th day of May, 1980, seven months after our assumption of power. In spite of the fact that His Excellency promised in his Budget that a three-man committee has been appointed to establish these farms, I report with sadness that the sites have not been finalized and therefore the agricultural farms have not taken off.

Also ADC is suffering from acquired prejudice. All of us know that some time the last Administration appointed an audit inquiry into ADC and this inquiry found out that two top members of this corporation plundered the corporation. The Government is in possession of this report, and yet the ADC is being allowed to die of starvation of funds. I submit that this allocation made to ADC is a wastage of public funds because they cannot achieve anything. They can only pay salaries. For the past one year, they have been paying themselves without any project to look after.

So, Mr Speaker, it appears, too, that in Industry, there is no sufficient attention to the establishment of industries. There is no provision for new industries in this State and no provision for the participation of private entrepreneurs in industries. The only industry we have, the Premier Brewery, is allowed to stagnate and suffer. It is sad to observe that the people's party has not lived up to the people's expectation.

An hon. Member: Come over to N.P.N.

Mr Nwofor: Lest I am misunderstood, I am a staunch member of the Nigerian People's Party, and this Government has

some limited achievement in isolated areas and I congratulate them for these achievements. I have in mind the asphaltting of the Miliken Hill. All of us are happy about it. The good work being done at Nsukka on the urban roads, the good work on Amechi Road, and in my home town, Awka, we are happy that the hospital has been taken over by Government, and these are isolated achievements in the dark horizon.

In industry, I think that we have to sit down and really plan. A lot of hon. Members have said that this Budget is shoddy. This calls for the appointment of a Director of Budget. This is a presidential system. This Budget was lifted from all the previous Budgets. It does not reflect the presidential system. It does not reflect the programme of the Party. It does not reflect anything. This is a matter-of-course Budget, to let us work and die. Something urgent must be done to restructure and redirect this Administration.

On Works and Housing, I start with Housing. I am sorry to say that this Government has no housing policy. The Federal Government intends to build two thousand houses in this State, and it is being politicized. All men of good will shall ask the Government to take it easy and provide land for the Federal Government to build the houses. (*Applause*).

An hon. Member: Say it loud !

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order !

Mr Nwofor: In the final analysis, it is the people of this State that will suffer if it is politicized, and the State Governor has promised four thousand houses. It is a pity that only ₦1 million was allocated to housing and this ₦1 million is supposed to come from Federal grant. This State has a duty to make available more money to Housing Development Corporation to build more houses for the teeming population of this State.

Mr Speaker Sir, this brings me to *Daily Star*. The *Daily Star* is a Government paper, and in our manifesto all of us who are in the Nigerian People's Party know that we promised three things about the Press. One, we said that we shall phase out Government directorship in the Press. Two, we promised to sell the *Daily*

[MR NWOFOR]
Star to the public, and three, we promised to phase out government-owned information media. I am sorry to say that the *Daily Star* has become a personal album of selected personalities in this State. The *Daily Star* has become imbecile, commenting on issues that it is least qualified. I have in mind the editorial of Saturday last week where the *Daily Star* has arrogated . . .

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) should please mind his language. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order ! Order ! Would the hon. Majority Leader please be more decorous. The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Nwofor*) may please continue.

Mr Nwofor: I thank Mr Speaker. I was saying that the *Daily Star* was imbecile, and I am saying that the *Daily Star* should be called upon to comply with the minimum decorum in publication. We are aware of its constraints. We know that it is Government-owned; that it is to some extent teleguided, but we should have men of courage. We should have men . . .

An hon. Member: Fire ! Fire !

Mr Nwofor: . . . who should refuse to be used. If anyone is tired, or if he is not satisfied on any given day, it is a matter of conscience, he can resign and he will be applauded.

Several hon. Members: Fire !

Mr Nwofor: So Mr Speaker Sir, I was saying and I say it again that the *Daily Star* should concentrate on publicizing Government activities and those of the people. A lot of people have lost interest in the *Daily Star* because it is an album. This page !

Several hon. Members: It is an album !

Mr Nwofor: That page !

Several hon. Members: It is an album ! (*Laughter*).

Madam F. C. Emodi (Onitsha North West): Encore ! (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Nwofor: That is enough for the *Daily Star*. I come to the roads. I can't see the sense, hon. Members—(*Interruptions*). On a more

serious note, I can't see the sense in starting to construct forty-five or fifty roads within one financial year. This is an inherited policy from the Military. I submit Sir, that both financial and engineering difficulties abound in such projects. I also submit that it is our duty as hon. Members of this House to advise the Government to phase out road projects and construct them in phases, take five roads and complete, take another five and complete, take another five . . .

Several hon. Members: And complete. !

Mr Nwofor: Why take fifty-one roads and none of these has been completed !

An hon. Member: Not one !

Mr Nwofor: I believe that the money allocated to these road projects is meant to pay off the contractors, and I will ask the Commissioner for Works when he comes to our Committee to determine what the contractors' road works are and pay them, phase these contracts out and build them according to the money that is available. That is the field policy in road construction.

Many hon. Members have spoken against starting road work on Oba-Nnewi Road. I think that attack is unjustified because the contractor has a programme of work and his progress is measured against the programme that is tabulated. So if there is a programme to start from Oba and complete it before going over, it is his business as long as he completes the job within the specified period. I believe that that attack on the contractor is unjustified.

Then coming to workers, a lot of hon. Members have said that this Government is apologetic in providing incentives and fringe benefits to its workers. I share that view to a limited extent. We passed a Motion in this honourable House requesting the Executive to start the payment of basic allowance with effect from 1st April and I believe that the views of this House should be mandatory on the Government not to wait until the Federal Government has taken a stand before we fall in line. This, to my mind, is apologetic.

An hon. Member: Say it loud !

Mr Nwofor: Imo State is our sister state, Imo State is a part of the theatre of war, Imo State started after us ! Go to Owerri, it is

now America's New York in Africa. This is an evidence of positive and forward-looking planning. We ask and we request and yet Imo State is owned and run by the Nigerian People's Party.

Mr Speaker Sir, a lot has been said about orientation courses. I believe that some of us here and some Executive members require real orientation.

An hon. Member: America !

Mr Nwafor: Not only America (*laughter*) but to study the manifesto of the Party in power and find ways and means of implementing the Party's programmes. That is an aspect of it. secondly to study their responsibilities to the people of Anambra State because it appears to me that we are moving not in a straight line but . . .

Madam F. C. Emodi (Onitsha North West): Horizontal.

Mr Nwafor: Not in a horizontal this time (*laughter*). Mr Speaker Sir, in conclusion, I have shown that this Budget is porous. In view of the fact that there is no provision for other things, it has no direction. And in some areas there abound unfulfilled promises and because of their sensitive nature, I refrain from mentioning them, but hon. Members who have the speech of His Excellency can read paragraph 10. It is about Premier Breweries and paragraph 1 about Ogbete Market. We have promised that this market would be completed by the end of April; today is 20th May, 1980 and work has not been started on the market. I have shown that this Budget has no fiscal policy, and I believe that this Government has seven months to understand, to learn how to prepare the Budget because if this type of Budget is presented in the 1981 fiscal year, I believe that this honourable House will throw it out, but as a warning we support and we shall approve the Budget. I thank Mr Speaker.

Chief G. B. C. Chukwuka (Onitsha Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I am very happy to be recognized to deliver my contributions on the 1980 Budget. In the first place I will like to approach my contribution from the particular area I am Specialized.

Several hon. Members: Ha! Chairman.

Chief Chukwuka: I believe that during my absence a lot of contributors might have

spoken at length on various issues affecting Anambra State. Therefore in a bid to contribute intelligibly to the debate I would like to go straight to my special area, that is, the field of trade. First of all I would like to approach the issue from three phases. First I will talk on import licence, that import licence must have to be decentralized. Secondly there will be established a permanent trade fair centre. Third State Supply Company or Agency should be introduced.

In adducing my points to lay credence to my speech, I would say that any continued centralization of import licence will make nonsense the provisions of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1979 which speaks about geographical balance.

Geographical balance will not manifest itself only in the allocation of revenue; it will also manifest itself in the provision of such essential ingredients like import licence. Immediately the President of the country was sworn into office as the Executive President of the country, he directed that 200,000 tons of rice be allocated to various importers in the country. It is a sad thing to note that no single import licence was granted to the people of Anambra State origin. Sir, this sort of situation will continue to go unguarded and thus hamper whatever progress we have made towards uniting the people of this country. Because of this I advocate that the issue of import licence be forthwith decentralized. The appropriate Ministry to handle this is the State's Ministry of Trade. The officials of the Ministry of Trade will know exactly those importers who will provide the essential commodities needed in the State.

Mr Speaker, coming to the question of State Supply Company, I would say that in 1976, the Federal Government established the Nigerian National Supply Company. The aim was to provide essential commodities to the people of Nigeria; but from the foregoing reasons and allegations about the inability of the National Supply Company to provide the needs of the people of the State, nay the people of the country, it is quite obvious that this company is incapable of providing the essential commodities for which it was established. This perhaps arises from the fact that the

[CHIEF CHUKWUKA]

company does not owe any allegiance to some States and perhaps at the time that company was established, the people of the State of Anambra had no godfather in the Federation. That is to say that when the company was established by the Military Regime, the State of Anambra had no godfather and things continued to elude them. Since that time, the pattern remained the same until today.

With this I am strongly appealing to the State Executive to take immediate steps to see that this National Supply Company is phased out completely from the State of Anambra and substituted with State Supply Company whose responsibility will be to provide these essential commodities. I have on record that the only commodities allocated to the people of this State are the fewest few of good quality commodities, the others will be the rejects, with the result that a look at the stock of the National Supply Store will reveal bundles and quantities of commodities not consumed at all in the State. This state of affair does not augur well for the unity and continued loyalty in the country. For loyalty to continue in the country, the establishment of our own National Supply Company is overdue. I call on the Government to start right now to carry out all the ground work necessary for this establishment and proceed without any delay to give us one where the needs of the people of this State will be completely served.

Thirdly, I mentioned the establishment of Trade Centre, the position which the State of Anambra assumes in the trade arena in the country is as a result of the people's industry, people's efforts and mobilization of everything good, progressive and others, so that this natural talent in the people of Anambra State will have to be encouraged, and the best way to encourage it is to establish a Trade Centre and preferably at Onitsha. Onitsha is the centre of trade in the State of Anambra. In Anambra today, there are a lot of industries springing up in Onitsha and Enugu as well. The establishment or introduction of trade centres will augur well for the promotion of these important industrial growth in the country and Anambra State in particular and at the same time, will be a sort of encouragement to industrialists because with the establishment of these trade centres their commodities will reach the markets.

Mr Speaker, in some States in the North where, perhaps, there is no trade at all they have for some time established this sort of trade centre, and they make millions of naira a year and apart from the promotion and encouragement this establishment gives to the industrialists, it is also a money-making venture because the participants pay some handsome sum of money to participate and government realizes a large amount from this venture

A lot of people are talking there. What is happening?

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member for Onitsha Central (*Chief Chukwuka*) address the Speaker please.

Chief Chukwuka: Having said this on this Trade Division, I want to make a running comment on certain issues, burning issues that bug this State.

On Education, I see that a number of people have spoken, but I want to tell the Executive that the proposed bursary award should not be made on selective basis. It should not go to a selected few. It should be spread to every nook and corner in order to project our Party and then portray our Party as a party of the people because any move whereby a section of the people will be selected for this award will generate some bad feelings, will have some sort of—it could be quite unpopular and evoke a lot of emotions and comments and protests and ugly things of that nature which the people of Anambra State do not want now.

On Roads, I would like to give a warning that all the roads which have been contracted out by the Military and which work we had inherited should be tackled to a finish. There is no need and no usefulness in embarking on several projects at a time when in actual fact the finances cannot go halfway. The resultant effect is that a good number of projects—after investing some mobilization fees on them have to be abandoned and I feel that 70 per cent. of such projects commenced by the Military have been abandoned and we can imagine the amount of money involved. When I mean money, I mean mobilization fees involved in those projects which have been washed away by water. This is quite unwise. It is a proper waste of the worst order. So this present regime should be very careful to take things piecemeal, take the much they

can swallow before embarking on others. A lot of communities might be having pleasure in having their names announced over the network or written on pages of newspapers that road-work has been awarded to go across their local government areas; but the question is how many of these roads are being worked on.

So Mr Speaker, my point is that the Government should take it coolly, go systematically and not bite more than it can chew. I advise that the Executive should tackle the roads already contracted by the Military Government before embarking on fresh roads. We shall be judicious in our spending and careful in our planning this time, as we are the Civilian Government of Anambra State.

Then on rural electrification Mr Speaker, my advice is the same as on the roads. It is a pity that up till the moment of speaking, we have not been briefed about the number of towns that have benefited from this first phase of the rural electrification.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): We have been briefed!

Chief Chukwuka: Have we? Oh, very good! That is why I said that during my absence we have a lot of these...

Mr Speaker: Address the Speaker please.

Chief Chukwuka: A lot of things have transpired. Be it as it may, if the names have been given, I advise the Executive through the Ministry in-charge, to see that not more than the necessary number which the finances allocated for such projects could carry should be embarked upon, so that we do not find ourselves in the mess as used to be the order in the Military Regime.

Having said all these, I maintain that the 1980 Budget is a good Budget. It is certainly an improvement on the previous Military Government Budget. People who make their speeches could lay emphasis or draw examples from what they have experienced. We have not got much experience from the previous Budget, but from what we could gather, the Military Government's Budget was as tiny as ever and with this sort of three hundred and something million naira, I believe it is an

improvement on the old Budget and the Government will plan judiciously and use it to the satisfaction of the people of this State.

I thank Mr Speaker very much.

Mr R. A. Osita (Uzo-Uwani South): I thank Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute to this Budget. In doing so, I sincerely associate myself with the people who said that the Budget does not reflect the interest of the people in the rural areas. The Budget centres more on the urban areas than on the rural areas of the State. For this, I call on the people who are responsible for preparing the Budget to try to reflect the Budget in the next estimates. Still on estimates, I would like to talk about health, agriculture, works and education.

Coming to health, in this Budget, health is not properly cared for. For example, in the Capital Expenditure, the proposed Estimates from 1st April to 31st December, 1980 amounts to ₦5,883,770; whereas in education, the proposed Estimates amounts to ₦19,702,900 for the same period. This is immense for we know that we must be healthy enough to live before thinking of education. (*Laughter*).

Therefore the Government should take note—health first, before education. I would like to be brief.

An hon. Member: Go ahead!

Mr Osita: Secondly, on agriculture, in the Capital Expenditure Head 2711, then go to summary.

An hon. Member: Let us go to summary! (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr J. Eneje (Ezeagu Central): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker! Some hon. Members are busy talking.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members should maintain decorum in the Chamber. The hon. Member for Uzo-Uwani South (*Mr Osita*) should please continue.

Mr Osita: Still on Agriculture. In Capital Expenditure Head 2711, Agricultural Development Corporation proposed expenditure for these nine months is ₦1,181,750. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production proposed expenditure for nine months is ₦6,587,280. Forestry Commission's proposed expenditure for nine months is ₦176,100. Therefore proposed expenditure for nine months total crops is ₦8,255,130.

[Mr Osita]

In my candid opinion, this ₦8,255,130 allocated for agriculture is not sufficient as compared with education which was given ₦19,702,900. We all know that if we do not eat, we will not live to be educated. Secondly, we all know that the present generation is not willing to work. (*Laughter*). As such, I am calling on both the State and Federal Governments to aid mechanized farming. By this I mean to aid all voluntary agencies that are prepared to farm. Such voluntary agencies like the ADC, Adarice Limited, World Bank Project, Anambra Lower Basin Development Company being handled by NIPON COIL Limited. All these projects are in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area (*applause*). Finally on agriculture, Government should aid all existing farm settlements in the whole State and plan to establish more if necessary.

Going further Government should not waste money on fertilizers, but they should introduce loan to farmers in rural areas of the State, more especially, to farmers in the food producing areas such as Abakaliki, Uzo-Uwani, Anambra, et cetera. (*Applause*). I will suggest that Government should carry out an exhibition seasonally and reasonable prizes be awarded to successful farmers who will win in the exhibition to boost their morale.

On Works and Housing, I am particularly interested in Head 2781, being the Vice-Chairman of Works and Housing Committee of this House of Assembly. I will not go into details, but I will say that proposed expenditure for roads and bridges for the nine months which is ₦26,125,000 and Head 2841—Housing—which proposed ₦1,000,010 for nine months is fair enough. I am not however, satisfied with the allocation of the said amount to various roads and bridges and housing in general. In this allocation, some roads and bridges were under-allocated and some roads and bridges were forgotten. The under-allocated roads include 9th Mile Corner Eke-Oghe-Olo-Omor-Anaku-Otuocha Road which is about 56 miles and it was allocated ₦600,000. This cannot do for the clearing.

Mr A. O. Nnaeto (Ihiala South East): On a point of Order Mr Speaker. Somebody is reading newspaper.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Let us be more honourable Gentlemen. Let us be quiet and let's conform to the rules.

Mr Osita: I thank Mr Speaker for protecting me. As I said earlier, the sum of ₦600,000 is allocated for the 9th Mile Corner Eke-Oghe-Olo-Omor-Anaku-Otuocha Road which is just 56 miles. This amount is not enough for clearing, not to talk of lateriting. Some bridges were forgotten; such as Omor-Nkpologu Ezu-Anaku Bridge, the Duu bridge that were not in the Estimates, and Ezu-Anaku Bridge connects two important local government areas, namely, Anambra and Uzo-Uwani. The Duu Bridge connects two important local government areas as well, Ezeagu and Uzo-Uwani Local Government areas. I am calling on the State and Federal Governments to see to these two bridges. . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! No distraction, Gentlemen.

Mr Osita: . . . so that we will have easier movement. Coming to education, education is important to mankind for it is said "Knowledge is Power". This does not mean that we will allocate most of our money to education.

For example, in the northern States, education is not given priority. The northern States pay more attention to even development such as roads, bridges, markets, urban and rural development, health, agriculture, et cetera.

In bursary award, I am in support of it, and I want it to be evenly spread, so that every sector of the State will have the bursary award. No sector of the State should be forgotten. We should encourage scholarship award also so as to encourage the brainy ones. I do not condemn education for it helps in the present development.

On car loan and basic allowance—something must be done generally to stop the troubles coming from all sectors. The Executive should look into this matter for it has been a persistent problem in the State and the matter should be handled collectively not section by section.

Now coming to Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area, my local government area. Uzo-Uwani is a local government area of its own. It is a new local government area and during the Governor's speech here he said that an assess road would

be provided to all the twenty-three local government areas of the State, and we also agreed in this House to do the same, but I am surprised that some places among the twenty-three local government areas of this State have not got an access road that will connect the constituency with the local government area capital or headquarters. Most of the constituencies as of now have got access roads, so I am calling on those concerned to see that in the next Estimates it is replaced both in the local government area capital and the constituency headquarters.

In my local government area, we have no general hospital at all. We have no water, no roads, no maternity, no health centre, nothing at all. (*Laughter*). I see no reason why nothing is given to my constituency in particular. In Uzo-Uwani we have a road that connects Adani, Ifite Ogwari, Omor, Anaku and Otuocha. This road is very important because it serves as a link. It leads from Anambra State to Benue State through Adani and no attention is paid to this road. I am calling on the Federal Government and State Government to take note.

On education, we have one secondary school in my area which is Omor Community Secondary School. We have no tutors in that secondary school. Anybody posted to Omor Secondary School will not go because there is no road. In fact, any day that there is rain there will be standstill, no movement, even myself I will not be able to go home if there is rain. What a hell! (*Laughter*). So I am using this forum to call on the State Government to come to our aid because we seem not to belong to this State, and most of our people are annoyed because since ages we have no road, no water, no hospital, nothing at all.

An hon. Member: Policy Makers.

Mr Osita: With this, I end my contribution. (*Applause*).

Many hon. Members took the Floor

Mr Speaker: From the number of people still wishing to speak it appears we may take on two sessions today and tomorrow, that is, afternoon session in addition to the morning session.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, with regard to this suggestion, I rise to move that we have two sessions tomorrow and not today to enable Members contribute effectively to the Budget debate.

Mr C. E. Chukwuka (Anambra South East): I thank Mr Speaker for giving me the chance to second the Motion that we have two sessions tomorrow.

Question, That the debate on the Second Reading of the 1980 Bill be carried on to the afternoon session tomorrow, put and agreed to.

Mr W. Umeaba (Aguata North): Mr Speaker Sir, I need not flog the Estimates issue, otherwise it should be buried. So many hon. Members have spoken on the Estimates, and in doing so, it is quite regrettable that the Estimates could not embody many important projects, because the Budget itself is so low. I should not lament so much about the Estimates because if the Executive will be able to implement all that will be approved in this honourable House, we can still manage well with the Budget. I will not talk so much on the importance of the Budget, but I will only just spot out what I feel that is very touching to my own constituency.

I will go to roads. I will say that the vote given to Nnewi-Nnobi-Ekwulobia-Ufuma-Umunze-Ibinta Road is very small. This road is one of the longest roads in Anambra State. It covers four local government areas from Nnewi to Ibinta and according to the vote given to this road on Head 2781, Project 10— $\text{N}800,000$, this road could not be properly accommodated. This road as it is, I do not think that even if $\text{N}2.5$ million is voted, the road could be completed. If we look at the surface of the road, there has not been any maintenance so far on this very road. I am therefore calling on the Executive to consider very seriously undertaking a rapid construction work on this very important road.

The other road I will like to mention, Sir, is Umuogem-Ogbunka-Umunze Road. I do not know whether this road is included in the other roads mentioned in Head 2781, subhead 51 of the Estimates, because it was contained in his Excellency's Budget Speech but could not be found now in the Estimates.

In fact, when their problems are solved or when the demands of the teachers are met, the situation will be once and for all arrested. Therefore the country may be given some few years to rest before another industrial action.

Mr Speaker, with this, I want to ask that the Question be now put.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to the report in *National Concord* of Monday 19th May, 1980 in which it was alleged that the Governor of Lagos State used his good offices to acquire 900 plots. It is unfortunate because this Administration, throughout the Federation, has just been six months old and the theme of my speech is "Let us beware of the gathering storm". It is very, very immoral for any functionary of the Government to acquire 900 plots at ₦48,333 coming to ₦55 per plot. It is really very serious and it is our duty as an integral part of the Federation of Nigeria to draw the attention of the people that this is bad in our own interest so that when the time comes, we can escape from the gathering storm.

Also I wish to draw attention to the demonstration in Kaduna and Zaria by the Muslim students who now want Nigeria to be declared an Islamic Republic. These things are bad and throughout the whole Federation, most of the top Government functionaries up to the Executive have, almost all of them, abused their offices. This is a bad commentary on the civil administration. This administration is just six months old in Nigeria and if the present trend continues, I wonder where we are heading to. God forbid. So, Mr Speaker, as responsible citizens of Anambra State, we have a duty to draw the attention of the Federation that we are not satisfied with the goings-on in various Governments. With this Sir, I beg to support,

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): I thank Mr Speaker. I have to deal briefly on two points. One is the deplorable state of Nnewi-Oba Road. The fact that I have been talking about this road as well as the fact that deaf ears have been paid to my appeals is enough evidence that there is an intention by the Company doing that job to frustrate the

people living in that area. People who have travelled on that road and are not from Nnewi Local Government Area have witnessed the deplorable condition of that road. If the MCC is not prepared to do that job, please for goodness sake, let them hands up. I would like the Works and Housing Committee to pay a visit to this particular road to know whether I have been crying wolf for nothing. It is really heart-rending that in spite of the appeals made and the number of speeches made about this particular road, the MCC has consistently refused to open their ears. I would like Mr Speaker to use his good offices to make them harken lest our hearts will break.

Having said this much, I refer to a circular or a paper that was circulated by the Emmanuel and St. Barnabas Churches, Nkwelle-Ezunaka. This is the second time I am getting this letter and I think it is also the second time that almost all Members are getting the letter. There appears to be allegation of ostracism and we cannot continue to be deaf to the cries of the people who feel they are being insulted either by integrity or otherwise, who feel they have been cheated, who feel they are being made second-class citizens; we just read these things and leave them there without trying to probe to know, maybe their course is genuine. I would like the Committee, that is, Development and Welfare . . .

An hon. Member: Public Petitions Committee.

Mr Ojukwu: to make haste and look into that case. An allegation which has been consistently sent to this House cannot be treated with levity. Prompt intervention will make the people understand that they belong. If we investigate and find them guilty then we shall dismiss the case, at least to allay their fears. I think they have the hope that this House will always come to their aid.

So Mr Speaker Sir, with this little contribution, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and ask 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 this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, 21st May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.00 p.m.

Mr S. O. Didigu (Igbo-Etiti West): On a point of Order. Mr Speaker Sir, I do not think the House has got a proper quorum now.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I think a quorum is formed considering the fact that the Committee on Finance is sitting.

Mr Umeaba: If so, Sir, I should equally beg that out of the ₦9.6 million set aside for other roads only ₦1.2 million should be set aside for immediate contract award of Nibo-Umuawulu-Agulu-Okpoze-Ufuma Road as is contained in Head 2781 Subhead 87 of the Estimates. I wish to include Ozundiukwuenu-Ugwuoba-Enugu-Onitsha Road. My request should also include that of the Mam Forest Reserve. In this Forest Reserve, there are many farm settlers. The Forest is Government-owned. Banana trees grow there in abundance. This area produces much food. There is Government Saw Mill which is only eight kilometres to Enugu-Onitsha Road, but it joins other roads mentioned above to Ufuma.

I therefore crave the indulgence of the Speaker to ask the Commissioner for Works and Housing to inspect this road. There are no less than seven thousand people living around this area, and they have no road at all. I will equally be glad if the Commissioner could go to Mam Forest to see things for himself.

When I come to agriculture, I have to point out that Aguata Local Government Area produces food in very large quantity. Rice, cassava, beans, potatoes, vegetables, and many other crops are produced there, but there are no access roads to evacuate them. Aguata Local Government Area rehabilitated the greatest number of refugees during and after the last civil war. I am therefore calling on the Federal and State Governments to site without further delay a School of Agriculture, Farm Settlement and Integrated Rural Development and Marketing in this very local government area. I will also mention that the feeds that we could have got from the items mentioned above are lying waste as a result of lack of access road. I think it will be of great profit if the Anambra State Government could site livestock, starch and fertiliser industries in the area. Mr Speaker Sir, may I therefore crave your indulgence to ask the Commissioners for Industries and Technology, Agriculture and Food Production to go and inspect these areas mentioned above.

Among these things I have mentioned, we cannot see many Government institutions in Aguata Local Government Area. I would therefore wish to urge our Government to take very good care in whatever it is doing there to see that we are just like other areas, more especially in those projects going on within the urban centres. I feel that if most of these projects could be sited in the rural areas, it would be very good achievement.

With this, Sir, I beg to stop.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn until tomorrow Wednesday 21st May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Mr S. N. Okafor (Uzo-Uwani North West): I thank Mr Speaker for allowing me to second the Motion for adjournment and in doing that, I want to call on the N.U.T. (Nigerian Union of Teachers) to remind them of their duties. The N.U.T. as a trade union should be able to control and cater for its members, that is, all the teachers in the Federation. What happens is that the N.U.T. which is meant to control the teachers has resulted in innumerable, inconsistent trade unions and association of teachers of all grades. In the teaching profession today, there are the N.U.T., the Association of Grade Two Teachers, the Headmasters' Association, the Post-primary Teachers' Association and other associations of teachers are likely to spring up. All these Associations seek independence and autonomy from the N.U.T. They make their demands independent of the N.U.T., not minding the Nigerian Labour Law and regardless of the economy of the State or country. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Mr Okafor: I think I am protected. I am not saying that the teachers should not make their demands, but that they should list all their grievances and pass to the Government through the N.U.T. because the N.U.T. is the recognized Union we have in the teaching profession and when there are too many union under one profession, it creates several avenues for industrial crisis. So I will like teachers to obey the N.U.T. If the N.U.T. is not doing well, let them reshuffle its administration instead of having various unions thereby creating many avenues for industrial action.

In fact, when their problems are solved or when the demands of the teachers are met, the situation will be once and for all arrested. Therefore the country may be given some few years to rest before another industrial action.

Mr Speaker, with this, I want to ask that the Question be now put.

Mr F. C. Nwofor (Awka Central): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so, I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to the report in *National Concord* of Monday 19th May, 1980 in which it was alleged that the Governor of Lagos State used his good offices to acquire 900 plots. It is unfortunate because this Administration, throughout the Federation, has just been six months old and the theme of my speech is "Let us beware of the gathering storm". It is very, very immoral for any functionary of the Government to acquire 900 plots at ₦48,333 coming to ₦55 per plot. It is really very serious and it is our duty as an integral part of the Federation of Nigeria to draw the attention of the people that this is bad in our own interest so that when the time comes, we can escape from the gathering storm.

Also I wish to draw attention to the demonstration in Kaduna and Zaria by the Muslim students who now want Nigeria to be declared an Islamic Republic. These things are bad and throughout the whole Federation, most of the top Government functionaries up to the Executive have, almost all of them, abused their offices. This is a bad commentary on the civil administration. This administration is just six months old in Nigeria and if the present trend continues, I wonder where we are heading to. God forbid. So, Mr Speaker, as responsible citizens of Anambra State, we have a duty to draw the attention of the Federation that we are not satisfied with the goings-on in various Governments. With this Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. C. O. Ojukwu (Nnewi North East): I thank Mr Speaker. I have to deal briefly on two points. One is the deplorable state of Nnewi-Oba Road. The fact that I have been talking about this road as well as the fact that deaf ears have been paid to my appeals is enough evidence that there is an intention by the Company doing that job to frustrate the

people living in that area. People who have travelled on that road and are not from Nnewi Local Government Area have witnessed the deplorable condition of that road. If the MCC is not prepared to do that job, please for goodness sake, let them hands up. I would like the Works and Housing Committee to pay a visit to this particular road to know whether I have been crying wolf for nothing. It is really heart-rending that in spite of the appeals made and the number of speeches made about this particular road, the MCC has consistently refused to open their ears. I would like Mr Speaker to use his good offices to make them harken lest our hearts will break.

Having said this much, I refer to a circular or a paper that was circulated by the Emmanuel and St. Barnabas Churches, Nkwelle-Ezunaka. This is the second time I am getting this letter and I think it is also the second time that almost all Members are getting the letter. There appears to be allegation of ostracism and we cannot continue to be deaf to the cries of the people who feel they are being insulted either by integrity or otherwise, who feel they have been cheated, who feel they are being made second-class citizens; we just read these things and leave them there without trying to probe to know, maybe their course is genuine. I would like the Committee, that is, Development and Welfare . . .

An hon. Member: Public Petitions Committee.

Mr Ojukwu: to make haste and look into that case. An allegation which has been consistently sent to this House cannot be treated with levity. Prompt intervention will make the people understand that they belong. If we investigate and find them guilty then we shall dismiss the case, at least to allay their fears. I think they have the hope that this House will always come to their aid.

So Mr Speaker Sir, with this little contribution, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment and ask 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 this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, 21st May, 1980 at 10 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.00 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA

Wednesday 21st May, 1980

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: I wish to remind hon. Members that following the resolution by this honourable House of yesterday, the House will be suspended at 1 p.m. this afternoon to resume sitting at 3 p.m.

Majority Leader (Mr E. A. Itanyi): On a point of Order Mr Speaker!

An hon. Member: Order what?

The Deputy Speaker: Is it a Point of Order on the Speaker?

Majority Leader: Not on the Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Is it on the House?

Majority Leader: Yes, on the House! Order Number 64 (3) of the Standing Orders. Mr Speaker, it embarrasses me as the humble Leader that on the Calendar of today, Wednesday 21st May, 1980 in spite of the request I humbly made yesterday that the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill will have two sessions today, unfortunately, I do not know whether it was a mistake or an omission on the Calendar. Instead of the Bill coming first for the Second Reading, I surprisingly saw Questions for Oral Answers instead of the Appropriation Bill.

So Mr Speaker, I pray the House to suspend any other question or business and finish with the Appropriation Bill as members of the public have been worried. We are tired of these Questions and Motions, so I pray that the House should allow this Bill to end before any other business.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: In view of the fact that the Commissioner is not here, we will take on the Bill.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ANAMBRA STATE APPROPRIATION
BILL, 1980

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND
READING 7TH MAY, 1980

Question again proposed, that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr O. M. Ugoh (Njikoka South): I thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me early enough to speak and I have to contribute to this Budget session as it relates to my constituency, indeed my area. And when I say my area, I mean mainly: Adazi-Nnukwu, Adazi-Enu, Adazi-Ani, Ichida, Akwaeze. I might even venture to add Ogbu, Oraeri, Obeledu, Oraukwu, Nnokwa... (Laughter). (Interruptions).

An hon. Member: Nneaturu and Nne ezwu.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Hear the hon. Member for Njikoka South (Mr Ugoh) in silence, please.

Mr Ugoh: Thank you. It is necessary Mr Speaker to mention these towns because going through the Budget as it stands, history has repeated itself. I am not laying any blame on the Executive—the present Executive, particularly the Governor, because he is one man and he is not all-knowing. I am only trying to reveal what is happening in my area. There is apartheid suppressed or mellowed down in my area. We may believe it or not that when we say, Njikoka, it is an area divided sharply into two.

Some hon. Members: Dichotomy?

Mr Ugoh: If you will allow me to speak!

The Deputy Speaker: Order? Order! The Member for Njikoka South (Mr Ugoh) should please address the Speaker.

Mr Ugoh: Yes, I know but...

The Deputy Speaker! Order! Order! I wish to appeal to hon. Members not to distract hon. Members who are contributing to this Budget. Please control your emotions. The hon. Member for Njikoka South (Mr Ugoh) may continue.

Mr Ugoh: Thank you very much. When I say this, I am very sincere in what I am saying because for generations on end, my area has not been merely forgotten but almost suppressed to death. Go through these towns I have mentioned Mr Speaker, no one single Government establishment. I have to concede that there is only one road, one from Agulu to Nnobi, and this road has been a lean way through which money has been siphoned out of this State—the people's money.

From 1960 till today six contracts or so have been awarded, money given out, but nothing done. Where is that money? This

is the only Government project in this area. In 1976 nearly two million naira was earmarked within the Four Year Development Plan for the construction of a road from Enugwu-Ukwu to Ichida to Igbo-Ukwu and so forth. This is the only road that could have opened up the hinterland, the forgotten people. But, because of certain events, not one kobo has been spent on this road.

Now Mr Speaker, what is the reason? It is because in Njikoka, my area, there is the *London Njikoka* and the *Agbaenu Njikoka*.

An hon. Member: Dichotomy.

Mr Ugoh: Surely! We dare not talk of anything that may benefit the people. It must come from the overlords who are perpetually vested with the divine power to rule. Someone cannot get even near the powers that be in order to tell them the situation over there. That is why nothing ever comes. Go through all the lists of appointments, there is nothing that gets to that part. Today, perhaps, one or two appointments amongst the Boards have been made because they want something. If they want our votes, if they want our support, yes; it is the time Boards will be made and approaches made but otherwise we do not belong.

Mr Speaker, this particular road from Nimo to Neni to Ichida to Igbo-Ukwu and so forth is the only road that can open the hinterlands. When we lay emphasis on food producing areas, we should also remember food consuming areas because without production, there can be no consumption and without consumption, production will be stifled. Food will be destroyed to the detriment of the producers and also to the detriment of the consumers. So there must be *quid pro quo*. Mr Speaker, this is foremost in my mind and I am prepared to die for this cause.

Several hon. Members: Please don't die!

Mr Ugoh: Mr Speaker, if we look at the vote, item 95, Head 2781, it is only ₦300,000 that has been earmarked for this road. ₦300,000 may not even be enough to construct a culvert not to talk of developing the road to be passable for the people. Yet we pay our taxes. I do not blame the Governor but the people who are near him, who have consistently

elbowed us out. We cannot say our wishes, we cannot be heard; it must be from our overlords. We, the servants, must be taking the crumbs that fall from their tables. It is very unfortunate. I cry for my beloved people.

Several hon. Members: Sorry!

Mr Ugoh: So my brothers and relations from Abakaliki and Uzo-Uwani are not alone in their plight. We cry together. Coming to the Budget I have carefully gone through the 1980 Anambra State of Nigeria Budget and heard contributions from various hon. Members. I have also listened to the public, what they say and their comments based mainly on what we say here. It seems to me that the electorate has got the kind of misconception of what the Budget means because of what we say here. They think that the Government heaps some billions of naira somewhere only to give out some chunk of it the moment we approve this Budget. This is exactly the impression they have. Budget! Budget! Budget! Millions of naira waiting for us to approve. The moment we approve it, then consumption comes in. But this is wrong. We have to correct this impression without further delay before we misguide the people.

The money that will be spent will be raised by us; by them and us here, by way of taxation, by borrowing, by expectation from the Federal Government and so forth; some other undertakings from some money-yielding ventures. The money does not fall from heaven and there is no naira heaped anywhere. That is why I have to praise the present Budget in one way and condemn it in another way. I will praise it in that it has taken cognizance of our present impecuniosity. I will also praise it in that it has some sort of even-spread within the confines of our meagre resources but as Sir Larcombes put it, *there is always a flaw in every splendid theory*. Our people, the people of this State and indeed the people of Nigeria, should be advised to hasten more slowly. We seem to be expecting too much. The Government is not a juggler; we are not magicians, we have to operate within the means available to us. And so we have to be advised to reduce our bickerings to reduce excessive criticisms otherwise we shall be helping to destroy the edifice we are about to build.

[MR UGOH]

Our Government is still too young. We are beginning and every beginning is very difficult. It is too early to pass a balanced judgment on us now because we are still beginning to perform. This is a maiden Budget. On this, our success or failure will stand to be judged and the mainstay of our success or failure will be traceable to about three or four items: (1) Health, (2) Roads, (3) Agriculture, and (4) Water. These four things are what our people will judge us with. Our people are yet modest in their demand. They are not asking to go to Mars or for so many fly-overs as such. Their demands are quite legitimate and modest and the moment we are able to alleviate their sufferings or their ills within these four items, we shall have succeeded.

So Mr Speaker, I have not much to contribute but I will say that with regard to hospitals, we have to remember that the Teaching Hospital which is in our State today is a Federal Government institution and a reference hospital. Frankly speaking, it is not our own. If we go round other hospitals to see what we have as hospitals, we will know that we have nothing. Our hospitals, that is to say, the General Hospitals are equal to nothing. No equipment, nothing, in fact, we may have some manpower, but how do they operate. I do not want to castigate anybody, but it is common knowledge that many things are going wrong within the administration of our hospitals.

So I am suggesting that we have to shift our priorities from the way the drafters of this Budget did. We have to shift our priorities from certain flamboyant projects to the basic needs of the people. For instance, the money voted for health, in my own view, is not enough. We need more hospitals and those that are existing should be properly equipped. Go to the hospitals and see what is happening. It is piteous and pitiable.

Now coming to roads, I have again to praise this Administration for being road conscious. Very, very important and praiseworthy. Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, to budget is one thing and to implement is another. If we go through our roads here in the State and compare them with what obtains in the Northern States and Bendel State we shall know that we have no roads at all, except a few, maybe, Express Roads that are now being constructed.

Our indigenous contractors are out to make quick money. They are not out to make names. So they should be better advised to seek first the way to perpetuate their names, prestige and other things that will bring up their status. Then once they have these qualities, money will follow. But go to our roads, they are mere heinous, hoarse and rough things without drainages and we can be sure that these roads cannot stand the test of time. Only one rainy season and all these roads will be washed away, and we shall go back to square one so that every year we shall be crying of roads; we shall be squandering our money on roads. What have we achieved?

Our indigenous contractors should be warned to be up and doing. I do not say this with any apology. If they do not do well and if our roads do not stand the test of time, we should regard it that our indigenous contractors perhaps by omission, by commission or incompetence do not know what they are doing and even the Ministry of Works will have some questions to answer. We have them to blame. So I say that roads without drainages are like houses without firm foundations and must collapse sooner or later.

On water project, Mr Speaker, many people have spoken on this but as I said earlier, this is one of the items which can help this Government prove its mettle. I must be fair to the Commissioner or the Ministry of Utilities but the only pity of it all is that the amount voted for this all important item is very meagre, we could have taken some money from somewhere and given to that particular Ministry in order to let the people feel the impact of what the Executive is doing. My mother does not know about colour television, she does not care about that, but she wants water, good health, roads and food.

Coming to . . . (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members: Finally!

Mr Ugoh: Don't worry, I am coming to an end. Coming to the issue of the maladies of this State, Mr Speaker, I will warn us, all of us including my humble self by way of advice that the green-eyed monster called dichotomy is really dangerous. It starts on the global level between the whites and the blacks. It goes down to continental level, and there it can be called chauvinism. It comes down to State levels, that is, countries; there it is either sectionalism or

whatever we may call it. From sectionalism, we call it tribalism. Coming down to tribes, tribes themselves are sub-divided into ethnocentrism. All these things continue. We go down from this ethnocentrism, we get sectionalism and from sectionalism, I don't know what else, but we get to what is called multi-dichotomy. It has no end. It goes right into the families. So those of us who glory in dichotomy will cry about it tomorrow because it is spreading farther and farther. There is no single division in this country or let me say in this State that is not now experiencing some sort of dichotomy. It is a very serious threat. I have heard some people crying of Ishielu, that so many appointments were made in one section with little or nothing in the other, as I have now cried of my own Njikoka—the *London Njikoka* and the *Agbenu Njikoka*. It is dichotomy diluted. So I am warning us that unless we stop this, unless we become brothers in mind and remember that we are all one we are heading towards doom. It is a dangerous threat.

As for relationship between States and the Federal Government, I will also caution that the electioneering campaigns are over and this Government and the Federal Government ought to co-operate for the common goal of the common man otherwise if we carry this political bickering too far, we know what will be the result—disaster. Already people have started demonstrating for Islamic Revolution. Where are we going to, Mr Speaker. It is because if a black man is given an "R", he will make out an "L". So co-operation, co-operation, co-operation at all levels is necessary for the benefit of the common man. That is the end of my contribution. Thank you.

Mr C. U. Opata (Nsukka South): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to make a very short contribution towards the 1980 Appropriation Bill. Many hon. Members in this House have given different names to this particular Bill. The reasons are obvious. Some of the names were in praise, some of them were in condemnation. I am not going to repeat the names here but I am saying that the reasons are obvious. One of the main reasons for this is the importance attached to Appropriation Bills in all parts of the world.

Another aspect of it is that this Bill still reminds us of the civil war. It is a relic to a certain extent of the civil war, but when one

considers that this area, Anambra State, together with a few other neighbouring sister States formed the battle field, the theatre of war and some of these sister States budgeted upwards of ₦600 million, ₦700 million and we have only ₦321 million for this financial year, one wouldn't feel very comfortable. One will not feel comfortable because there are so many problems facing us, but from the look of things the solution to these problems are not insight. Therefore when people give the Appropriation Bill different names, one wouldn't be surprised, and apportioning major blames on the total amount involved will not be very easy. What is more important for us is to try to suggest certain solutions, which may help the Government in future so that the next Appropriation Bill or Supplementary, if we like, that may come later on may be an improvement on the existing one. This particular Bill raises certain issues.

First it is a reminder to the people in authority that any kobo approved in this Appropriation Bill must be prudently spent so that if it is spent on a particular priority of the people, the problem in that aspect is solved once and for all.

The second aspect of it is that if we realize that this amount is too small, what do we suggest, and I have to offer a few humble suggestions. The first one is a suggestion which had been raised here, I have only to add to it and that is that our taxation system in this State has to be overhauled. It is high time the burden of taxation in this State was shifted from the shoulders of the few public servants, poor public servants to the haves in this State.

What I mean is this, that for every public servant in this State, from the labourer to the highest person, his income is well known and he is over-taxed yet there are some people who have the money in this State and who evade taxation from time to time. The last election was a clear indication—a pointer to this. So I appeal to the Internal Revenue Division to find out a better formula whereby this burden of taxation should be shifted to the right people because there are major sources of income according to the Appropriation Bill (Part II). One is the Internal Source and the other one is grants from the Federal Government. If the taxation system is improved then our internal sources also will improve. And this is more reliable than anything because we (all the States of the

[MR OPATA]

Federation) are relying on the Federal Government because the oil is there but I know that that oil will one day come to an end.

When Nigeria was divided into three Regions, Eastern Region had £11 million, Northern Region had £24 million and Western Region had £44 million. Then the division of money was based on derivation. But luckily because of the type of talents we had in this area, our people were able to pull through and before the outbreak of the civil war, Eastern Region was the most buoyant region in Nigeria. If that was the situation, they did not rely only on the oil, they relied on other fields. Then I am saying that if that was the situation, we have to examine ourselves and see what made it possible for them to start with barely £11 million in those days and to move up within a short period and became more buoyant than any other Region in a space of less than a decade, before the outbreak of the crisis in 1966.

On the strength of this, I am going to agriculture. This Budget has a lot for agriculture, but I feel that there is a serious omission and that serious omission is the omission on mechanization. I thought that there would have been a provision in this Budget for feasibility study for mechanization of agriculture in suitable parts of this State. I am saying this for many reasons. Nowadays in Nigeria and in Anambra State in particular, fewer hands are going into food production year in year out and more mouths are being fed. Unless something is done and done quickly, no amount of salary increase and no amount of gain from business will prevent starvation. The only way to solve this is to find out the possibility of mechanization in certain parts of the State for increased food production. I know quite well that certain parts of the State may not be suitable, but I am equally convinced that certain parts are suitable. I take a very simple area, (it is really unfortunate) and that is Adada area where the ADC has a project. I expected that when the Estimates was out I would see huge sums of money allocated to it, but surprisingly I saw ₦10 (ten naira) which is a token figure. This is a very vast and fertile area. This is an area that is flourishing with water and this is an area I hope that will be quite suitable for mechanization, for the production of all types of foodstuffs. Why should the small project which had been started very long ago die a natural death when scarcity of food is threatening the people of this State.

So I am calling upon the Government to do something about the Adada ADC project and not only to do something about the ADC project but also to send down a team there to carry out a feasibility study of the area and explore the possibility of mechanization of agriculture in that particular area of the State.

Again, there is a very big threat to food production in Nsukka Zone. I do not know whether it affects other parts of the State. Certain species of cocoyams within a few years say in less than four years have disappeared completely in the field. Now, there is a big threat on cassava which is the main staple food for the entire zone, and I thought that this Budget should carry something to examine the possibility of elimination of the type of diseases that destroy these crops and then the prevention of future occurrence. The fund is not there. It is my special appeal that the State Government should call on the Federal Government to come to the aid of the State Government in this respect. Otherwise, if cassava is allowed to phase out, perhaps, many of us in this State and throughout the Federation will suffer from starvation.

Another aspect which I hope may help us and which was neglected to a large extent is industrialization. There is no amount of money we have now that will be enough to solve the present problems of the state, rather there should be premeditated concerted efforts towards the industrialization of this State by gradual processes. There should be a desirability of the need for siting even small industries in certain local government areas for obvious reasons. One of them is to prevent the influx of young men into the urban centres. The other one is to help in the overall development of this State. So I am saying that the amount voted for industry was too small. A definite attempt should be made to make use of our raw materials. If the fund is not there, my humble suggestion is that the State Government should try as far as possible to lure the Federal Government to this State to help and open up certain industries to tap our numerous resources. If I take Nsukka, it does not require any research to prove to this august House that Nsukka Zone which has not even a single industry has abundant raw materials which will offer great potentialities for industrialization of that zone.

We have a special type of sand which I am sure is good for glass industry. We have lead in certain areas.

We have coal in certain areas which does not need digging deep down because it is on the surface. We have abundant supply of palm produce, etc. So I am appealing to the State Government that the best way to do this thing, as the fund is not there, is to lure the Federal Government and other financial bodies, maybe individuals or corporations or even foreign bodies who have the means to come to the aid of this Government to help to tap the resources of the State.

I take up Education. Many have said a lot about this and I will not like to repeat those aspects of education that have been dwelt upon here. This State is leading all the States in the Federation in the development of education through community efforts.

There is provision in the Bill of some amount of money for opening up of higher schools or new high schools and new trade schools. Because of our limited resources, I would suggest that the Government should divert this money to convert some community secondary schools into trade schools or technical schools because secondly if we don't do so, there will be a problem of unemployment within a short time, because if this area is going to be industrialized, to be quickly developed, we shall rely more on these people with technical education than on those pen-pushers who will be in the offices. I am not saying that they are not useful but if all the secondary schools we have now are allowed to develop into grammar schools without a definite bias towards technical education there will be the problem of unemployment within a short time. So I am advocating strongly that the money voted for the new high schools and new trade schools should be used to convert some existing community secondary schools, at least, one in each local government area into technical schools.

On education still, we have been shouting of indiscipline and fallen standard and one of the factors which the government can prevent and which it has not prevented is the lack of teachers in our schools. We discover that right from the primary schools to the teacher training colleges in this State, we have under-staffing. It is a common feature to find a teacher handling 90 children in a primary school. It is a common feature to have more classes in some of our institutions than we have teachers. For instance, I know a teacher training college that is supposed to produce teachers that will teach these child-

ren, where we have only 41 teachers against 48 classes and the 41 included the principal and the vice. There are 48 classes and some of the 48 classes have more than the normal number on the roll. What do we expect them to do in the light of this? The Government should do something quickly because there is no need increasing the number of years for those going to teacher training colleges when there is no accommodation, no equipment and no teachers. Are we sending them to prison only to suffer or to acquire the requisite education?

I am saying that our Government should do something. This is a very serious aspect that causes indiscipline, that causes the so called fallen standard in our education. It is all true. If this happens to a teacher training college that is to a large extent a Federal Government responsibility, how much more of our secondary schools. So it is an unfortunate incident and I appeal to the Government to do something to remedy this situation. As somebody raised earlier I also seize this opportunity to ask the State Government to pray upon the Federal Government to see that the school year is changed from September to January so that, during the vacation, our undergraduates in the institutions of higher learning will be posted to our primary, secondary schools and teacher training colleges to help to teach the children, to help to upgrade education and to help bring about discipline.

The other aspect of education which is striking to me, is the method of recruitment of auxiliary teachers. This is not embodied in this Estimates but it is related. When the Government appointed the Caretaker Committee, Local Government Councils, they did not take full cognizance of the calibre of men appointed in some of these areas, and I am using this opportunity to sound a note of warning that the mere fact that this Caretaker Committee continues to exist does not legalize it. No amount of Bill here, no amount of law in this particular House will supersede the Constitution of Nigeria and Section 7 of the Constitution is quite clear. I do not want to elaborate on it. This will come at a more appropriate time.

Then let me go to education as it affects teachers. It is most unfortunate that in some of these areas, people who are in charge of these councils as of now, and who are mandated to do the recruitment, left school certificate holders

[MR OPATA]

and G 4 holders and recruited our mothers and grandmothers, who have no knowledge, perhaps some of them who never went to school beyond elementary four had the elementary six certificates. Elementary six certificate! I don't know how a women who is up to 40 or 50 years who passed the Standard Six in 1978 or 1979 and who has never been in school at that material time should possess the certificate. This is questionable. What are these people going to do when they go to school to teach? If this thing is allowed to continue we are going to kill the goose that lays the golden egg because education is the pride of this State. It is most unfortunate that this particular group of people who employ elementary six certificates holders in preference to Grade I, Grade II, Grade III school certificate holders and G 4 are doing a great disservice to education in this State in particular and to Nigeria in general.

Assuming that these small children or some of these old women were to be sent for training in accordance with the new system, the training would take them 5 years. If however, someone with School Certificate, Grade I was to be trained, the problem would be only one, that is, "he does not know the method". There will be no question of whether he has the capability. The mere fact that he spent 4 to 5 years in the secondary school shows that he is much better qualified than someone who nobody knows whether he got his own certificate through EXPO, or by engaging somebody else to write the First School Leaving Certificate examination for him or her. So I am calling upon the State Government to examine the appointments of auxiliary teachers throughout the State. Where these School Certificate and G 4 holders were left out and the First School Leaving Certificate holders employed in preference, Government should review the appointments and make fresh exercise.

As a follow up, too, it is surprising that in the Estimates, I do not know whether it was a mistake or a premeditated attempt to muddle education in this State. Surprisingly, too, in the Recurrent Expenditure under Schools Services Commission, you have ₦22 million allocated for the Recurrent Expenditure, the State Government put down there ₦2 million for understaffing. By this, are we helping now to eliminate, to reduce the number of teachers when we are crying we leave all these things

on teachers. Some people are accusing teachers of going to trade in the market, doing this and getting all this and that. When one is confused by having so many classes or students to teach, and the Government is aware of it, and is not given extra remuneration, sometimes as a result of frustration in the classroom one starts to look for another thing. So I want that provision to be changed by this House; the amount already provided should be used exclusively for the payments of teachers in our institutions and to recruit enough teachers.

Then moving a step further, there is an aspect of raising revenue for local governments and which is known to this State, and which I thought that this Budget should have taken care of. It was seriously omitted, and that is, markets for local governments. Onitsha Market is a clear example that if we can develop all our major markets, at least one in each local government area, that will give each local government a good start. Unfortunately when we were in the council, most of these major markets were surveyed, planned and approved, but for three years now nothing has been done. I take Nsukka Market for instance. I am sure that if that market is developed, the amount of money to be realized there will be greater than the grant from both the Federal and the State Governments each year. Why can't our Government employ some of the Financial Houses or some of the foreign bodies that are interested in the development of this area for the development of markets so that gradually the Council will pay the money back. I am not saying that the Government should have voted this amount of money for the development of this market, but I am saying that the Government should go out and find the means for developing at least one major market in each local government area for the revenue earning of each local government in this State.

Then on roads. Many hon. Members have said a lot of things about this. I am calling upon the State Government in this respect to come to the aid of the local governments, and take over some of the local government roads to enable the Local Governments go into opening up of new roads into our food-producing centres or inter-community roads. On the ₦9.6 million allocated under Roads for Other Roads, I am suggesting that a part of this money should be

shared among the local governments, mapped specifically for the development of roads in each local government, and in addition, the Government should set up a sort of competition among the Local Governments, and the prize will be in the form of road equipment which will be redeemed year after year so that the local government which performs best in the State in the form of road construction and maintenance should be given the prize in the form of road equipment which should be used freely for a year, and after a year, it is assessed and the equipment will be redeemed and handed over to another local government that performs best.

So these are the few words I have about roads.

Mr G. R. Okoye: (Ihiala West): On a point of Order! The hon. Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) has taken about twenty-seven minutes which is above the limit each hon. Member is expected to speak on the Budget.

The Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member for Nsukka South (*Mr Opata*) should please wind up.

Mr Opata: Thank you. Let me go down to the last point and leave one or two points.

On Housing, the Federal Government has made it a policy to put up two thousand houses in each State. His Excellency the Governor of Anambra State announced the other time that he was going to put up four thousand houses in this State. These things are quite good, but I am sounding a note: let it not be a note of warning, but a note of request, that whether the Federal Government is putting up four thousand or two thousand houses here, that what applies in other parts of the Federation should apply here. If the money is given to other State Governments, our State Government should demand it. If the Federal Government is building the houses on its own responsibility, the State Government should provide land for the Federal Government so that our own will not be an exception. Mark you, one out of nineteen is virtually nothing in this country, and this State has suffered enough.

I am only appealing that what happens in other States should apply here. Anambra State cannot be an exception. We have now heard it over the radio and we have read it in the pages of the

newspapers. The Federal Government, I am sure, will have a uniform policy for the whole Federation.

Finally, Sir, let me go to the Star Printing and Publishing Company. The Government set up a Commission of Inquiry into this Company, and when the Supplementary Appropriation Bill came out, some of us opposed approving anything for the Company on the strength of that. Up to this moment after so many months, the report on the Company is not yet out, and there is a provision of ₦1 million. *The Concord* started a few months ago as a commercial newspaper, and it is making a lot of money. No amount of money poured into the Star Printing and Publishing Company will be useful unless there is a change of attitude which will make that paper a commercial venture. It is a colossal failure. It is not the Budget but the Star Printing and Publishing Company that is a colossal failure. I am suggesting strongly that the ₦1 million voted for it should be taken away and given to the Ministry of Public Utilities to provide water for our local communities.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr S. I. Onyido (Aguata East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the chance to make my contribution in this all important 1980 Appropriation Bill. A lot of my hon. Colleagues who have spoken said that the Budget was not buoyant, and I quite agree with them but the Executive budgeted on what it has. This Government has just emerged, and so it budgeted on what is available to it, so nobody should blame the Government as such. This Budget is very, very important, and we should say something about it where it concerns each and everyone of us on development basis. What we should ask for in this Budget is fair distribution. If the Executive could share the money according to the items contained in the Estimates, people will like it because Government will not develop all the local government areas one day, they should be done one after the other.

I will now go to my local government area where people have been crying all the time about roads. One of the longest roads is Nnewi-Nnobi-Awka-Etiti-Ichida-Igbo-Ukwu-Isuofia Ekwuluobia-Oko-Ama Okpala-Ndikelionwu-Omor-Ufuma-Ajali-Isilo-Nofija-Ezira-Umu-
nze ... (*Interruption*).

An hon. Member: And so on and so forth.

Mr Onyido: Not so on and so forth. (Laughter).

Ogbunka-Owelle-Ezukala-Nkerehi-Ihite Road. I read this to show this honourable House that the road is the longest in this State.

Mr Speaker, we will see from what I have read that this road connects four local government areas in this State, namely, Nnewi Idemili, Njikoka and Aguata. From this also we will understand that this road starts from Owelle-Ezukala to Nnewi, and is about fifty miles. Now if we come to my place and going to Onitsha, when we get to Ufuma we will divert to Oji-River, then to Ugwuoba to Awka before coming to Aguata. Therefore I am appealing to the Governor to visit this road and appreciate its importance. There is nothing we can do in Aguata Local Government Area without this all important road. So I am requesting the Government to take up construction work on this road as a matter of priority in the execution of road projects within this financial year. When we reach Umunze, there is another road starting from Nkwo-Umunze to Umuchu which is about five miles. There are bridges built on that road, but it is not passable now.

I come to Agriculture. My place Umunze, in fact, Orumba as a whole is an agricultural area. Our soil is rich and we farm very well and have more production. The problem is road. If there is road coming to my place and as good as the others we will see that we storm this Enugu with food. So I should like the Government to look into the problem of road as it affects my constituency as more food would be transported out. The refugees during the civil war can bear me out that Umunze is the seat of food. Mr Speaker, I am the Chairman of Agricultural Union in Aguata Local Government Area. We have 5,000 acres of palm plantation. Nobody is harvesting them now because there is no labour. So I am appealing to the Government to find any mechanical way of harvesting these palm nuts that will help to build our economy.

I come to Health. We have only one hospital in my area. From my town to that hospital is 15 miles. I beg the Government to come to our aid, to build three hospitals in Aguata Local Government Area, one in Umunze, one at Igbo-Ukwu and one at Umuchu to enable us live like others. (Laughter).

The Deputy Speaker: Order !

Mr Onyido: If that is done, I should like the Government without further delay, to complete the School of Nursing, Nkpor, where boys and girls can be trained to work in other hospitals.

I come to Education Sir. In my constituency we have nine secondary schools, four for girls and five for boys. At Ogbunka in my constituency, thunder destroyed one college, at Owelle-Ezukala, thunder destroyed one college where we have two for the boys and two for the girls. So I should like the Government to come to our aid. These nine colleges were built by the community, but the Government has not come to do anything while they regard education as the most important. I should also ask the Government to give free hands to the Principals over students. In my place last time, two girls went away from the school without letting the Principal know their whereabouts. When they came back, the Principal punished two of them. They went back to tell their fathers. They are rich men. Their fathers came to Enugu here to report the Principal. When the girls came back, one of them told the Principal that he should go away from the school so that he would not worry them any more. After a week, that Principal was transferred. So I believe teachers are second parents, teachers should be given free hands to train the boys and girls in their schools and punish them according to what they do. So there is no need saying that these boys and girls are going out of hand where we see somebody training them and cannot give him co-operation. At the same time, I want teachers to be paid well because if they are paid well parents won't suffer so much because wherever one's child stays is where the mother and father will stay equally. If teachers are well paid, they will do their job well and they will have the mind of going on with the children. Even if we cannot do anything else, I should like the Government to see that the teachers are well catered for than any other section.

On Industry, there is no industry in Aguata Local Government Area, even garri industry.

Several hon. Members: Ugofoam.

Mr Onyido: The only industry in Aguata Local Government Area is that one man business. (Laughter).

He treats his industry as he likes so we cannot say that that is the people's industry. It is owned by one man and he treats it as he likes.

We should like the Government to come to our aid in Aguata Local Government Area to bring industry to our place.

An hon. Member: Finally!

Mr Onyido: What I have to say more is on local government. I should like this Government to prepare for election for local government so that we will have community councils and more local government councils. If we don't do this, there will be no people to spread our business outside. They are to go to the people and tell them what the Government is doing. With that, Mr Speaker, I beg to stop so far.

Mr C. A. L. Nnatubeugo (Udi North): Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given me to contribute to this debate. A careful look at the Budget proposal for the year 1980 reveals quite a lot of things. In dealing with this Budget, I am going to try to give an insight into what I consider the Budget to look like. First of all, it has been recognized that so many people, hon. Members, who contributed here have tagged the Budget with certain names. I don't intend to do this, but I will only have to say, first and foremost, that this Budget, the second attempt of the civilian regime in Anambra State at budgeting, is most uninspiring. It is a Budget without hope. As far as I am concerned it is another routine exercise.

I say so when one realizes that this State, Anambra State in particular, was the seat of "Biafra" and witnessed a devastating civil war, a civil war that carried us through a stage of disillusionment for three years and we worked out and entered a term of military regime for thirteen years starting with the most unfortunate type of military-civil administration that ended up with what we called and now tag the "Otu Olu Obodo" type of government and followed up with what we can now describe as shop for high tempo Col. Ochefu's regime, moving through the very and most unarticulate Col. Kpera's regime and ended up with Col. Abubakar's "I-don't-care" government which is only recognized in this State by what we now call "Hokoson" whose only achievement is Hokoson-like and which interpretation today to anybody in the public is *oku enu* and we know what *oku enu* means in vernacular in Anambra State. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker, the people of this State have waited patiently for their own elected Government. We waited with hope and the civilian government did come. We saw an attempt at the Supplementary Budget. It is very unfortunate that today at the second attempt at budgeting, the State is completely disillusioned. I say so because out of the total Budget of ₦321.34 million proposed for this State, it is very unfortunate, I say most unfortunate that we are budgeting a deficit of ₦62.7 million, and out of a total Recurrent Receipt of ₦226.96 million the direct Federal Government involvement is about ₦200 million. Out of the total Capital Expenditure of which, of-course, we know that ₦62.7 million is deficit, the Federal Government grant is coming up to the tune of ₦22 million. This is in actual sense the State's involvement both in Capital and Recurrent Expenditure to the tune of ₦38.6 million.

One important fact is clear here. What this has brought out is this, like somebody, an hon. Member did say, the Governor cannot be omnipresent; he cannot be all-doing; he cannot know everything but there is one significant fact that is out and that fact is that the people or whoever is involved in the act of budgeting in this State is either deliberately or he doesn't know what he is doing, grinding the economy of this State to a complete halt.

Mr Speaker, we have to look at that, for a State, the whole Anambra State, our only total involvement as a people in a budget of over ₦321 million is only ₦38.6 million. Therefore there is something wrong in so many places. Definitely the machinery of recovering revenue from this State is wrong or there is a deliberate attempt not to collect revenue. I call on and seek the approval of this House that we direct one, that the State Government should without further delay revert, reorganize, re-orientate all the machinery at its disposal to ensure that effective revenue collection be set in motion. Two, that the State Governor be advised immediately to appoint a Director of Budget. I am sure that when this is done, this august Assembly will give it approval. Otherwise how can we expect to meet the aspirations and demands of the people who elected us?

Look at the complete sectoral allocation of this State, I feel strongly that there is something wrong.

[MR NNATUBEUGO]

First of all the Budget as a whole has no defined fiscal measures. Secondly the Budget as a whole has no direct economic system. Thirdly the Budget as a whole either doesn't show the aspirations or the priorities of the State, or the priorities are wrongly placed.

I say this because when we look seriously at the sectoral allocation as provided in the highlights, first of all I cannot regard Sports as a highlight, I do not understand why we have to spend N1 million naira on Television. I don't understand, Mr Speaker why we have to award a contract of thirty-eight point something million naira for rural electrification even though it is said to be contract-financing. I don't consider this a priority especially when one remembers that the next demand of man after air is water. It is now common in Anambra State that even the well-furnished houses have no good toilet facilities. We are no longer ashamed to allow visitors to use the filthy toilets. This is no more a secret as it has become a common phenomenon. I am asking Mr Speaker is this the way we have to carry on?

Several hon. Members: Yes!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! He directed the question to the Speaker. (Laughter).

Mr Nnatubeugo: Thank you Mr Speaker for that prompt intervention. No. 2, I have advocated this and I still advocate it. Whenever elections are over, they are over and Legislators in the Presidential System work according to the wishes of their constituencies and conscience and, of course, holding the gospel in one hand, that is, the Constitution. If we look at the allocation under Health, we have a total of N5.88 million. How then do we regard it if we think we placed our priorities right? Do we consider this right when we remember that we allocated a total sum of N6.88 million for Information? It is my honest belief that a good Government does require a propaganda machinery. What it requires is activity, action and good action speaks louder than words, speaks louder than television.

So I call on this august Assembly that all allocations made to the *Daily Star*. In fact, so many hon. Members have said it, but I am

only adding that *Daily Star*, of course, I expect the Bill to come in here for immediately folding it and liquidating it because as somebody has formerly stated, it is just simply an album. It is not for our benefit. We cannot continue wasting our public fund there.

Several hon. Members: Talk it loud Fire! (Interruptions).

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker Sir, 'Am I protected?'

The Deputy Speaker: Order! The hon. Member for Udi North (Mr Nnatubeugo) is protected. Carry on.

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker Sir, as I was saying, after water comes good health, and after good health, of course, we have to feed very well. No amount of education can keep us well unless we feed well. Mr Speaker, if we look at the allocation of almost N11 million for Agriculture, it seems really that a good job has been done on Agriculture. It is absolutely unfortunate, and I may stand here honestly to advise or warn, if necessary, that Government direct involvement on actual agricultural production will only be a definite and calculated attempt and wastage of public fund because on overhead involvement there is no commitment to it. It will be another type of routine government job. I am sure that if I have 500,000 acres of rice in the farm and even if it is ten o'clock in the night, I will not leave it and come out. If one is a manager of 5,000 acres of rice one will leave it immediately it is three o'clock. I am asking that all the money involved in Government direct involvement in agriculture be transferred entirely to grant and subsidies to our farmers in the villages for effective production, including... (Interruptions).

Some hon. Members: Including the hon. Members.

Mr Nnatubeugo: It has been noted here seriously that a very reasonable amount has been allocated to education. It is unfortunate that education and all its involvements always either take the lion's share of our estimates or second to transport. I am only saying that so many happenings on education in this State in recent past could be handled with absolute care because no amount of good intention without adequate consultations, advice and

system of introducing these things being carried out well can succeed. After all, educational institutions are established by man for the benefit of man.

Many hon. Members: And woman!

Mr Nnatubeugo: Mr Speaker, there is only one and very important aspect. So many people have really talked on it, which I would really not allow to pass without a serious comment, and that is, number one, the two thousand housing contract meant for each State of the Federation. I will like us to realize that even though it is already speculating that four thousand houses will be built in this State, it will not be too much.

Whatever is our statutory allocation from the Federal Government should not be allowed to pass because of sentiment or political leaning. I am saying that it is clear that the two thousand houses directly awarded by the Federal Government should be awarded to the indigenes of, or to Nigerians living in Anambra State who pay their taxes in Anambra State. And if houses will be built in Anambra State, it is important that there should be no hindrance, nothing at all should interrupt the award of this contract and the commencement of this job in this State. If this State has enough money to build another four thousand houses, even though I saw Works and Housing with only half a million naira in the Budget, I will be the first person to move the Motion or present the Bill and second it in this House.

Many hon. Members: Will the hon. Member for Udi North (*Mr Nnatubeugo*) move and second?

Mr Nnatubeugo: So I will ask, Mr Speaker, that no attempt whatsoever should be made to stop Federal Government help from getting to this State. After all this State has suffered enough, and if we recognize the then Premier of former Eastern Region, the Right Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, he did say that enough should always be enough.

Many hon. Members: Finally!

Mr Nnatubeugo: Finally, I will like to make one serious appeal to everybody in this House on a very thought-provoking topic called dichotomy. Why I decide to say this is that man is always in the process of learning and man never stops learning until he is dead. We are

here subjecting ourselves to learning and practising the Presidential System of Government. We are learning it by ourselves or as directed by the Constitution. It is very unfortunate that people have tried to use the word dichotomy to kill the very good intentions and very objective thoughts of some hon. Members in this House. I am saying that it is very unfortunate if we start masking and camouflaging under the word, 'dichotomy', to destroy the very pioneer members of this Presidential System of Government which is actually why we find ourselves here.

I say this because dichotomy in this honourable House has been used and continued to be used to blind honesty and good intention. It will be unfair if this House allows itself to be subjected, relegated and trampled upon under the word, 'dichotomy'. I pray this august House to rise up above dichotomy, above party politics and work strictly as provided by the Constitution and their conscience.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr L. O. Okonkwo (Awka North): Mr Speaker Sir, I like to appreciate the fact that very many people have spoken of this 1980 Appropriation Bill, and at this stage, a repetition is quite unavoidable. But I shall try to confine myself to three areas which I consider will be very, very important within the context of this Appropriation Bill.

These areas are education, information and roads. Now to start with, 'What is budgeting'? It is said that budget is a device for financial control. The operative word here is control, and what I have to say on the whole as regards this Budget is that the Budget is lacking in one important thing and that is control which is very, very important as far as budgeting is concerned. If you have any framework for spending or for raising revenue and for spending without enough control, then the tendency is for the operators of the Budget to spend outside the framework of the Budget, and this can be very, very dangerous. I said this when we were considering the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which was submitted to this honourable House, that each Budget should contain enough footnotes to explain stages of spending so that if we can decide to stop the Budget at any stage, one can say for certain that this amount of money was so far

[MR OKONKWO]
spent on so much project, but what we have here is just lump sums of money to spend for certain unspecified projects without explanatory notes showing how this money can be controlled.

As I have said, I would like to emphasize or to say as a matter of emphasis something about education in this State. Education, we are told, is the foundation of any nation's development, and in a progressive educational system, we have three principal participants operating that educational system, and these three principal agents are: the education planners, the teachers, and the students. Where we have education planners, we have the Government, the communities, the parents and the voluntary agencies. They all work together to plan education for the State, and the words here which I must emphasize is that there is no way the Government of any State can run away from its responsibility in planning for education for its citizens. Any Government that does this is just purposely shaking off its responsibilities, and no responsible Legislature will allow this.

Now when we talk about the role of the education planners, they have to provide the necessary materials for learning, provide the necessary training for teachers and provide all the necessary infrastructures to facilitate learning. This reminds me of an important Motion which was passed on the Floor of this House and, unanimously too, calling on the State Executive to make sure that all the war damaged schools and dilapidated schools are restructured and equipped to facilitate learning in this State. How far this has been done is for the Executive to answer.

Now when we come to teachers, the planning may be very superb; it may be very excellent, but this is only on paper. The people who transform this excellent planning into educational effect are the teachers, but one surprising thing is that teachers are always regarded as underdogs in our society. Whenever teachers put across their demands to Government, people begin to question the constitutionality and legality of teachers' cases. This is really very pathetic, and it is just placing emphasis wrongly. Here are the people who handle our children, who handle our children

at their tender age when their lives are quite impressionable, when they are pliable, when we can control them and then transform them in any form we like; and yet we have not been bold and sincere enough to handle teachers' case with caution and any reasonable sense of responsibility.

So I want to seize this opportunity to say that teachers' case must always be looked into with caution and with a view to solving teachers' case once and for all. I do not see the reason why teachers' case should be brought forward each time and they are never solved. They are carried forward instead. I do not think that teachers are demanding priority treatment. What the teachers are demanding *per se* is equal treatment with their counterparts in other sectors in public life. Mr Speaker, I would like to say here that if we appreciate that teachers have a role to play in our public life, and if we appreciate that teachers have a place in our society, then this Government and, in particular, this Legislature has a duty to perform, and that is, to make sure that teachers are well cared for; that their case is always looked into. It is not by issuing threats to them. It is by negotiating with them. Yesterday somebody suggested instituting a disciplinary committee to handle teachers' case, but I say that it is not teachers that are undisciplined. It is because the system of education we are operating is not quite disciplined. We have to be very realistic. If the programme is not well organized, then the operators can never make it effective.

To talk about students I am very happy that those who have spoken on bursary awards here are very magnanimous. Our hope here is that every person who finds his way into any school should be taken care of, hence we are advocating universal indiscriminated bursary awards to all and sundry in this State. As I have said, I have three important areas to touch. I will go down to information. We must know that we are operating a presidential system, and it needs to be advertised. People have to be educated on this system. We need to teach them, inform them properly, and this Government has to be well advertised for people to accept the presidential system as a working formula for the Government. Therefore I do not think that we have to be economical as regards information, and therefore,

I am suggesting here that we should mobilize all information media at our disposal in this State and modernize them.

I will say that we have to congratulate the Anambra Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for the work it has been doing in trying to carry out the activities of this Government since its inception. I would not like to stop here. I would even suggest that we modernize the ABC by working out a programme of giving it regular grants instead of doling out money to it in times of crisis. When we give out money in a period of crisis, that money is never properly used, but we can work out a regularized system of giving grants to ABC to make it effective and help it also to work out a programme of training on the job for the staff of all cadres. We should provide enough fund for ABC, provide infrastructures, not only to accommodate the equipment but also to accommodate the working staff there.

It may interest this Legislature to know that some workers in that ABC travel from far away places, sometimes outside Enugu, to work here in ABC and sometimes late into the night. I believe that if we have staff quarters for the staff to live very close to the area of work, they will put in their best.

Now we go to the controversial Star Printing and Publishing Company Limited. As far as I am concerned, I believe in information. People need to be informed, especially here in Anambra State where our people are prone to asking questions. They would like to know who controls what and therefore we should not be so much biased against the Star Printing and Publishing Company Limited which publishes the *Daily Star*. What I am suggesting here, without prejudice to the Commission of Enquiry probing that company, is complete overhauling and reformation or reorganization of that company with a view to making it effective. If any personnel is found wanting or is found inefficient, the management of that company can do away with that personality.

Now, I come to the television. I would like to quote from the address by His Excellency when he was inaugurating the Board. He said: *The provision of adequate mass media facilities at all levels is therefore part of the process of national development which should be dictated by the needs and aspirations of the people.*

If the provision of the Anambra State Television is in conformity with the needs and aspirations of our people, I don't see the reason why we should oppose it. All I know is that, very typical of most of the Government corporations in Nigeria, they have never been found very efficient simply because the management is invariably inefficient. So I should support the establishment of Anambra State Television provided that we take all the necessary precautions to make the management of that television effective.

Several hon. Members: Say it loud.

Mr Okonkwo: I would like to add that as His Excellency said, this is not going to run a negative activity with the NTV owned by the Federal Government here. They are going to work complementarily. It is not going to involve itself in any unhealthy competition because as I have said earlier, we need information media; we need it very badly here in Anambra State.

Public enlightenment has been the very concern of this Government, hence the Government set up the Onyia Public Enlightenment Bureau. If we are able to modernize all the information media, we can supplement the work being done right now by the Onyia Public Enlightenment Bureau. The sum total of all this is to show that we need to be known by the world.

Government activities need to be seen and advertised and since we are operating a new system, we need to inform our people properly. It takes time for people to understand why we changed from the Parliamentary System to the Presidential System. They need to know the advantages. Probably the seeming conflict between the Executive and the Legislature is because all of us are learning. We have not known the clear-cut demarcation between the Legislature and the Executive, and if those of us who are operating this Constitution directly are still in the mess, how much less the people who have neither the opportunity to operate the Constitution nor the chance to ask questions from those who operate it. Therefore it goes to emphasize that we need all the information media to advertise this system.

[MR OKONKWO]

I come down to roads. No amount of words, no amount of statement will be too much to describe the importance of roads here in Anambra State. One thing is certain; we have all realized that we need roads. As somebody said *civilization travels by road and not by air or by train. It is by road and therefore roads must be regarded as a gateway to civilization and the gateway to development.* At this juncture, I must congratulate the Ministry of Works and Housing for remembering the long-forgotten road called the Ninth Mile Corner-Owa-Ebenebe-Mgbakwu-Enugu-Agidi-Abagana Road. This road has been put in the Estimates for the first time since 1976, but here is a road that covers not less than four local government areas. Here is a road, according to experts, that cuts Enugu-Onitsha shorter by eighteen kilometres. Here is a road that covers not less than ten constituencies in Anambra State. Here is a road that passes through all the food-producing areas of Anambra State.

Mr F. C. Nwofor: Has the hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Okonkwo*) said all? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okonkwo: Most, not all of them. Sorry, most of the food-producing areas or important food-producing areas of Anambra State. So the Ministry of Works and Housing must be congratulated for this, but I have some fears here. To provide money for the construction of a road is one thing and to effect the construction is another. This is where I have to associate myself with the fears already expressed by earlier speakers, questioning why we should put all the roads in Anambra State to be constructed and finished on or before 31st December this year. This is practically impossible.

As one hon. Member said here, these roads should be taken up in phases. We should have taken up five to ten roads this financial year knowing fully well that April has gone and May is about to go, leaving us with a net balance of seven months. How can we finish fifty-one roads within these seven months? This is where I have to say that the Ministry of Works and Housing must reassess all the contracting firms handling Government roads projects. I do not believe in indigenizing for the mere sake of indigenizing. We should reassess all these contracting firms on the basis of their performances. Any company that does not

perform up to seventy-five per cent. should be proscribed or should not be allowed to handle Government road projects because this is money wasted, and if in competition with any indigenous company a foreign firm is found doing better, for goodness sake we should allow that company to handle Government projects.

For one thing, this Government is in a hurry as far as road is concerned. We need to start to give this State a face-lift roadwise. Therefore let us not lose the pride of indigenizing all the contracting firms or all the road projects by bringing in some inefficient indigenous firms to handle our roads. I know some of these foreign firms that have done very well here in Nigeria and here in Anambra State. Such firms should be called in to handle these roads, at least, the first phase. When we have taken off, then we can come back and see those of them who can measure up.

I would not end my speech without first of all saying something that has been bothering my mind, and that is the security of law enforcement agency. It appears to me that those who interpret the law, those who punish offenders here are not properly safeguarded.

Some of these Judges in the Judiciary who continue handling people's fate putting people into prison and setting some free, are exposed to the menace of the public. I do not see why a Judge's compound should not be well fortified. I do not also see why the compound of the Director of Public Prosecution should not be properly fortified. It is not enough giving them police orderly, they should be given adequate public protection. This is very, very important for them to discharge their duties without fear of molestation.

Again people have said something about revenue collection here. As I said from the beginning, the budget shows sources of income and how this money should be spent. People continue showing and advertising how we are going to spend money without making sure that this money is collected. This is just planning in the air, but I have one suggestion to offer here in addition to earlier suggestions made by previous speakers. The introduction of community councils will help in

revenue collection. As one hon. Member said here, our system of taxation is not progressive. People who earn more money do not pay more tax. Those people who do not earn much money pay heaviest, and that is unprogressive.

I remember that in America, at a stage, the government realized that about one-third of public money had gone into private hands. Then the government passed a law saying that every person at a particular level of income should pay one-third of his salary into the coffers of the government, just arbitrarily like that. They were able to recover this money that had fallen into the hands of very few people. So we know the rich ones here in Nigeria. We know them, but unfortunately they are the people who evade taxation. Therefore, I associate myself with the feeling or statements made by earlier speakers that the revenue collection machinery should be overhauled with a view to making it progressive so that when we earn more money, and the justice is there, we shall pay more tax.

Finally this issue of dichotomy, I will say, is a natural phenomenon, but it becomes very, very dangerous where people practise it and where it is allowed to permeate the lives of the people. The word literally is just showing something that is two, but it does not show that those two things are opposed to each other. It does not show that those two things must never agree and therefore as a natural phenomenon, we can accept it. However, to allow it to permeate into our lives, we must fight to the bitterest end to make sure that we eradicate it. It is just a matter of accident that somebody is born somewhere. We cannot deny that somebody finds himself somewhere. It is very unfortunate for some body to see that his being born somewhere is preventing him from associating with another person who, without his own making is born somewhere. Mr Speaker, I say that it is high time we eradicated this dichotomy mentality, at least in the interest of this State.

As I have said earlier I would not like to repeat those things already said by others. Whatever I repeated here is a matter of emphasis and I would like to associate myself with those who said that we must work like a team. The Presidential System provides the use of political parties to win election,

but immediately after the elections we begin to work as Legislators under the Legislature, Members of the Executive and Members of the Judiciary. These are the recognized arms of government. Anything outside this is partisan, and it is only when we go to political party meetings that we discuss our parties. We should think very maturely and should not allow sentiments to rule us here because we know fully well that we represent a people. We represent our constituencies and have a duty to perform here, not how much we have disagreed in the House nor how much we have fanned sentiments here that matters.

An hon. Member: Tell them !

Mr Okonkwo: What have we done to our constituency? How much peace have we brought to Anambra State?

An hon. Member: Ask them !

Mr Okonkwo: With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to take my seat. Thank you.

Mr S. Jideoffor-Udeorah (Uzo-Uwani East): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to air my views on this 1980 Budget. The Budget to my mind is very carefully prepared, arranged and well presented.

It offers an opportunity to commend His Excellency the Governor of Anambra State, Chief Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo and his Commissioners, Advisers and Assistants on the able way they have been handling the affairs of the State since this administration came into being on 1st October, 1979.

(Applause).

This State is particularly lucky to have such a dedicated, dynamic and selfless person of the calibre of Chief Nwobodo to manage our affairs at this critical time when the State treasury is virtually empty. The Budget is just a modest one.

An hon. Member: Page one!

Another hon. Member: Page two!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I appeal to hon. Members to please control their emotions. The hon. Member who has the Floor should please continue.

Mr Udeorah: It is a practical demonstration of the old proverb which said *cut your coat according to your size*. It is in the

revenue collection. As one hon. Member said here, our system of taxation is not progressive. People who earn more money do not pay more tax. Those people who do not earn much money pay heaviest, and that is unprogressive.

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Mr Udeorah: It is a practical demonstration of the old proverb which said *cut your coat according to your size*. It is in the

[MR JIDEOFFOR UDEORAH]
interest of the State; it is in the interest of Nigeria in general and this State in particular that we should all join hands to make this present administration succeed. It is easier to destroy than to build.

An hon. Member: Tell them!

Another hon. Member: Who are they?

Mr Udeorah: Please destructive criticism has never been a way of improving things, rather, it hampers progress. We cannot afford the luxury of armchair criticism at this stage in . . . (Interruptions).

An hon. Member: Page three!

Mr Udeorah: Our development. Let us, hon. Members of this honourable House, regard this Budget as our charter to the people who voted us into power. We made several promises to the people and they gave us the mandate. The ball is now in our court. To redeem these promises, we must have to make a start from somewhere. This Budget is therefore a right step in the right direction.

Mr Speaker Sir, we should be mindful of the fact that the success or failure of the present administration is a joint responsibility of both Legislature and Executive alike. We must not try to play hide-and-seek by running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

Some of us tried to score parliamentary points by quoting one section of the Constitution after the other. This is immaterial to the people outside the Legislature. What we promised the people include good roads, good water-supply, efficient medical facility and all other social amenities.

May I also commend the State civil servants without whom government projects cannot be successfully implemented. It is, however, a matter for great regret that within the State civil service there are some bad eggs whose loyalty is divided. The Civil Service is traditionally a permanent non-political body whose principal duty is to execute Government policies and Government in this sense means Government of the day.

There are some civil servants who are out to frustrate Government efforts. Let those civil servants who cannot change with the time leave the service honourably or they will be

exposed. We do not want any stumbling blocks on our way to fulfilling the promises we made to the electorates. This question of divided loyalty by some civil servants should stop forthwith and all hands should be on deck to give the good people of this State what we promised them.

There are certainly those of us, both inside and outside this House, who will never see anything good in anything done by this Government.

An hon. Member: Tell them ! (Interruptions).

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: Now I appeal to them for a change, for a change of heart and then give this Government a chance.

An hon. Member: Page nine !

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: On revenue and expenditure, I have observed that we are always talking of expenditure and less of income. I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the Ministry of Finance to revamp the Board of Internal Revenue and give the officials their tools for work to enable them increase their revenue output. The strength, both in personnel and materials of the Government Printer, should be doubled or rather tripled to enable the Press meet the needs of the various Ministries and Government Departments which depend on it for working materials. I understand that because the Government Printer is printing legislative documents, it could not print tax receipts and other documents for the Internal Revenue Department. So the Ministry of Finance should note this and take practical steps to remedy the situation.

Well I come from the most neglected area of this State. That is, Uzo-Uwani, where tarred roads, water-supply, health facilities and other special amenities are only heard of and never seen. Some hon. Members have complained that the money voted for some old and new projects in their areas are not sufficient, but in my own area, there is neither old nor new projects.

An hon. Member: What of Adarice ?

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: In my constituency which comprises the following towns: Nrobo, Ugbene-Ajima, Nkpologu, Akpugo, Uvuru,

Ukpata, Adaba-Nkume and Umulokpa, there are neither old nor new ones. We only belong to this State geographically. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Sorry!

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: On education, year in year out education takes lion's share of the State Estimates. How far this lion's share is being properly used is doubtful. Now there are no more effective supervision of schools and this has contributed greatly to the lowering standard of education in this State. In starting equipment inspection and accommodation, effort should be made to make better use of the lion's share usually allocated to education.

On health facilities, there is no hospital in my area. Ugbene-Ajima, my town, has built a maternity hospital through self-effort. The Government should come to the aid of the community to help finish and equip the maternity. The health centre at Nkpologu should also be equipped and staffed to serve the people.

An hon. Member: Hear! Hear!

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: On roads, with the rains coming, my people will soon be cut off the outside world. The Government should come to the aid of Ugbene-Ajima, Nrobo Nimbo, Abbi, and Edem communities by tarring the Ugbene-Nsukka, and Nsukka-Edem-Nrobo-Abbi-Nimbo Roads. These communities are also part and parcel of this State. More attention should be paid to the rural areas in the production of various social amenities to give the rural dwellers a sense of belonging.

My people have started to remark that they are only remembered at the campaigns and election times.

Coming to dichotomy, (*Laughter*), please let us stop singing this phrase. The fact is that two persons own a piece of yam, but one person eats the yam alone while the other person goes hungry. Is this how to belong and become brothers?

Many hon. Members: No! No! Tell them!

An hon. Member: Where were the hon. Members?

(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: When the other person wants to partake of the yam, the other person will shout.

Mr S. N. Alor (Njikoka Central South): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker!

An hon. Member: Order number what?

Mr Alor: Order Number 26 (2) of the Standing Orders—Irrelevancy. We are discussing the Budget...

Many hon. Members: It is not, so his point of Order is not upheld. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Alor: If I be allowed, the hon. Member who has the Floor has been talking too much about dichotomy. It is irrelevant to the Budget. Thank you. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Almost everybody who contributed to the debate talked of dichotomy and the Budget itself; people are looking at it from that angle. (*Laughter*). So it is... (*Laughter*). Order! Order! It may be that we in one way or the other have given that as an accepted aspect of the Budget; the point of Order is not upheld.

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: Thank you Mr Speaker for your judicious decision. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Fire! Fire!

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: I was saying that when the other person asks to partake of the piece of yam, the shout of dichotomy arises.

An hon. Member: Why not use Premier Beer?

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: To be simple and short, we all belong to this State and our joys and sorrows should be shared by us all.

On agriculture, let the Ministry pay more attention to the rural areas where most of the real farmers dwell. At Ukpabi-Nimbo in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area, there is an agricultural demonstration farm established long ago. No funds are being provided to develop this place that specializes in the production of our citrus plant which served the former Eastern Region. The Ministry of Agriculture should come to the aid of this establishment because there are some experienced staff there who can produce enough citrus plants and cassava if they are equipped. This place should not be allowed to die away. The ADC



[MR JIDEFOR-UDEORAH]
establishment at Adada and Nkpologu should also be reactivated. It should not be allowed to die away because it will yield revenue for the Government.

Just by the way, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker of the House and his Deputy, the Majority Leader and other House functionaries and, of course, my fellow Legislators . . .

Several hon. Members: Good talk !

Mr Jideoffor-Udeorah: for the way we have been carrying on our assignment here. The atmosphere in this House has been most cordial. I must also commend the Clerk of the House and his Assistants and all the other members of staff of this House for the way they have discharged their duties. We all are proud of them.

Finally I appeal to hon. Members to be always polite when making remarks about His Excellency, the Governor. I wonder what an hon. Member meant when he described the Governor's action in respect of the UNITECH as a blunder and further remarked that the establishment of a university is not like fixing a football match. Does this hon. Member consider the arranging of a football match an easy task? I also disagree with the same hon. Member who suggested that our Governor should go to Lagos and become a steward at the President's house in order to attract money for the State. It is on record that our Governor, Chief Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo, is one of the seasoned Governors in this country. What of the Governors who barred the President's portraits in public places in their States? (*Interruptions*).

Let nobody raise false alarm here. The fact is that this State is still in a state of shambles as a result of the civil war and the Federal Government should come to the aid of the people of this State to assure us that we all belong to this country. We have our rights in this country and our rights should be given to us as a matter of right.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor for the wise decisions taken in respect of the recommendations of the Panel of Enquiry into the Institute of Management and Technology disturbances. I commend the Chairman and Members of the Panel for the quick, excellent and thorough

way they carried out that assignment. No reasonable person should support students, unrest because it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Students are supposed to be leaders of tomorrow, but in Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State, students are now becoming destroyers of tomorrow. Order is said to be the first law in Heaven. Discipline should be maintained in all our institutions of learning. All should therefore join hands to check recklessness, stubbornness and indiscipline of our students under the cloak of unionism. Nigerian students are among the most ungrateful in the world because they tend to bite the finger that feeds them.

On this note, Mr Speaker, I beg to take my seat.

Many hon. Members took the Floor.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Let me know those who want to contribute. We will entertain one more contributor, and I will suspend the sitting.

Mr V. C. Okoye (Awka West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in my speech, I will like to lend support to the previous contributors. I will only speak on areas affecting my constituency, the Awka West Constituency.

Awka West Constituency is the most backward area in Anambra State. The constituency comprises the following towns, Amawbia, Okpuno, Isu-Aniocha, Urum, Amanuke and Mgbakwu. What I am saying is that the 1980 Budget did not at all favour my constituency. I am only appealing to this honourable House to let this Budget go through without much mutilation, (*Applause*) in view of the fact that time is against us. We have only seven months remaining. So we should allow this Budget to go without mutilation as I have said. The only aspect that I will like to mention is that the contractor handling the Awka-Isu-Aniocha-Achalla Road should be terminated and the contract re-awarded to a competent contractor who will effectively handle the project.

Mr Speaker, as there is no more time for me to embark on lengthy contribution, I will like to end my contribution here.

Thank you.

Many hon. Members addressed the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! The House stands suspended until 3 p.m.

Sitting suspended: 12.45 p.m.

Sitting Resumed: 3.15 p.m.

No Quorum at Committee Meetings.

The Deputy Speaker: The quorum has been formed because two Committees are meeting, namely, Committee on Finance and the Committee that is planning the tour for the honourable Members. Now we can resume our debate.

Mr O. C. Morah (Njikoka North East): Mr Speaker Sir, thank you for at last giving me the opportunity to speak on this Budget.

I wish to make my contributions on the following aspects of the Budget: Education, Energy and Power, with particular reference to Rural Electrification, Health and Water.

Others have spoken so much that I do not want to over flog the issue. When we come to Education, we find that under Subhead 1 of Head 2791, there is provision made for existing high schools. I was very sad to find out that there was no allocation at all made for equipment of all our post-primary institutions. I think that is a very serious omission. It is tantamount to Government actually abdicating its responsibilities to the parents of the students in our post-primary schools, who are therefore constrained to pay all kinds of levies. I am sure that if the Government makes adequate provision for equipment, the kinds and the amounts of levies to be paid will be considerably reduced. So, I am urging this honourable House to ensure that before this Budget is passed, we must find some money from any of the Heads under Education to allocate for the equipment of all our post-primary schools. I do not think it is too much for us to do so for our students.

Now coming to the case of building new high schools, I quite commend the idea of trying to ensure that no particular part of Anambra State is educationally deprived. So the building of three new high schools in each of the local government area is quite laudable, but on the other hand, I want to emphasize that it is important that we make sure that the communities, which had sacrificed all their comforts in order to put up post-primary institutions, are encouraged by the Government. This should be done by making sure that we provide matching grants to such communities.

I want to make reference to some statistics about the budgeted Estimates for ensuring the taking off of junior secondary system that will commence from 1982-83 school year.

This Estimate is based on the whole country and the figures are given in millions:

State	Estimated Amount ₦ Million
Anambra	85.8
Bauchi	66.7
Bendel	20.4
Benue	58.3
Bornu	67
Cross River	47
Gongola	56.8
Imo	84.1
Kaduna	139.3
Kano	112.1
Kwara	45.5
Lagos	2.1
Niger	56.6
Ogun	14.5
Ondo	53.7
Oyo	6.1
Plateau	68.5
Rivers	16.6
Sokoto	65

For all the country, it comes to one billion, nine hundred and twenty-five thousand naira.

Mr Speaker, the data above actually portray the enormous amount of money that will be needed to ensure that the new system of secondary school education which commences in 1982-83 will take off and come to completion by 1984-85. We can see that we are very lucky here in Anambra State that many communities are doing everything possible to put up post-primary institutions. I am quite sure that if we in the Government here encourage communities by giving them matching grants, those communities which are not very enthusiastic about putting up post-primary schools will also be stimulated to putting up one. As a result, by 1982-83 Anambra State will be too ready for the take-off of the new secondary school system which is the junior and senior secondary schools. It is clear, Mr Speaker, that by encouraging the communities to put up post-primary schools, we will find that in the long run the Government might spend less than 10 per cent. of the sum of eighty-five million naira. By being indifferent, many of the commun-

[MR MORAH]
ties which should have actually followed suit will say, alright why should we bother, those who have built have actually not gained anything; instead students are posted from other places to those schools. Therefore by giving matching grants to the communities which have actually over-laboured themselves to put up these institutions, every community will now say alright, let us put our own so that it will attract matching grants. In that way, Anambra State may be the first to have enough classrooms for the take-off of the new system which will commence in 1982-83.

I now want to go on to technical colleges which we formerly called Trade Centres. Mr Speaker Sir, I want to make two observations: One is that the products of our technical colleges have very little practical experience. The second is that I have noticed that there has been a considerable reduction in the number of technical colleges in Anambra State, *vis-a-vis* the *status quo* in 1970.

Let me illustrate again by referring to statistics. We have a number of technical institutions, that is, secondary education for the years 1970-1971-1974 academic years. I have three columns, that is, the State, year and then the number of institutions, that is, technical institutions:

State	Year	Number of Institutions
North Western ...	1971	none
	1972	2
	1973	3
	1973-74	4

We can now see that there has been an increase of two hundred per cent.

North Central ...	1970	2
	1971	none
	1972	none
	1973	3
	1973-74	3

Again, there has been an increase.

Kano ...	1970	2
	1971	2
	1972	2
	1973	2
	1973-74	2

While there is no increase, they have not made any attempt to reduce the number of technical institutions.

Benue Plateau ...	1970	3
	1971	3
	1972	5
	1973	4
	1973-74	6

Again, there has been an increase of one hundred per cent.

North Eastern ...	1970	4
	1971	4
	1972	5
	1973	6
	1973-74	2

They came down to two which is an aberration.

Kwara ...	1970	3
	1971	3
	1972	3
	1973	3
	1973-74	3

Again, Kwara has been very consistent. They have made no attempt to reduce the number.

Western State:	1970	9
	1971	10
	1972	9
	1973	9
	1973-74	8

They have only dropped by one as at 1970.

Mid-Western State:	1970	15
	1971	14
	1972	12
	1973	12
	1973-74	12

Lagos State: ...	1970	2
	1971	2
	1972	2
	1973	2
	1973-74	2

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East-Central State		
which is now		
Anambra and Imo		
States	1970	19
	1971	19
	1972	11
	1973	12
	1973-74	12

So we dropped from nineteen in 1970 to twelve in 1973-74. Again another aberration.

South Eastern States.	1970	3
	1971	6
	1972	7
	1973	8
	1973-74	9

This is an increase of 200 per cent. ... (Laughter).

The Deputy Speaker Order ! Order ! It is not a chorus debate. (Laughter). Only the hon. Member for Njikoka North East (Mr Morah), is recognized.

Mr Morah:

Rivers State ...	1970	2
	1971	3
	1972	4
	1973	3
	1973-74	3

Mr Speaker, the number of Technical colleges dropped steadily from nineteen to twelve between 1970 and 1973-74 academic years in the defunct East-Central State now Imo and Anambra States. Now there are only five technical colleges in Anambra State. It is my humble submission that there should be a technical college in every local government area. The quickest and most convenient way financially to achieve this is by converting at least one secondary school to a technical college in every local government area. For example, the newly established community-sponsored technical college at Enugu-Agidi in Njikoka Local Government Area, can be converted into a real technical college by providing the requisite infrastructure and equipment. Right now it is only technical in name and by a little addition of infrastructure and equipment, it can become a technical college indeed.

Mr Speaker, ideally each technical college can be groomed to the status where

it can ultimately offer courses leading to ordinary national diploma in technical and commercial fields. The products of these technical colleges could then proceed to polytechnics for higher national diploma or to technological universities for degree programme. I am quite convinced that if Anambra State takes the lead along this line, very soon all our taps will be running, all our air-conditioners will be working, NEPA will no longer bluff us because we would have produced the technological force in terms of human beings who can ensure that we no longer suffer all these inconveniences. I pray that we should start right from now to work towards ensuring that by 1981 academic year, every local government area would have got a technical college. We don't have to start from the scratch. We can easily convert one in each local government area into a technical college and work them up to the ordinary national diploma Level.

Now, I go to the universal bursary awards. Honourable Members, I want us really to look at things from the point of view of a child, say there are ten children in a home or in a nursery school and then every day nine parents will come and take home their children and the tenth one is always left to find his way. If he gets lost, nobody cares. I believed that education is the greatest legacy any father or mother can give to his or her child and I submit that every hon. Member here is a father or the mother, in the case of the only hon. Lady, in his or her constituency.

An hon. Member: Are you sure ? All of us have not married. (Laughter).

Mr Morah: Mr Speaker, I strongly believe that by ensuring that every Anambra State student in any post-secondary institution is given this bursary award in the form of university bursary fee, we are now playing our roles as the fathers or mother of our constituencies. I am quite sure that no hon. Member will like any student in his or her constituency not to have this bursary award. Is there anybody ? I am sure that it is the wish of everybody.

So I take it now that every hon. Member will not in any way ridicule this honourable House by making us rescind our decision on universal bursary award. I hope that when it comes to the Third Reading, it will not have any