



# Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Wednesday, 8th March, 1950

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Chamber of the Eastern House of Assembly, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 8th of March, 1950.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour Sir Chandos Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Captain Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Acting Attorney-General,  
The Honourable A. Ridehalgh, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,  
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,  
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,  
The Honourable C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Director of Education,  
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,  
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable R. W. Taylor
- The Commissioner of Labour  
The Honourable A. H. Couzeus
- The Commissioner of the Colony,  
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province  
The Honourable J. D. ...

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,  
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.  
The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable P. V. Main.

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Member for the Colony,  
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.  
The First Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.  
The Second Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.  
The Emir of Gwandu,  
The Honourable Yahaya, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
The Emir of Katsina,  
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.  
The Oni of Ife,  
The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.  
The Atta of Igbirra,  
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.  
The Emir of Abuja,  
The Honourable Sulmann.  
The First Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Bello Kano.  
The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.  
The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.  
The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Iro Katsina.  
The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.  
The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.  
The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.  
The Second Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.  
The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.  
The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable N. Essien.  
The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.  
The Member for Calabar.

The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.  
The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Soetan.

## ABSENT

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The First Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.  
The Oba of Benin,  
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.  
The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.  
The First Nominated Member,  
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.  
The Third Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.  
The Second Nominated Member,  
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.

## PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of March, 1950, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

## QUESTIONS

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

70. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

For detailed information regarding the petition of Pharmacy Students-in-training concerning their conditions of service, and what efforts, if any, has the Department made in that regard.

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

Students at the Pharmacy School have asked for increased allowances, but have been informed that they are paid at the same rate as other students-in-training in Departmental Training Schools, and that no exception can be made in their favour. They have, however, been granted a small book allowance for the purchase of text-books. These books remain the property of Government but may be handed over to students successfully completing the course.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

78. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

(a) What percentage of the country's revenue is collected by the following Departments from 1940-50:

(v) Customs and Excise, (vi) Inland Revenue, (vii) Marine, (viii) Posts and Telegraphs. (ix) Railways.

(b) How many members of the Junior Service from each of these Departments are being trained in the United Kingdom in accordance with the Nigerianisation Report with a view to holding superior appointments in the Civil Service?

(c) How many members of the Junior Service have been granted leave without pay for further studies in the United Kingdom within the last two years, the Departments concerned, and the courses of studies being pursued? How many of them were refused permission, the reasons for refusal and the Departments concerned.

Answer—

The Hon. the Financial Secretary:

(a) (i) No figures of actual revenue are yet available for the financial year 1949-50. The subjoined statement, which furnishes the information sought by the Honourable Member in respect of the Departments of Customs and Excise, Inland Revenue, Marine and Posts and Telegraphs, has, accordingly, been framed to cover the financial years 1940-41 to 1948-49 inclusive.

Year	Total Revenue*	Customs and Excise	Per-centage	Inland Revenue	Per-centage	Marine	Per-centage	Posts and Telegraphs	Per-centage
	£	£		£		£		£	
1940-41	7,260,532	2,433,384	33.5	280,737	3.9	278,631	3.8	148,829	2.0
1941-42	7,956,513	3,085,124	38.8	565,803	7.1	451,708	5.7	176,735	2.2
1942-43	8,976,313	3,622,260	40.4	864,413	9.6	481,759	5.4	249,995	2.8
1943-44	10,836,486	4,897,411	45.2	1,517,284	14.0	429,579	4.0	268,712	2.5
1944-45	11,179,057	5,242,430	46.9	1,370,714	12.3	387,941	3.5	305,782	2.7
1945-46	12,851,118	5,664,008	44.1	2,496,691	19.4	382,390	2.9	323,062	2.5
1946-47	14,041,404	7,094,527	50.5	2,004,721	14.3	465,090	3.3	399,967	2.8
1947-48	17,442,691	9,129,232	52.3	3,292,116	18.5	509,971	2.9	417,937	2.4
1948-49	22,000,513	12,622,677	57.4	3,484,018	15.8	640,120	2.9	493,874	2.2

\* Not including Colonial Development and Welfare Grants.

(ii) For accounting purposes the Nigerian Railway is treated as a separate administration. It is not, therefore, possible to relate Railway revenue to the Nigerian budget on a percentage basis. Figures of actual revenue accruing to the Railway in respect of the financial years 1940-41 to 1948-49 inclusive are as follows:—

NIGERIAN RAILWAY REVENUE

	£
1940-41	2,498,767
1941-42	3,453,256
1942-43	3,965,639
1943-44	4,481,987
1944-45	4,215,912
1945-46	3,987,631
1946-47	4,960,885
1947-48	5,015,730

(b) The following numbers of officers from the respective departments have been awarded scholarships or Training Courses the successful completion of which would qualify them for consideration for promotion to the Senior Service:—

Customs and Excise	...	...	2
Inland Revenue	...	...	4
Marine	...	...	—
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	20
Railways	...	...	12

In addition, the following numbers of officers have been awarded study leave, which should materially improve their prospects of promotion:—

Customs and Excise	...	...	4
Inland Revenue	...	...	—
Marine	...	...	7
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	—
Railways	...	...	2

I might add that scholarships and training courses are not awarded to departments in proportion to the percentage of Government revenue which they collect.

(c) No central records are kept of applications for leave without pay and in the time available it has not been possible to obtain from all departments the information for which the Honourable Member has asked. As the Honourable Member knows a system of study leave has been introduced as recommended by the Nigerianisation Commission. In addition leave without pay is granted in a few cases where Heads of Departments are satisfied that the applicant can be released from his duties and the course which he proposes to follow would be of value to him in his departmental work. Applications for leave without pay to pursue courses which would not be of such value are normally refused.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

116. To ask the Honourable the Director of Agriculture:—

(a) How many Nigerians have been promoted to the Senior Service in the Department since the last Budget Session of the Legislative Council at Ibadan?

(b) How many will be promoted during the next financial year?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:

(a) Three.

(b) The number cannot be predicted since promotions depend on the recommendations of the Departmental Selection Board and the Central Public Service Board.

[Hon. H. Buowari Brown]

[Question]

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):

124. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What has Government decided about establishment of a Holiday Camp or Health Resort at Finitasingi, near Finima, not far from the proposed site for a new costly Light-house, by the mouth of Bouny River?

(b) Has Government any reason or reasons to doubt the suitability and usefulness of such a Holiday Camp or Health Resort for both European and African Officials and others on local leave for recuperation of their health by the sea shore?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:

(a) It is regretted that proposals for a Holiday Camp at Finitasingi cannot be seriously entertained at the present time.

(b) No, Sir, but there is no way of knowing whether such a holiday camp would receive popular support.

#### MOTIONS

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

Your Excellency, I rise to move the following Motion:—

“ Be it resolved:

“ That a Select Committee of this Council should be set  
“ up to consider the recommendations of the General  
“ Constitutional Conference together with the  
“ comments thereon made by the Regional Houses.”

In support of this Motion I merely have to remind the Council that a unanimous decision was taken by this Council at Ibadan a year ago whereby the recommendations of the General Conference were to be considered by the Regional Houses and by this Legislative Council before they were submitted to Your Excellency and the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I should also like, if I may, Sir, to quote briefly from the speech which Your Excellency made last week. Your Excellency said:

“ Following this meeting of the Legislative Council I shall forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference. I shall at that time have to advise the Secretary of State how in my opinion any issues which still remain in dispute should be settled. When I do so it is my earnest hope that I shall be able to report to the Secretary of State that the Legislative Council has given advice which points the way to a generally acceptable solution of the remaining difficulties. I trust and believe that you will render invaluable assistance to Nigeria in this way and that in giving these matters further consideration you will be guided by the highest qualities of statesmanship.”

[C.S.G.]

[Motion]

It is now for us to decide how we undertake that heavy responsibility and the proposal which I make is that a Select Committee should be appointed. In doing so I have only one point to make, and that is that the appointment of a Select Committee does not, of course, preclude public debate in this Council. It would merely mean that before any public debate takes place in the full Council the difficult and intricate issues to be examined will be considered in Select Committee. Any public debate would take place when the Select Committee had reported back to the Council. It seems to me that the method proposed is obviously the best one, and I commend it to this House.

I move, Sir, the Motion standing in my name.

The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:

Sir, I rise to second.

Motion adopted.

#### BILLS (Second Reading)

THE 1950-51 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1950

The Oni of Ife (The Hon. Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.):

Your Excellency, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and will make a few comments. First of all I heartily congratulate you on your opening speech which was clear and forthright. I also wish to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary on the most able way in which he has introduced the Appropriation Bill. I also congratulate His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, the energetic Members of the Eastern House of Assembly and their friends, European and African, on the great team work they have done to produce the Eastern Local Government Bill. It was a bold but right step taken at the right time. When I became Oni nearly twenty years ago all the Western Native Administrations were of necessity of the old set-up, because the educated people available then were few and never came forward with a desire for service. There had been tremendous changes since then. The Western Native Administrations are being progressively democratized. There is no sole Native Authority any more in the Western Provinces, Chiefs and their people now form the Native Authorities. Your Excellency, I am not bluffing, I am merely showing that we in the West are moving as fast as possible. We cannot be complacent nor can we rest on our oars. It may be interesting to know that our progressive advance may necessitate the amendment of our existing Native Authority Ordinance in the near future.

The absence of the Oba of Benin and the Honourable Gaius Obaseki at the present meeting appears to have been causing so much anxiety among the Members of this Council that I wish to say something about it. On my way out here I stayed a night at Benin

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City. I did not wish to visit either the Oba or the Chief Gaur Obascki because I thought they would be busy packing to leave for Enugu, and it would be unfair to interrupt them at such a time. I had invitation from the Resident and on meeting him he told me that the Oba would probably not be coming owing to some domestic affairs and he mentioned them to me in confidence. But unfortunately it was too late for me then to be able to visit the Oba. The Honourable Gaur Obascki paid me a visit and informed me that he was under doctor's orders to take it easy and not to travel such a distance. When I saw him he appeared in my view to be truly in a convalescent state. I do hope that this explanation will satisfy the Honourable Members.

I will now speak on the secondary education of girls. The need has become urgent since about ten years ago for the building of more secondary schools for girls. The girls as well as their parents saw the need for them to be well educated and well equipped for the common struggle in life just as their brothers, but alas no step was known to have been taken by the Government to provide this much-needed facility for them. The Voluntary Agencies and other communities who saw the necessity for this have in several districts opened girls schools which could not go beyond giving only elementary education because of staffing difficulties. I strongly appeal to the Government to take immediate steps to remedy this defect.

My next comment will be on motor roads. I am well aware of the fact that road maintenance and road building are regional subjects but the fact still remains that the Department of Public Works certainly has a policy which guides the members of the Department and I feel that it is right and proper to say here and now in the presence of the Honourable the Director of Public Works that it is high time the road policy of the Department was revised. Instead of encouraging the building of more feeder roads which from experience we know cannot be properly maintained the Department should take step to spend more and more money on the tarring of main roads—the roads which connect Provincial and Divisional Headquarters, as well as those which connect important commercial and industrial centres. I strongly recommend these for the immediate attention of the Director of Public Works and I also recommend that less attention should be given to certain classes of feeder roads, at least for the time being. I have not travelled all over Nigeria to be able to speak for the whole country, but I can say in regard to the Western Region that throughout its length and breadth the condition of the roads is simply appalling. The progress of work on the Hessa-Akure-Benin road can be said to be going at a snail's pace. All the heavily used coar roads are not tarred, and are not, as far as I know, on the list for tarring; their maintenance is being poorly carried out. We know that the

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labourers' attitude nowadays is less work more pay. The remedy for this is closer supervision and I have been given to understand that the Department is terribly short-handed. I must say that that is indeed regrettable. I am in full sympathy with the Department and feel that its difficulties can be surmounted if tarring would be given to contractors, European or African, who could produce the necessary tools and equipment with supervisory staff. I am sure that doing so will accelerate the progress of these road works and in two years the Department will get rid of these hardly tolerable complaints. As regards the problem of recruitment of engineers, the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces has fully dealt with it. I will only say that engineers are certainly indispensable, and that if they are scarce we must bow to the law of supply and demand, and we must offer attractive salary.

Your Excellency, is it not amazing that after five years of the publication of the Ten Year Development Plan not one of a dozen most populous Western towns has been supplied with electricity? Is it not amazing that no one new scheme has been started? How long will the investigations last? What value have the token Votes appearing in the Annual Estimates with the average man in the street? One opens the pages of the Development Section of the Estimates only to find Votes for electricity and urban water schemes inserted from year to year—just in vain! I am asking my energetic Friend the Honourable the Development Secretary to endeavour to push these schemes through without any further delay.

Your Excellency, I was relieved to find that at long last the Government saw that this country could be better developed by the construction of more railways. I am delighted to see a change of mind on the Government's former doctrine that the best and only way to develop this country is by the building of a network of motor roads. I refer to the contemplated extension of the Railway from Nguru to Maidugari, the survey of which has been approved, as reported on pages 66 and 67 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1950. It is indeed a welcome news. At this juncture I am asking the Government to reconsider the Railway Scheme approved in 1926-27 and called "Odo-oha-Ife-Akure Line" which was to have been constructed next to Kano-Nguru line but which had to be shelved solely on account of the great slump in trade in 1928-1929, the year that the work of construction was scheduled to commence. The country was surveyed right up to the Akure District and found to be excellent for Railway construction. I am very happy to say, Your Excellency, that that part of the country is very rich in cocoa and palm produce and will be a payable proposition. I recommend the scheme for the serious reconsideration of Your Excellency's Government.

I associate myself with the First and Second Members for the

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business organizations and to encourage other young business men to form companies. But income tax of 9s in the pound is certainly bound to retard the progress of young companies and can only damp the enthusiasm of young entrepreneurs, who have seen that a company or business of an individual often dies with its proprietor. A sliding scale of income tax based on the size of net income might be reasonable.

I also associate myself with many points raised by some of the previous speakers, a few of which are namely the method, if any, by which the Regional funds were allocated raised by the Second Member for the Northern Provinces. The advisability of the establishment of Senior or major industries raised by the First Member for the Western Provinces. The necessity for the importation of American trucks and cars for the kind of roads we have in Nigeria raised by the Second Member for the Western Provinces, and last, but by no means the least, the reordering of curricula in the schools with special reference to the teaching of morality raised by the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces. And finally, Your Excellency, I agree with the report on page 46 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1950 in regard to the marketing boards. I myself would go further than the view of the writer and say emphatically that by far the most outstanding development of this financial year was the creation of the three new Nigerian marketing Boards for Oil, Oilseeds and Cotton; and I have very great pleasure to offer you my hearty congratulations.

Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

#### The Emir of Abuja (The Hon. Sulemanu):

Your Excellency, we have had a long series of conferences and meetings of different kinds in the past weeks, and I think we are a little tired of them and we would like to go back home to spend a few days of quieter and less argumentative days working at our ordinary jobs. Therefore, I have put aside several matters which I had intended to raise today, and I shall confine myself to one topic subject only. But first of all I would like to say that I am very glad to see that it was found possible to carry out a suggestion I made last time about indexing our Hansard on debates.

Now, we of the North, especially the Emirs, are always being blamed for conservatism. I myself cannot understand why it should be such a crime to conserve those good things that tradition and experience have taught us, and to be shy of rushing ourselves and our people into doubtful experiments, but to do so at any rate. I am going to propose something new. At first it may not sound very unusual, it is really quite revolutionary. It is generally admitted that the greatest needs of our country today are two, one physical and the other mental or cultural. About the physical, which I understand to be the main need, I am not going to say anything

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leave it to others to discuss agricultural development—we need to ensure our own food supplies and some surplus for the export trade. It is with the other, with education, that I am concerning myself, and my proposal is this. Now that we are preparing to build up a new Nigeria, then let us take up our minds that our Education Service shall be the cornerstone of that building—here is the revolutionary suggestion—let us make it of the best materials and be prepared to pay for them. Those of you who have been teachers or concerned with education will hardly need reminding of the enormous responsibility which lies on the shoulders of the teaching profession. On them largely depends the progress or backwardness, knowledge or ignorance, right or wrong thinking, of the new generation. Yet you will remember, too, that it is about the worst paid profession in almost every country in the world. I wonder if it is not partly the reason why there is so much upset, muddled thinking, misunderstandings and discontent today. Sad teachers make sad pupils.

How has this happened? You will hear people say two quite different things about teachers. Some say, "Teaching is a vocation, a calling—therefore, offers of material reward will not bring the best kind of teachers. The best kinds are those whose whole hearts are in teaching and who would not want to do any other job do anything else, however highly paid." Others say the opposite. They say, those who can, do; those who can't, teach." That is if a man is not good enough for any of the really important jobs in life, he can always become a schoolmaster. So the teacher has been laughed at. On the one hand as an idealist who does not care much about money so of course, it's no good giving him much. So on the other hand, as a weak sort of person who does not deserve much money. So whichever way you look at it, the result is the same for the poor teacher. He, the educator, remains the worst paid of the educated community.

Let us ask ourselves if this is good enough for Nigeria. Is this what we want for our Education Services? Idealists, yes. We could certainly do with some of those; but for the main body of our teachers, we need well-trained, highly skilled and highly paid men and women who have not only enthusiasm, but also the same incentive to improve themselves and their work as the people in other jobs. Must we still pretend that the knowledge that he is doing an essential job is all that the schoolmaster needs to make him happy and efficient? Or if you take it other side, that this job is so very unimportant that any one can do it for any little wage? What is the result of this attitude. I am going to quote briefly from His Honour the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Provinces speaking to the Emir of the Emir's Regional Council. He is speaking to a group of teachers in the North, but his words have a wider application to all of us who have to do with

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"It cannot be too often repeated that the whole future of this Regional depends on a better supply of schoolmasters, and that those who have the welfare of the North at heart must do all they can to encourage youths to enter the teaching profession. At present it is not easy to fill the classes at the Bauchi and Katsina Training Centres, and those who come do not always display the necessary keenness . . ."

These are very strong words from His Honour, and they show that we must do something, however drastic or unusual it may seem, to save the situation. Then he goes on:—

"In the Middle Schools numbers have not increased owing to the impossibility of staffing extra classes . . ." and again:

"If all schools were properly organised and both teachers and pupils made an effort, there is no reason why every school should not obtain at least seventy-five per cent passes . . ."

Note that His Honour said,

"If both teachers and pupils made an effort".

Now what sort of picture does this represent to your mind? Surely, it is that of a Service in desperate need of the best men the country can supply completely failing to attract either candidates or the right type. Quite obviously because the men of the better type will not look at it. They can see other jobs with better prospects for themselves and their families elsewhere. Who can blame them? It may be wrong to over-emphasise the money side, but it is simply foolish to under-estimate its importance. Most young men wish to be of service to their country, but it is not the chief factor which decides their choice of career. I think it is quite time that we brushed away the cobwebs from our eyes and see this matter clearly. Here is a service of vital importance to the country—a service for which there might be so many eager applicants that we should be able to pick out only the very best candidates—and they would feel it a great honour to be chosen here and no takers. I say that we shall not be able to get enough of the kind of people we want, able to work as we want them to work and as they would want to work, unless we are prepared to pay them for the efficiency we expect. Do not think that I am criticising the individual teachers we now have. I was one myself for some years and am fully aware of what they do, the long hours many of them spend and their devotion to duty;—but I am sure that they would be none the worse for some practical inducement to do better. I would like to be so revolutionary as to suggest that we might do well to introduce some system of partial payment by results. I do not want it to be expected that I am asking for an increase in wages for everyone in the teaching profession. That is not my immediate business and it might even have the opposite effect to what I want

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and would be resented by other professions. No, if there are teachers who are quite content to go ambling along without much effort or initiative, they should expect more than an ordinary salary. I do not mean expecting big money for little work. What I do say is: that those who are ambitious and willing to do all they can to push ahead and get things done, raising the standard of their own teaching and of their pupils' knowledge, let them have their reward. We have prizes for best pupils—Why not some reward for outstanding schools and schoolmasters? And then I shall be told: "Oh, yes, very good, we agree, but where is the money to come from?" Well, I have noticed that when everyone is agreed on the urgent need for something, money is usually to be found for it. But instead of generalisations, I would make one complete proposal. If there is not enough money for everything, then let us put first things first and spend a few tens of thousand of pounds less on elaborate buildings and a few more on the staff. I think at the moment we are holding our education horse by the tail instead of the head. Please do not think I don't want to see fine schools everywhere and first-class equipment—Of course I do. But for the efficient training of our sons and daughters in the immediate future it is far more important to build up a body of highly qualified skilful and eager teachers, otherwise it is like having a lot of promising young horses which you hope are going to win many important races for you, so you build them wonderful stables—and then find that you have not enough money to pay a good trainer—with the result that when the time comes they fail to stay the course. It is the teachers, the trainers, who are of first importance, not the place they teach in. A good teacher can do much with modest equipment in a modest building; but the finest building in the world with magnificent equipment can be useless without good teachers. Some of the finest teachers in the history of civilisation have had to manage in small rooms, or crowded places, or in the open air—but it has not stopped them or spoiled their teaching. There may be some teachers unwilling to suffer even temporary inconveniences, but they would be a small minority at best and we can do without that type anyway. What teachers are more likely to grumble at is to see large sums of money spent, or waiting to be spent, on buildings and equipment, and comparatively little on themselves. Now I say this is only human, and we shall make a big mistake if we do not admit it. Of course teachers would work better in a fine building with first-class equipment, but these things could come gradually. We must have the right teachers first. I ask, then, for one of our next approaches to our problem of education. I say: get the best men that we care for teachers. Think of what they themselves need to be able to teach your children properly. Let them have as many what little standard of patience and efficiency as they can find in any other profession. Their privileged position in the community is not to be taken away.



[*Emir of Abuja*][*Appropriation Ordinance*]

You will find that they will soon let us know if there is something missing from the children's welfare, for it will be their own welfare too, and they will make sure that their pupils are a credit to themselves, their school and their country." You may, perhaps, think it is too materialistic a point of view. I don't think so. I think it is common sense and I think there has been altogether too much humbug and cant on this subject. Teachers are ordinary human beings and need some incentive if they are to make great efforts. We need so much from them and we shall have to be prepared to pay well to get it. Let us build a new system round men of high quality, for the old system clearly is not getting the results we must have.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

#### The Third Nominated Member (The Hon. N. B. Edwards):

Your Excellency, first of all I would like to join with other Honourable Members in congratulating the Honourable the Financial Secretary on the presentation of his first Nigerian Budget: he gave us a very clear picture of the country's financial position. Once again our estimated expenditure shows an increase over previous years but, on paper, it is hoped that sufficient revenue will be forthcoming to balance our accounts.

I am afraid, Sir, that I do not altogether share the optimistic view of the Financial Secretary in anticipating the same high level of Customs Import Duties for the next financial year but I appreciate how difficult it is to estimate in this direction and I can only hope that he has some inside information which justifies his optimism.

It is indeed gratifying to note the proposed contribution of two and a quarter million pounds to the Revenue Equalization Fund: these contributions represent sound business principles. I refer, Sir, to modern day principles and not the intricate husbandry of Pharaoh and Joseph.

The question of Departmental expenditure can I think wait until we all meet in the "dissecting chamber" at a later date.

Reverting a moment to revenue, Sir, Nigeria has a wonderful opportunity of earning a useful revenue by the sale of coal to outside markets. There is a market eager and ready to take Nigerian coal—at competitive prices,—and I trust that every effort will be made to produce an exportable surplus and so bring to the country the additional revenue it so urgently requires.

I would like, Sir, to refer briefly, to some problems affecting shipping. I think it is known, generally, that ocean-going ships under the flags of many nations are experiencing serious delays in our ports. I am not, Sir, for one moment casting any reflection on

[*Hon. N. B. Edwards*][*Ports and Harbours*]

ports: indeed, I trust that all shipping interests will agree with me when I say we require the aid and co-operation from all Port Authorities and they have been most co-operative. I do not want to be misunderstood. The main reason for delays is not for reasons cited. They are, lack of deep water berths, lack of port equipment, and, most important, lack of space facilities for clearing import cargo from congested dock area to ultimate destination.

Projects for improvement are submitted to Government, and approved; I instance the Apapa Wharf Extension Scheme; but, Sir, the time lag between blue print approval and practical action should, if possible, be reduced.

The dredging of the sea bars at the entrances to one of the life lines of the country, the River Niger, was featured in the Ten Year Development Programme. Progress has been disappointing, in fact, measured in terms of depth of water on these bars there has been no progress whatsoever.

I realize, Sir, the difficulties surrounding this particular problem and I know the attention Government is giving to it, but I wish to stress the urgency of these dredging projects and trust they will continue to receive the attention they certainly merit.

Sir, I appreciate the earnestness and desire of this Government to go ahead, with all the expedition it can command, with its social and economic development. I realize, as I am sure we all realize, the setbacks experienced especially in connection with the recruitment of technical staff of all grades. I repeat all grades, and the supply of vital equipment. I can only urge Government to examine every alternative method for the recruitment of staff and the supply of equipment, even if the method chosen entails complete departure from orthodox procedure.

Finally, Sir, at the first Budget session of this Constitution it was suggested that a Port Trust or Harbour Board be formed to operate our ports. I do so with interest, Sir, that in your Annual Statement you refer to the "amalgamation of the present system of divided port control." I do so, Sir, and I know all shipping interests will cheer with me a fully autonomous Harbour Board with the power to say "Yes" or "No" and get on with the job.

Nigerians should play their part in the policy of ports improvement and maintenance and should therefore be fully represented on any controlling authority.

I am, Sir, most sincerely, Sir, following the practice of other countries, and I believe, Sir, that the "Port Trust" or "Trust" system is a very desirable one. I believe, Sir, that the plans will be made to give the port authorities the necessary powers.

Thank you, Sir, for your attention.

[Hon. Bello Kano]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

### The First Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Bello Kano):

Your Excellency, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill moved by the Honourable the Financial Secretary last week.

It is a great pleasure to all Members of this House and also to the people of this country as a whole, to have an opportunity to voice out their feelings as far as they are financially concerned. Habitually, Sir, at the Budget Session Honourable Members express their personal views as well as the views of the people they represent. These valuable speeches indicate to the Government the direction to which the wind is blowing or is likely to blow. On many occasions, Sir, Unofficial Members criticized Government, either through ignorance or by bringing up undisputable facts. When I first attended this Assembly in Lagos in 1947 I was deeply interested in hearing the destructive points in budget debates; but later on when I started to move about inside and outside my own Province, noticing how different schemes were carried out, then my mind automatically started to change. Now I can only support the criticisms that I am definitely certain are true as far as Education, Medical and Public Works Departments are concerned. My reason is that any member of a Native Authority Council knows how difficult it is to satisfy the members of the District Councils. Sir, if you read through the minute book of a District Council you will see that the people in that particular district ask far too many things at a shift.

Sir, on this historic occasion, I should like to congratulate the Education Department for the progress made in 1949-50 as His Excellency stated in his annual address. This time, Sir, I have a very important request to make. Last year I made a similar thing in the Northern House of Assembly. That is about technical education. I do not want the Honourable the Director of Education to think that I am ungrateful. God forbid. Apart from the Kaduna Trade Centre, which is confined to Middle School boys, we humbly ask for another one, bigger than that. In a place like Kano, when the Director of Education toured the North last month, we were fortunate enough to have him in Kano for a couple of days. I believe he learnt from the Native Authority, in the course of an interview, that there is a desire to have a big industrial school, similar to the famous old Nassarawa Industrial School. I am now going to give the Honourable Members a brief story of how this school was started. The Northern Provinces, Sir, as you know, were completely taken by the British early in 1903. One boarding school was established at Nassarawa, one mile outside the town walls of Kano City, in about 1910. The school was divided into two sections, literary and manual. The former was composed of the sons of Emirs, Chiefs, District Heads, Village Heads, important

[Hon. Bello Kano]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

bricklayers, smiths, leather workers, tanners, weavers and tailors. These pupils who came from all over the North for a five-year course were maintained by their respective Native Administrations. When this course was over each Province had sufficient trained teachers and instructors to open a school of its own. From that time up to 1926 we called these schools Provincial Schools. From 1926 to 1930 Primary Schools, and from 1st April, 1930, hitherto Middle Schools. Referring to the mother Industrial School, from 1915, when the first batch left, the door was left open for anyone interested in local industry. Through the hard work, courage and determination of the Technical Education Officer in charge and the African staff, many people were trained. Among them were carpenters, bricklayers, silversmiths, copper-smiths, blacksmiths, leather workers, and so on. Some of them were taken to England to take part in the Wembley Exhibition, where they won a cup. They also took part in the Calabar Exhibition of 1921, there too they won a shield and, above all, a good name for the North. Wherever you go in Nigeria, and not only in Nigeria, but in any civilized country, I am sure, Sir, you will see a sample of their good work. Take for example, leather cushions and handbags, with various patterns. The former replaced the old type which we call "Touareg cushions." We seldom see them nowadays. You also see silver or brass saucers, cigarette tins, ash trays, etc. Another good feature of their work is this, Sir. Between 1920 and 1930 they were employed to put up Native Administration permanent buildings under the supervision of European engineers. Of course very few Southerners were among them.

Sir, to our surprise, in 1930 the education curriculum was changed so as to have Primary Schools and Industrial Schools amalgamated into Middle Schools. Each Middle School retained only three instructors—woodwork, metal work and drawing instructors. The rest were joined with Government Public Works Department, but employed by Native Administrations. This new organisation in the North is known as Native Administration Works.

Now, Sir, our complaint is that now we do not normally get apprentices in any branch of these workshops, only wage earners and salaried workmen. It appears to me, Sir, that if we wait for the Kaduna Trade Centre to produce qualified people, it will take a long time before we could get enough local trained people to take our local business. It is not a selfishness to ask Government to vote money to establish an institution which will be very beneficial to both local people and foreigners. Another example, Sir, whenever you see Easterners settle in Nigeria they give themselves hard working and honest men, in view of our fact that they are encouraged in the change Industrial School, especially in country, to establish printing and book-binding. They know

used in domestic affairs, such as buckets, small tin boxes used by school children, and many garden tools. They worked very hard in the North and produced many articles which could not be obtained from oversea during the war. Sir, I should like to remind the Honourable Members that all the leather work and the brass work that are being sold either in the Nigerian air ports or by Hausa traders who approach Europeans in their houses, were originated in the old Kano Industrial School, when Mr F. A. Biemünster was in charge.

Sir, I am going to touch on agriculture. I am glad that some of the previous speakers touched on the point I have in mind—that is about food crops in the North. The majority of people think that Government intends primarily to help in the development of export crops only. That is what the peasants say. During the war groundnuts were badly needed and Government organized a groundnut campaign by propaganda, which was very successful. I hope the Honourable the Director of Agriculture will consider it possible to do the same thing for guinea corn and millet. Sir, what the peasants say seems to be true. Take, for example, rice, which is not only a food crop but an export crop and is placed under the category of export crops such as groundnuts and cotton. We have specialised Development Officers looking after the cultivation sowing and manuring of the three main crops I have just mentioned, while guinea corn and millet farmers receive only routine supervision from the ordinary Agricultural Officers. When staple food is scarce everyone must be affected, directly or indirectly. It is a fact, Sir, that the price of corn in the Kano Market in March, 1939, was 5s per sack. In 1940 it was 12s per sack, in 1941 20s, in 1942 25s, in 1943 50s (unfortunately there was a famine that year), in 1944 25s, 1945 30s, 1946 32s, 1947 35s, 1948 39s, 1949 42s. I do not know what will happen this year as it was already 42s per sack last month. Living is very difficult for any married person with children earning less than £5 a month. But we are lucky to have the prices of imported goods reduced.

In conclusion, I thank our hosts the easterners for making good arrangements for us well before hand. Sir, I am glad to see that the Fifth Member for the East is keeping in good health this year. This is due, I think, to the climate of his own country.

I support the Appropriation Bill. Thank you Sir.

#### The Member for Calabar (The Hon. E. E. E. Anwan):

Your Excellency, your discontinuance of the practice hitherto of presenting to this House at its Budget Session an Address on the activities of the several Departments of the Civil Service during the current year leaves the Members free to concentrate their speeches on matters of general policy outlined in Your Excellency's speech and covering the year under review and the financial policy intended

year. The reports of the activities of the several Departments are thereby left to be examined and criticised in detail when the Heads of the respective Departments appear before the Committee of this House for the approval of the Estimates for each of their Departments.

That Your Excellency's political policy, which Your Excellency termed to be that of public consultation, has attained a great measure of success, is borne out by the following extracts from Your Excellency's speech last Thursday in opening the present session of the Council. The following portion of your said Excellency's speech is in point:—

“ Whether it is in schemes for increased agricultural production and better land use, or assisting commercial and industrial enterprise, or preparing revised development plans: whether it is a matter of working out schemes for training Nigerians for higher posts, or for general educational advance; whether it is in evolving plans for improvement of local government and for constitutional advance: it has been my policy not to leave the initiative solely to experts and officials, necessary as their part is, but to ‘bring the people in.’ I have not been disappointed. Indeed, over the whole range of Government activities where the policy of increased Nigerian participation has been put into effect—in activities so widely differing as those of the Marketing Boards, the Production Development Boards, the Regional Loan Development Boards, the Colliery Board and the Public Service Boards—to mention only a few public bodies recently formed with strong Nigerian representation—the Nigerian representatives have risen to their new responsibilities and have shown themselves anxious and able to undertake disinterested service for the public good.”

On the following page Your Excellency said:

“ Most important of all the results of the policy of public consultation which you are to consider at this meeting of the Council are the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference.”

By this policy of consultation it is claimed that the Government has not only secured the co-operation but won the confidence of the people who have thus been brought in to share in the responsibility for the blame or praise, failure or success of the different acts of the Government based upon the policy they have approved of.

In the economic sphere, however, the picture as painted does not appear to be as rosy. It is true that to achieve success in this direction “ we need capital, we need technical and managerial skill and we need increased effort here in Nigeria.” And I venture to say that it is the rate of our success in these directions that will determine for us as a country the pace at which and the time when

Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country, and today her primary productions are in high demand. It is also true that the Agricultural Department is doing something by way of "researches into the question of increasing the productivity of the land and maintaining soil fertility", and that the several Marketing Boards are insisting on a high-grade quality of our different products. But as other countries come into production of the same products as Nigeria does, it is certain that competition is bound to affect both the price and quantity of those products that will be bought from us. It is always a safe policy not "to put all eggs in one basket", hence, therefore, the urgent need for a vigorous stimulation of local industries based primarily on our local products. This matter will be left over for closer examination and study with the Director of Commerce and Industries at the Committee Stage of this Bill, but I may here indicate that a public investigation in this direction is certainly not an unnecessary expenditure of public revenue.

I, in common with other Honourable Members of this House who have already spoken, am not an economist, and know nothing about finance. But last year the Financial Secretary took us into consultation and secured our approval before adopting as a policy the providing of annual loan charge contributions to Sinking Funds on a scale that would enable loans to be redeemed at the earliest possible date of maturity. The policy intended to be adopted in the ensuing year is a reversal of that policy and I intend to take up this matter with the Financial Secretary at the Committee Stage, together with probable sources for raising loans other than the London Money Market and the Marketing Boards.

The following statement by Your Excellency appears to be that of a person (and for that matter, a Government) almost in despair:—

"We do not now lack material and equipment to nearly the same extent as in the years immediately following the war, but the staff position so far from improving has deteriorated, and in the professional and technical departments, particularly the engineering services, we are—and I am choosing my words with care and a full sense of responsibility—very near to a disastrous breakdown. We must face this problem and find a solution for it if our plans are not to fail."

This position of affairs stresses most eloquently the point that has frequently been made in this House since 1947, that the pace of our development will be conditioned primarily by our ability to train our own personnel of technicians and professional men, and that we shall fail in this direction in the ultimate end if we cannot. The failure to get candidates with adequate qualifications in sufficient number to benefit by scholarships for training abroad is due, I make bold to say, to the failure of the everchanging policy with each Director of Education of the educational system of this country. And in this connection it is noted with a big feeling of relief that

steps are going to be taken to turn out students from the Secondary Schools who will be fit to proceed straight on for University training. The Higher College which was established some years ago to provide liberal education up to the Intermediate Degree stage, like the Achimota College on the Gold Coast, fast degenerated into an institution for recruitment into the Civil Service; and the Medical School maintained a close-door policy for the same purpose. The policy of sending students to England on scholarship for professional and technical studies was practically unknown in this country before 1940, whereas the Gold Coast Government had for many years before the last World War established the practice of sending deserving students from Achimota College to England to complete their courses in Education, Agriculture, Medicine and Engineering, amongst others. I understand that the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service is not proceeding as satisfactorily as it was anticipated owing to lack of applicants in sufficient number with the required educational qualifications. I make bold to say that the failure to Nigerianise our Civil Service to a substantial extent might make our cry for political independence on the generally recognised international standards a sham and a mere mockery.

Though I have already indicated that I shall leave the task of examining the activities of the different departments of Government to the Committee Stage of this Bill, yet on a matter of principle I would like to have an explanation from the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to justify the establishment of Private Practice amongst the Medical Officers.

#### His Excellency:

Does the Honourable Member propose to develop the theme of private practice amongst medical officers?

#### The Member for Calabar (The Hon. E. E. E. Anwan):

No. I think I rather not at this stage. The Honourable the Director of Medical Services may take this therefore as notice to him for full discussions of this matter at the Committee Stage of this Bill.

#### His Excellency:

I do not want to limit the Honourable Member's freedom but he must be careful not to anticipate the subject of a Motion.

#### The Member for Calabar (The Hon. E. E. E. Anwan):

As regards the third requirement which is "the need for increased effort here in Nigeria" and which calls for greater production on the part of those who are engaged in labour, it is observed as reported under the Department of Labour in the Annual Statement on Government activities for the current year (Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1950 at page 41) that there had already occurred during the year under review no less than seventy industrial

disputes, thirty-six of which had resulted in strike actions involving 46,968 workers, with a consequential loss of approximately 500,000 man days. This matter is very serious and its repercussions on the economy of the country is indeed very grave. In each case the demand was for increased wages. It is alleged that the cause for each dispute was investigated; but as each demand was conceded another one arose somewhere else. The demand soon appeared to become incessant and infectious. It is untrue to say that the discontent amongst the workers is incited by the disparity in the pay between the Nigerian workers and their expatriate colleagues. There might be some very few workers who fall victim to this very insidious propaganda, but to the vast majority of the workers the root cause is the ever-increasing cost of living; and this cannot be properly understood unless it is studied against the background of the economy of the people in this part of the world. A Commission of Inquiry into the cost of living in this country with a view to possibly reducing it would help to avoid strikes and it might be convenient to bring to the notice of this Government the economic system of this country in this regard. Unlike the English pattern, the family of our people is not limited to the wife and children of a man but extends to all blood relatives from your grandparents (and those of your wife) if they happen to be alive, to your cousins, no matter how remote. To them you are their sole support from maintenance by way of food, clothing and shelter to the responsibility for school fees, books and uniforms. To fail to live up to your responsibilities is regarded as a serious default in your "filial" or "parental" duties as the case may be, to your family. And with each rise in the salaries there is a more than corresponding rise in the cost of living, school fees and books and everything else. And so the position can be understood why these workers can never be satisfied no matter to what extent their salaries are increased and will continue to ask for more and still more. To meet the root cause the cost of living must be controlled. And I am here inviting the attention of the Government to this matter as the only way out of this serious situation which is gravely imperilling the economic position of this country.

In 1947 this Council met for the first time under the Richards Constitution and the Honourable Members were arranged in Regional blocks as we now sit in this House. Some opinions were hazarded one way and another as to what would be the outcome of the experiment the Richards' Constitution was out to do. Some others, very wisely I think, reserved their opinions until it was seen how the thing would work out in practice. Today I am happy to say that by this political experiment the peoples of the North, West and East, at least by their representatives in this House, have been brought to understand one another and that the opportunity had been seized to create real and very good understanding, and to dispel suspicion and distrust of one another which were founded on

ignorance. As Members of the African Conference in 1948 we were pledged to build up and consolidate Nigerian Unity, and we were each pledged to be an apostle of that unity amongst our respective peoples. Something now appears to be disturbing that unity; something now appears to be sowing seeds of dissension and distrust amongst our various peoples. I can give you this assurance that from whatever quarters such an evil arises, we in the East look upon it as a common danger to all Nigeria and will heartily join in any crusade to destroy it; but I ask that it should never be allowed to disturb the unity of Nigeria.

I am not at all happy at the absence of the Honourable Akenzua II, the Oba of Benin and the Honourable G. I. Obaseki—both Members from the Benin-Warri Provinces from this meeting, as also from the General Conference on the Revision of the Constitution. The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi I, the Oni of Ife, has given this morning some explanations for their absence from this meeting. The coincidence is rather unfortunate, but their absence on both occasions becomes somewhat disturbing when one reads into it what the papers published to be the attitude of the Benin-Warri Provinces and their aspirations in the new Constitution for Nigeria which is now under consideration. But of course reports in the papers could not always be depended upon as being infallibly true.

#### His Excellency:

I do not want to limit the Honourable Member's freedom but he must be careful not to anticipate the subject of a subsequent Motion.

#### The Member for Calabar (The Hon. E. E. E. Anwan):

Last November this Council had a very short meeting at Lagos lasting for two days only. The morning paper that came out on the first day of the meeting carried news of the tragic incident of the shooting of the coal miners at Enugu and the Government came out immediately with a Public Notice expressing their horror and shock at the terrible incident which was much regretted, and begged that wise counsel might prevail on the part of the public and opinions on the matter be deferred until after the publication of the report of the public investigation which was being instituted in the matter. On the next morning the Council adjourned only after an hour of sitting. The Members then decided to await the report of the Public Inquiry before making any statements on the matter. Sections of the Press, claiming to represent the public of Nigeria, came out with bold headlines blaming the Unofficial Members of this House for not having said anything about the incident until the meeting closed, and made statements insinuating that they were either cowards or weak-kneed, and certainly not the sort of fellows who could stand up to it and blame the Government for errors committed by them.

It was with the deepest regret that a few days ago we in the East learnt from the newspapers of the dastardly attempt that was made on the life of our Chief Secretary. Some of us have already expressed to him our personal sympathy in this matter and congratulated him on his narrow escape. To very many of us (and I can say this with confidence on behalf of those from the Eastern Region) this incident is regarded as a personal, detached and isolated act of an irresponsible individual probably suffering from mental aberration or delusion. The matter is in court and is *sub-judice*. But attempts are now being made to attach some political significance to this matter and I am confident that if that is so the C.I.D. will not be found wanting in their responsibilities.

There are a good many of us in this country who do not believe that Nigeria should earn her political emancipation by plots and assassinations. We Members of this House, in common with good many other men and women of good will in this country, love this our native land as ardently as any patriot has ever loved his or her own country. We are prepared to die for it should there be any need for it (and we must be convinced that there is a need for it). I venture to predict that should that time ever come, many of us will be found in the front line prepared to lay down our lives for our country, while many of those who are now acclaiming themselves as leaders will be seeking for refuge elsewhere.

Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

#### His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces :

Your Excellency, I rise to support the Motion before the House, and what I want to talk about, Sir, if I may, is a subject which has been touched upon by one Honourable Member already, and that is the economic development and the increased revenue we may expect from that. One of the Honourable Members of the Northern Provinces stressed the vital importance of the peasantry and the countryside and urged us not to concentrate all our thoughts and activities on the large towns. I readily agree with him, Sir, and I am as well aware as he is that the rural areas are the backbone. I propose this morning to deal entirely or almost entirely with the rural areas and not the urban dwellers.

What I should like to do is to attempt briefly to sketch out some aspects not only of what we are planning to do in the North, but also to inform the House of some of the things that have been achieved so far. I am going to say over again most of what has already been reported, and a great deal of what has already been said before, but I do not think myself, Sir, that that will do any harm, as only by constant repetition can one achieve wide understanding of problems and of policy.

Now I do not propose, Sir, to discuss the foundations on which must be built any New Jerusalem. I know that those foundations

must and will be laid and that they lie in character, in integrity, in scholarship and learning, in technical ability; in a word, Sir, I know perfectly well that they lie in education, moral, academic, and practical. Nowhere is that felt more strongly than in the North, which has been left so far behind in all branches of education, and is now so eager to make up the leeway and draw level and pass ahead of the other Regions. I know those are the foundations, but it is not those foundations I want to talk about today, Sir. What I want to talk about today is on what those foundations must stand—on the earth and the rock that lies beneath it. That, I submit Sir, is what is vital, utterly vital, and it is, and I repeat what I said the other day, the top few inches of soil and our ability to keep it fertile. The conservation of water from above on which vegetation depends and the raising of water from below from wells and boreholes and the like. Now, Sir, several Honourable Members have painted an unhappy picture of lack of food and of a drift from agriculture and the rising cost of foodstuffs. They have said that they are indeed worried. I, Sir, am extremely worried at the rise in price of corn and the rising price of foodstuffs, and I will go further on this agricultural subject and I will say that if in the future we neglect our farmlands cropping them year after year until they are exhausted, moving on to new land, cutting the bush and denuding the hillsides, taking everything from the land and putting nothing back to it, if we hand on to another generation a countryside wasted and eroded, then we are simply predooming them to ruin.

The best constructed constitution will then crumble, knowledge will fail, medicine no longer cure, when an under-nourished, starving and despairing people seek for their daily food, and seek in vain, because the fertility is dead. This is the position, Sir, and the point is what are we doing about it? We are doing a very great deal about it in the North and I shall confine myself to just a few of the things we are doing in order to ensure for the coming generation that that picture will not materialise.

My Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary, when referring to the wave of prosperity which had been reflected in the finances of this country, remarked in his speech on Saturday that the honeymoon is over. I go further and say that it is from the marriage of soil and agriculture that the twins of wealth and welfare must take their birth. Those are the founders of the line that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

Now I will talk about some details of planning and of achievement. Several Members have stressed the vital factor of water supply and we all know that without water nothing can exist, human, animal, or plant. And since so much depends on water in the North it has had an early place in our plans. I will now tell you what have we achieved in the provision of water for the rural areas of the North. The Water Supply Department was first a

branch of the Geological Survey Department, but since the war it has become the responsibility of the Public Works Department. Since the inauguration of that Water Supply Department, it has constructed no less than 3,000 cement lined wells, and, as Honourable Members will remember it was laid down in the Development Plan that one well would be regarded as the water supply of 500 people. By the simple arithmetical sum of multiplying 3,000 by 500 it will be appreciated that we have already supplied water in our rural development schemes for one and a half million people. In the current year six hundred new wells will be completed, and our target for next year is 800 wells. Thus our target for next year is to supply water for a further 400,000 people and I am entirely confident that that target figure will be reached. I submit, Sir, that the figure of 3,000 cement lined wells is a very real achievement, however you look at it. One cannot give an example such as that the footage of the wells would stretch all the way from Baghdad to Alexandria, but it is equivalent to sixty miles of well shafts: and sixty miles is a very real achievement.

The sinking of open wells is not of course the only activity of the Rural Water Supply Section, and we are boring for water in many areas and have been most successful. I do not want to leave this subject of what we are planning, and what we are doing, without making reference to what is perhaps the greatest water venture of all, and that is the deep drilling about to be undertaken in the Province of Bornu, the north-eastern corner of Nigeria. I will not weary the House with an amateur dissertation on the geological formation of Africa. It will be sufficient for me to say that what is known as the Chad basin is the greatest inland water drainage basin in the whole continent of Africa, and one which holds in underground storage the water carried into it by most of the principle river systems of North Eastern Nigeria. No less than 50,000 square miles of that basin lie within the Northern Provinces. For long enough I consider have we sat on the top of this vast water supply without having finally proved its full potentiality. What testing we have so far been able to do has given us every hope that we shall strike water under pressure—we have already had rises of over 700 feet and in one case achieved a surface flow:—and I am convinced from the data we have already got that if we drill down through the alluvium to the rock base of the basin we shall tap vast resources of water under great pressure. One has only to consider what has been achieved in other parts of the world where artesian flowing water has been found to feel convinced that here lies the chance, perhaps the only chance, of really spectacular development in the arid areas of that part of the Western Sudan which lies in the Northern Provinces. The contract for this deep drilling has been let to a firm of great repute in the United Kingdom, and in a few months' time we shall know the answer to it all. The cost of the contract is approximately £100,000.

I have taken up so much of Honourable Members' time in talking about water that I had better go on to plans for farming.

As Honourable Members well know, the hard-working peasant farmer of the Northern Provinces cannot with the means at his disposal, that is to say the hoe, cultivate more than four acres. Two courses lie open to us, first to enable him to cultivate more than four acres, second to get a better yield per acre of that four acres.

It is within the knowledge of all of you that to achieve these objects the establishment of mixed farming and animal husbandry was the foundation of our agricultural policy in the North. I know it is not the complete answer, and it is not the only answer, but it goes a very long way towards solving the problem, in areas where it is suitable. It enables him with his oxen and his plough and his animal husbandry to plough and manure fourteen acres of land whereas before he could only farm four acres.

Now, what has been achieved? The first three mixed farmers were established in Kano Province in 1928 with ploughs and oxen. Expansion was very slow, as is inevitable with all new ideas, and it took an endless amount of time and trouble to get this new system across. In the first five years numbers only rose to 173, but by 1938 there were 1,600. The war years slowed us down but by 1948 the total was over 4,700, and last year, in the last twelve months, the increase was over 1,000, and the demand for ploughs and oxen was unsatisfied. From that you will see that nearly 6,000 mixed farmers are now established, and by patient endeavour and widespread demonstration the confidence and goodwill of the farmers has been won at last, and in many districts there are long waiting lists of applicants wishing to be set up as mixed farmers. We have 4,000 ploughs on order at this very moment, and thus we may well reach the 10,000 mark by next year. This system and the various settlement schemes, such as those in Shendam where an area of 600 square miles of virgin bush is available and where well over 200 families have already moved in to their new homes in planned settlements and their twenty acre farms: in Jema'a, and in Kontagora, and the big Colonial Development Corporation project at Mokwa, are all increasing the acreage under cultivation. There are today in the Northern Provinces fourteen million acres of land actually being farmed. Now fourteen million acres is a great deal of land. One Honourable Member did suggest that the Director of Agriculture might deal with the food shortage by taking up farming. He should be an excellent farmer, but I doubt if he could farm more than one thousand acres if he take it up. We want to tackle these fourteen million acres and if we can take real steps to multiply up the yield per acre then indeed we are really achieving something which will have a momentous effect on our economy and will help put our finances on a firm and solid basis.

and it will help our food and our cost of living to an immeasurable extent. One way we plan to do that is by the introduction of irrigation whereby we can get two crops in twelve months where one grew before. Plans and schemes to this effect are actually in operation in two Provinces. But there is yet an even more important scheme to multiply up yield per acre. It is being financed this year by the Regional Production Development Board. It is a scheme for the widespread use of phosphatic fertilizers. Honourable Members will recall that at the last Budget Session the Director of Agriculture reported to the House that their experiments in the use of phosphatic fertilizers had at last proved successful, and could with every confidence be adopted. I do not know in what the other Regions did about that but I can tell you what we in the North did—we ordered 1,000 tons at once, and that 1,000 tons has cost us £35,000. Teams from six of the Provinces recently attended course in the use of this fertilizers—the practical application of it. These teams will now proceed to demonstrate the use of the fertilizer pellets to villagers, and to demonstrate to the farmers the increased yield and profit that can accrue from their use both in groundnuts and corn. I say both groundnuts and corn because one Honourable Member thought that we were concentrating our efforts possibly too much on groundnuts. This 1,000 tons is being issued free. Once the farmers appreciate the great benefits which will accrue, we plan, Sir, that within five years we shall reach an import of 16,000 tons of fertilizer a year and I personally am satisfied that the farmers will buy it. We do not intend to go on issuing it free once it is appreciated that it is the answer. Perhaps I might quote here just a single paragraph from an Address which I caused to be read to the demonstration teams:

“ It has been estimated that in the export of 300,000 tons of groundnuts a year the soil of Nigeria is losing annually the equivalent of 17,000 tons of phosphate. Farmyard manure assists in part in replacing this but it can never meet it all. We are proposing to make up this deficiency with the fertilizer now to be issued.

“ To make good this deficiency is therefore clearly a duty but it will also bring profit. The yield of farms in which the soils are tired becomes low. Phosphates while restoring the fertility will raise the yield. It had been estimated that the expenditure of £1 on fertilizer will result in an increase in the yield of groundnuts of as much as £3. £2 of this is clear profit ”.

This is indeed a great experiment, and if it is successful, not only may we expect to increase groundnut production by 100,000 tons a year, but the annual shortages, high prices and empty stomachs of the early rains will be a thing of the past. Not only will guinea corn production then meet all local needs, but it will be available

for livestock to increase the protein in our diet with good meat, and even to provide, as surplus to all our internal needs, a new export overseas with which to pay for our increasing imports.

I appreciate that I have painted a somewhat rosy picture. I have not mentioned the ravages of pests such as the trogoderma in groundnuts nor the pink and red boll worms which attack our cotton nor of the weed known as “ Kashin Yawo ” which is ruining grazing, nor of our difficulties over rainfall, lack of transport and communications. What I set out to do this morning was to record some definite achievements, and I do not think that the record of the past year in those fields means that the “ backward North ” has stood still while others have gone ahead. I submit that it shows that we are dealing with what is vital, so that later “ all these things will be added into it ”.

Sir Arthur Richards (as he then was), said in 1947 “ The price of progress must be paid for in the currency of hard work ”.

Your Excellency, at this meeting, also stressed the need for hard work and for greater production.

I am proud, Sir, to believe that, encouraged, guided and assisted by the Native Authorities and their Councils the great mass of the farmers of the Northern Region are showing, and will show, their faith in such works as will make this country prosperous, healthy, happy and worthy of the aspirations towards which we move.

Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

#### His Excellency:

If no other Honourable Member wishes to address Council I suggest that the fact that we have had a fairly short morning this morning might enable progress to be made in some at least of the Select Committees that have been appointed.

I adjourn work in Council until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Council adjourned at 11.30 a.m.*



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## Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

### Thursday, 9th March, 1950

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Chamber of the Eastern House of Assembly, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 9th of March, 1950.

#### PRESENT

##### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour Sir Chandos Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Captain Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E.,  
C.M.G., M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Acting Attorney-General,  
The Honourable A. Ridehalgh, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,  
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,  
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,  
The Honourable C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Director of Education,  
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,  
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,  
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,  
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Honourable B. E. Sharwood-Smith, E.D.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,  
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.

The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable P. V. Main.

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Member for the Colony,  
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.

The First Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable T. A. Odotola, O.B.E.

The First Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.

The Emir of Gwandu,  
The Honourable Yahaya, C.M.G., C.B.E.

The Emir of Katsina,  
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.

The Oni of Ife,  
The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.

The Atta of Igbirra,  
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.

The Emir of Abuja,  
The Honourable Sulemanu.

The First Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Bello Kano.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.

The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Iro Katsina.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.

The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.

The Second Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable N. Essien.

The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

The Second Nominated Member,  
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.

The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Soetan.

#### ABSENT

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Oba of Benin,  
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.

The First Nominated Member,  
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

#### PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of March, 1950, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### QUESTIONS

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. C. D. Onyeama):

43. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

(a) How old is Galadima Abdulkadir the son of the ex-Sarkin of Gaya in Kano Emirate?

(b) Was this Galadima ever a village head in Gaya; if so, is he still such a village head?

(c) Is it true that he was removed from this office about ten years ago?

(d) If so, of what offence was he guilty to necessitate his removal from office?

(e) Was he tried in any Court, and was he ever accorded any opportunity of rebutting any charges brought against him?

(f) If he was removed from office, where did he reside after such removal?

(g) After such removal was he ever charged in any Court for any offence? If he was so charged, for what offence(s) was he charged and what verdict was returned?

[Hon. C. D. Onyeama]

[Question]

(h) Is Government aware that this Galadima is a brother of one Adamu Gaya?

(i) Is it a fact that this Adamu Gaya was beaten by the orders of the present District Head of Gaya for failing to take off his slippers while he was in close proximity to the District Head?

(j) Is it a fact that this Adamu Gaya was sentenced to imprisonment for one month for failing to salute the District Head, and was subsequently acquitted by the Supreme Court at Kano?

(k) Is it a fact that after this acquittal, His Excellency acting under his powers conferred by section 2 of the Ex-Native Office holders Removal Ordinance, 1933, ordered Galadima Abdulkadir alleged to be a blood relation of this Adamu Gaya to leave the area where he was born and where he had lived for at least sixty years?

(l) Is it a fact that another blood relation of Adamu Gaya named Dawaki Bello was similarly ordered to leave the District of Gaya?

(m) What office did this Dawaki Bello hold at Gaya previous to this order?

(n) How long a time elapsed between his ceasing to hold this office and the order made by His Excellency that he should leave Gaya?

(o) Had he in the intervening period been charged or found guilty of any offence?

(p) Where is it proposed that these people who have been forced to leave their people and their homes should now live?

Answer—

His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:

(a) About sixty years.

(b) Yes; he was village head of Shagogo in Gaya District. He is no longer a village head.

(c) Yes; twelve years ago.

(d) Embezzlement of tax money.

(e) Yes; by the Court of the Emir of Kano. He was given the usual facilities for rebutting the charges.

(f) In Gaya Town, Kano Province.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Government is aware that they are related but they are not brothers.

(i) He was not beaten, his face was slapped.

(j) Adamu Gaya was sentenced to one month's imprisonment by the Chief Alkali Kano on a charge of conducting himself in such a manner as likely to cause a breach of the peace in a public place (*contra* section 249 (d) of the Criminal Code). Adamu Gaya appealed to the Supreme Court against the verdict and the conviction was quashed.

(k) The appeal was heard in the Supreme Court, Kano, on 12th September, 1949. The Governor made order for the removal of Galadima Abdulkadir and Dawaki Bello on 13th September, 1949. (The machinery for the removal of these two persons was

[C.C.N.P.]

[Answer]

set in motion a considerable time before the case of Adamu Gaya arose; the reports on which action was based were, in fact, made in January, 1949.)

(l) Yes, Sir.

(m) He was at one time village head of Dawaki (South Ward of Gaya Town).

(n) Nineteen years. Deposed in 1930, for tax embezzlement.

(o) No, Sir.

(p) They are at liberty to live wheresoever they please so long as they do not return to the District of Gaya and the districts adjacent thereto, thus contravening the Governor's order referred to above.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

67. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) For the academic qualifications and experience of the following officials in the Commerce and Industries Department, and why they are entitled to the scales of salaries proposed in the 1950-51 Estimates.

(i) Economic Publications Officer

(ii) Principal Commercial Officer

(iii) Industrial Executive

(iv) Principal Farm Industries Officer

(v) Principal Engineer

(vi) Principal Chemist

(vii) Principal Industrial Officer

(viii) Senior Industrial Officer

(ix) Industrial Officer

(x) Farm Industries Officer.

(b) For a brief indication of the nature of the work of the officers mentioned.

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

(a) Although steps have been taken to recruit for them, no appointments have yet been made to the following posts:—

Economic Publications Officer

Principal Commercial Officer

Principal Engineer

Principal Chemist

Principal Industrial Officer

Senior Industrial Officer

Farm Industries Officer,

and it is not therefore possible to reply to the question in respect of these posts. A number of candidates is under consideration and appointments are likely to be made in the near future.

The post of *Industrial Executive* is held by an officer who previously held the appointments of Commercial Executive in the Supply Branch of the Nigerian Secretariat (1945-1947) and

[C.S.G.]

[Answer]

Commercial Officer in the Department of Commerce and Industries (1947-1949). His experience prior to his appointment to Government Service in Nigeria includes ten years' service in the Civil Service in the United Kingdom (His Majesty's Stationery Office) and eighteen years as Manager and District Manager respectively with the African and Eastern Trading Company and with the United Africa Company Limited in Nigeria. He left school at the age of fifteen and passed the entrance and promotion examinations for His Majesty's Civil Service. In 1923 he was given one year's special leave to study farming in Australia.

It has been possible so far to fill only one post of *Industrial Officer*, though again there are several prospective candidates. The Industrial Officer already appointed holds the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate, was an exhibitioner at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, obtained the Cambridge Natural Sciences Tripos Part I, Class II, and is a Master of Arts. He has qualified for a Diploma in Agricultural Science. Prior to his appointment to this Government as a Development Officer in 1946, he served with Messrs Hoare Miller and Company Limited, Calcutta, a large firm of importers and exporters, as Manager of their Steamer Agency, between 1926 and 1936; was Manager of the Indian Oxygen and Acetylene Company Limited of Bombay from 1937 to 1939; and was acting Manager of the Great Eastern Life Assurance Company Limited, Colombo, from 1939 to 1940. In the latter year he joined the Royal Indian Naval Volunteer Reserve and served throughout the war as a Lieutenant. He was appointed to the Department of Commerce and Industries in November, 1947.

The emoluments proposed in the 1950-51 Draft Estimates for each of the posts enumerated in the Question are those considered appropriate to the duties to be performed by, and to the qualifications required of, the officers appointed or to be appointed. These emoluments have already received the approval of the Legislature—Memoranda for Finance Committee Nos. 7, 142, 146 and 181 of 1949-50 refer.

(b) An indication of the nature of the work of the officers mentioned was given in the "Proposals for the Expansion of the Department of Commerce and Industries" copies of which were circulated under cover of Memorandum for Finance Committee No. 146/1949-50, to all Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. The Honourable Member's attention is also invited to pages eight to ten of the Memorandum on the Estimates for 1950-51.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

73. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) For the total number of non-Christian Students (boys and girls) admitted to Secondary Schools in Nigeria since 1930, as against Christian Students.

(b) Can these figures be expressed in percentages?

[Dir. of Education]

[Answer]

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Education:**

(a) and (b) It is regretted that statistics are not kept showing the religious beliefs of pupils under instruction. I shall, however, obtain the requisite information in respect of the year 1950 and forward it to the Honourable Member.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

86. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(i) What is meant by the term King-makers?

(ii) What are their functions in England and in the Colony of Lagos in the Seventeenth and Twentieth Centuries?

(iii) How can there be King-makers in Lagos when there is no sovereignty?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(i) I understand that the term "king-maker" as used in the Yoruba areas is a loose translation of the Yoruba word "Afobaje".

(ii) As the Honourable Member knows, the Standing Rules and Orders limit questions to *ex-officio* Members to public affairs with which they are officially connected, proceedings pending in the Council or any matter of administration for which such Members are responsible. That being so, I do not think that I shall be expected to discuss questions of English history, but I think that I am right in saying that there were no king-makers in England in the seventeenth century, and there are certainly no king-makers in England today. In Twentieth Century Lagos the term is applied to the body of Chiefs or Elders which by tradition or custom select a new head Chief.

(iii) As has been explained, the word "king-maker" is a loose translation of "Afobaje". No question of sovereignty arises.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

99. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

What are the academic qualifications and experience of the Administrative Assistant in the Medical Department?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

The post is not yet approved or filled.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiyam, O.B.E.):**

106. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

What will be the total cost (Running Expenses) to the Government of a Government General Hospital with 100 beds?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

Approximately £18,000 per annum including Personal Emoluments.

[Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām]

[Question]

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām, O.B.E.):

107. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—
- (a) How many Government Hospitals are there in Nigeria, (i) General Hospitals (ii) Former European Hospitals?
- (b) What was the total expenditure on (i) and (ii) above for the years 1947-48, and 1948-49?
- (c) What was the total number of In-Patients in (i) and (ii) above for the years 1947-48, and 1948-49?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

- (a) 80—(i) 69—General Hospitals.  
(ii) 11—Former European Hospitals.
- (b) It is regretted that the figures required are not available since separate detailed accounts are not kept in respect of the cost of running each hospital throughout the country.
- (c) 1947—In-patients  
(i) 103,183—General Hospitals.  
(ii) 2,829—Former European Hospitals.
- 1948—In-patients  
(i) 133,880—General Hospitals.  
(ii) 3,048—Former European Hospitals.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām, O.B.E.):

108. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—
- (a) How many Voluntary Agencies' Hospitals are there in Nigeria?
- (b) What was the total number of In-Patients in these Hospitals for the years 1947-48, and 1948-49?
- (c) What was the total expenditure on these Hospitals during the past two financial years, 1947-48, and 1948-49?
- (d) How much of this expenditure was contributed by Government?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

- (a) Twenty-nine.
- (b) It is regretted that the figures required are not available because details of the number of in-patients in their hospitals are not supplied by Voluntary Agencies.
- (c) It is regretted that the figures of total expenditure at these hospitals are not available since the information is not supplied by the Voluntary Agencies.
- (d) In 1947-48 Government contributed £400 from Head 24, Sub-head 14,

[D.M.S.]

[Answer]

In 1948-49 Government contributed £38,650 as follows:—

			£
Head 51.	Section W.	Sub-head 30 ...	11,000
Head 51.	Section W.	Sub-head 31 ...	27,250
Head 35.	Eastern.	Sub-head 14 ...	400
			£38,650

Supplementary Questions to No. 108 (b) by the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiām, O.B.E.):

Is it not a fact that doctors in charge of voluntary agency hospitals are usually required to make annual returns of their working in any one year, on Government prescribed forms, to be returned to the Government not later than the 31st January of the year following?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

So far as I am aware, Sir, that only applies to leper settlements.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām, O.B.E.):

Will the Honourable the Director of Medical Services make sure that these returns are only made by Leper Colonies?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

Yes, Sir.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

136. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Whether he will confirm or deny the allegation that a high Official in the Civil Service of Nigeria held a Meeting in "B" Ward with some Lagos Chiefs on the 13th February, 1950, between 9 and 11.30 p.m. and that one of the decisions arrived at among other decisions was to the effect that "Women in Lagos shall pay tax"?

Answer—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I have no knowledge of any such meeting.

## BILLS

## (Second Reading)

THE 1950-51 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1950

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces (The Hon. A. Soetan):

Your Excellency, it has hitherto been my good fortune to attend the Budget Sessions of the Legislative Council in new and magnificent buildings. Last year, our Budget Session was held in

the new Western House of Assembly Hall at Ibadan, then opened for the first time in 1949. This year the Budget Session is being held in this beautiful and commodious edifice, the Eastern House of Assembly Hall, in this coal city of Enugu, also being used for the first time. I associate myself, Sir, with the sentiments of gratitude and appreciation expressed by Your Excellency to all those who have worked particularly hard to arrange for this building to be constructed in time for this meeting. Also to His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces and his staff and all the members of the Enugu Community for the efforts which they have so hospitably made for our comfort and convenience during our stay in this town.

The complaint that is often made that Lagos is unduly favoured, not only where public expenditure and public buildings are concerned, but also as regards the meetings of the Legislative Council can no longer be justified. Since 1948 the Budget Sessions of the Legislative Council have been held outside Lagos. In 1948 it was held at Kaduna, last year it was held at Ibadan and now it is being held in the Eastern Regional Capital at Enugu. The circle is now complete. Legislative Council meetings have now been held in all the regional capitals and there can, therefore, be no justification for any further groushings.

Your Excellency's reference to Mr Savage, our ex-Financial Secretary, is timely and appreciated, especially as we have had no opportunity of taking leave of him before he proceeded to assume his well-merited appointment as the Governor of Barbados. Mr Savage has carved for himself a niche in the heart of each and everyone of us. We all have the highest opinion of him and his most admirable work. He was so simple and sincere and at the same time so capable and most unassuming. He richly deserved the co-operation he received from every member of this Council. His successor, our new Financial Secretary, has already shown himself to be a counterpart of Mr Savage. The budget he has presented to this House and his budget speech show clearly that "the mantle of Elijah has fallen upon Elijah". I sincerely congratulate him.

Some criticism was levelled some time ago on the intrinsic value of making a speech of a general nature surveying the whole field of administration at a debate on the Appropriation Bill as it is customary at our Budget Session. I think, Sir, that the logic of this procedure is obvious. It is quite desirable to review the activities of a department of government to which money has been or about to be voted and to show whether the expenditure of taxpayers' money is properly managed, controlled or justified. It is also not out of place to ventilate the feelings as well as the complaints and needs of the taxpayers and also to animadvert on Your Excellency's speech and generally to criticise government policy where necessary and review political situation.

In presenting the Appropriation Bill, the Honourable the Financial Secretary opened with the remarks that the economic and financial state of Nigeria is good. He has budgeted for £41,450,047 and expressed the hope that the Budget will be balanced during the forthcoming year by revenue from existing sources. He also gave the welcome assurance that in view of the estimated budgetary position, it has not been thought desirable to impose any additional taxation this year. This assurance was received with ovation by the Honourable Members. One of the Honourable Members, however, does not share the optimism of the Financial Secretary, but I think, Sir, that the probability is in favour of the Financial Secretary's view. He has also referred to the outstanding feature of 1949 as the high level of economic activity in the country and that the basis of our prosperity is to be found in the good crops of primary products grown in recent years and the high prices which they brought on world markets. The volume of our export shows a considerable rise in 1949 and he gave the tonnage as follows: groundnuts 350,000 tons, palm kernels 352,000 tons and palm oil 160,000 tons, cocoa 102,000 tons, hides and skins 12,200 tons, tin 11,900 tons. Besides tin no other mineral was mentioned and like the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, I should like to know what quantity of gold, columbite, lead and other minerals, if any, were exported during 1949. The value of exports in 1939 was stated to be just over ten million pounds, whereas in 1949, that is within a decade, their value was nearly sixty million while the value of imports from overseas in 1949 rose to fifty-six million pounds. While this is a matter of considerable satisfaction, Your Excellency advised that it must not be accepted in a spirit of complacency, and the Financial Secretary definitely stated that although the economic picture is attractive, it is not as good as it ought to have been, and that the commercial advance has brought its own problems and difficulties. The high prices of our produce have had a double-edged effect in that many farmers have in consequence concentrated on exportable crops at the expense of indigenous foods required for local consumption, and unless we turn our attention to the production of local foodstuffs in large quantities side by side with exportable crops we may in future be faced with famine.

Sir, the Financial Secretary has fully explained our present loan position and prospects as well as the total estimated revenue and total expenditure. We shall in select committee go into details regarding these and the different votes to different government departments. The annual statement on government activities laid on the table of this House as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1950 provides an insight into the workings of the different departments of the Government during 1949. It is gratifying to note that it is hoped to post Welfare Officers to Abeokuta, Ibadan and Warri during 1950, and to establish Remand Homes in Abeokuta and Ibadan.

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[Hon. A. Soetan]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

Your Excellency, I would like to see greater attention paid to the Civil Service of Nigeria. The Civil Service is the kernel of any Government. It is the administrative part of the government, and without efficiency in the Civil Service of a Government, no progress or any advance can be made. The personnel of the Civil Service of Nigeria is made up of the expatriate and non-expatriate officials. I like to see that the Government always holds the scale of justice with equal poise between the two classes of officials. I congratulate the Government on the adoption of "equal pay for equal work" system, but an expatriate still has the advantage of expatriation allowance over a non-expatriate, an allowance which is pensionable and which is costing the country a great deal of money every year. A Nigerian civil servant who is stationed hundreds of miles from his home is much in the same position as an expatriate. His condition in some cases is even worse than that of an expatriate and yet he receives no consideration for an allowance, hence the misgivings between Nigerian and non-Nigerian Civil Servants over this question of expatriation allowance. Sir, can anything be done to ameliorate the position? Either cancel the allowance altogether or do something for non-expatriates to equalise. I commend this point to the serious consideration of the Government.

There is also the question regarding rates of salary in certain senior service appointments. During this session the question was asked: (a) Why a magistrate in the civil service on being elevated to the post of a puisne judge from Scale A goes to £1,950, whereas a Medical Officer in Scale A, on being promoted to the specialist grade receives only £1,300, plus £400 expatriation allowance? and (b) Is it to be implied that the status of the medical, surgical, ophthalmic or gynaecological specialist is inferior to that of the Puisne Judge? The Honourable the Chief Secretary replied: (a) I am not sure that I understand the question and I can only say in reply that when an officer is promoted to a post he obviously must be paid the salary attached to that post. The salary of a Puisne Judge is £1,950 a year and the salary of a Medical Officer is £1,350, plus £400 expatriation allowance, if he is entitled to that allowance. (b) The question is one of rates of salary rather than status; and the salary of a Puisne Judge has been fixed at a higher rate than that of a Medical Officer in the specialist grade. It might be added, however, that under present arrangements most medical officers in the specialist grade also receive fees for private practice. Your Excellency, my object in referring to this question is to point to the disparity in the salary of those in the medical directorates, who do not enjoy private practice as the medical officers in the specialist grade, when compared with the salary of a puisne judge, who, in answer to a supplementary question to the above, is said to be a member of the civil service. I was thinking that the puisne judges were a class by themselves, whereas the answer referred to above shows that they are civil servants and, therefore, the minds of some

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of the medical officers in the directorate are worried that their rate of salary is not the same as that of puisne judges, and yet they are both supposed to be civil servants.

Your Excellency, I shall now briefly refer to the case of the member of the junior civil service. All the members of this august assembly on the official side are Heads of various Departments of Government, and I am sure, Sir, that each of them will have a story to tell about the constant complaints of the members of the junior service about one thing or another in connection with their conditions of service, particularly as regards insufficiency of salary in relation to the ever rising cost of living. I like to see greater attention paid to the comfort and convenience of the Junior Civil Servants. Give them, as far as possible, the encouragement they need, so that they can give better service. Make them feel that they are working not only for their salary but also for the good and progress of Nigeria. Better attention should be paid to the housing of those who are transferred to distant places, where they are strangers with hardly anyone to care for them. There are in this town over 250 Junior Civil Servants who are badly in need of accommodation. Particularly pitiable is the case of members of the Printing Department who were recently transferred *en bloc* to this town. They are, I understand, about fifty strong. Some of them had to sleep for days in the office on arrival in this town, and many of them still have to loiter about after a strenuous day's work; they have nowhere in particular to rest. Some of them I am informed still have their luggage in the Railway Sheds for want of a place to remove them to. The condition of these young civil servants need to be looked into.

Your Excellency, I join Honourable Members in advocating for a proper office and equipment for the Clerk to the Legislative Council and I should like to pay special tribute to the admirable work of the department. Regarding staff situation, the department in which the shortage of staff is most acute is the engineering, and I agree with the observations of the Second Member for the Northern Provinces on this matter. The picture cannot be better painted than in the words of Your Excellency last Thursday, which are as follows:—

"We do not now lack material and equipment to nearly the same extent as in the years immediately following the war, but the staff position so far from improving has deteriorated, and in the professional and technical departments, particularly the engineering services, we are—and I am choosing my words with care and a full sense of responsibility—very near to a disastrous break-down. We must face this problem and find a solution for it if our plans are not to fail."

Your Excellency, it is almost too late but we realise the seriousness of the situation.

The attitude of the Public Works Department in the past was more or less responsible for the present situation. As regards our engineering appointments, no inducement was given to our boys to pursue engineering courses, and those who took the course were so much discouraged that they very nearly regretted their choice and that scared away many of our boys with inclinations for engineering. We need engineers. We cannot do without them. Inducement should now be given to attract engineers from abroad while local talents are encouraged to pursue the course with bright hopes for the future.

*Judicial Department.*—There is still a continued shortage of judges and magistrates in this department, as shown in the annual statement. There should be no need for such a situation. Vacancies for the post of judges can be filled from the ranks of our magistrates and experienced members of the Bar with necessary qualifications, while those of the magistrates can be filled from the ranks of the junior barristers with necessary qualifications.

*Legal Department.*—I should like to pay tribute to the work of this department which continue steadily to increase and I should also like, Sir, to congratulate our genial and energetic Attorney-General for the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him. This is an award rarely bestowed on serving law officers and I cannot remember a precedent in Nigeria. I should also like to congratulate our worthy and kind-hearted Solicitor-General, who has also been honoured by the appointment as King's Counsel. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when African members of the Bar will also be so honoured.

*Public Relations.*—This department deserves mention for the good work it is doing. When the Legislative Council met at Ibadan last March arrangements were made for a daily summary of the proceedings to be broadcast. The department has also started to broadcast the proceedings of this present session as shown by the press release from the Regional Public Relations Office at Enugu now in circulation. The Ibadan Regional Office produces its own monthly newspaper—*The Western News*—which is freely circulated. This department is justifying its existence and deserves every encouragement and admiration.

*Pharmacists.*—Your Excellency, I associate myself with the remarks of the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces relating to the pharmacists in the civil service. They deserve every encouragement and I also advocate that their status should be raised.

*Education.*—Too much cannot be said or expended in the cause of education. It is one of the most important things we need in our race for self-government. I advocate compulsory elementary education and also adult education or community development.

The activities of our Education Department deserve praise and encouragement, but there is still much room for expansion and improvement.

*Nigerianisation.*—Your Excellency, the pace of Nigerianisation of the civil service is not fast enough. I quite appreciate what has already been done. Different departments should push ahead more energetically with the implementation of the recommendations of the Nigerianisation Commission as regards training schemes as well as the appointment and promotion of Nigerians to the Senior Service of the Government. It is gratifying to note that 192 Nigerians have been appointed to the senior service and 243 scholarships and training awards have been made. Sir, our needs are great. We need industry and the capital to support it. Most of the capital available in Nigeria today is in foreign hands. The heavy company tax of nine shillings in the pound is scaring even the foreign capital away and gives no room for the formation of small local companies. Local industries are therefore hampered. I respectfully invite the Government to revise this excessive income tax. We also need skill, technical and managerial, as well as increased efforts. There should be a plan to industrialise Nigeria on a large scale. We should no longer be mere producers of raw materials. We should be taught how to process our raw materials and be able to manufacture different commodities. We need the training in our preparation for self-government, and the training should not be denied us. I appeal to the Government to establish industrial and manufacturing institutes.

Your Excellency, I wish to refer to the press of this country. The press has been described as the "Fourth Estate of the Realm." It does not appear that some of the members of the press in this country realise the sacredness of their profession or the responsibility which devolves upon them as press journalists or reporters, otherwise there will be less dissemination of false news and misrepresentations. The influence that the press can exert on the minds of the public is untold and such influence can be wielded for the weal or woe of either an individual or a community. It has been said that the pen is mightier than the sword. It is not desirable that press should be gagged, but at the same time the safety of the public is the supreme law. It is therefore the duty of the Government to protect the public from any deleterious influence of the press. In Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1950, laid on the table, at page 6, it is recorded that "there has been an improvement in the political situation in Abeokuta. The Alake's abdication was announced in January, 1949, and the Central Council continued as the Interim Native Authority until proper elections were held in June. These are generally admitted to have been successful and the new council has since shown commendable energy in facing its problems. It is quite clear, Sir, that since the abdication, the office of the Alake of Abeokuta has become vacant and no one is at



present known as the Alake of Abeokuta as published in the *Nigerian Tribune* of Saturday, March 4th, 1950, exploiting Question No. 5 and the answer thereto contained in the Legislative Order of the Day of 2nd March, 1950, with a photograph of the ex-Alake in the front page and a misleading inscription thereunder of:—  
 “Oba Ademola II, the Alake of Egbaland. He is free to move and live anywhere in Nigeria.” On the last page of the same issue there is also the headlines in bold letters:—“Alake is a Free Ruler—could move and live anywhere in Nigeria.”

Sir, a publication of this nature is misleading and likely to cause an upheaval in the political situation in Abeokuta. That is why I have referred to it.

Now, Sir, Your Excellency referred to the tragic incident which happened here in Enugu and in some parts of the Eastern Provinces last November. We in the West sincerely extend our sympathy to those who were concerned and we regard this as a national issue and shall anxiously await the report of the commission which will no doubt locate responsibilities and the culprits, whether black or white, will then be brought to justice. We, in Nigeria, are long suffering but we always insist on seeing that justice is done.

Your Excellency, we in the West also express sympathy with the Honourable the Chief Secretary for the dastardly attempt on his life, and we congratulate him on the miraculous escape which he had. Sir, Nigeria has always been known to be peace-loving and anyone who attempts to dishonour the good name of Nigeria will find himself in the warm embrace of the law. The good name of Nigeria is dear to the heart of everyone of us. Your Excellency, we shall still maintain that good name and do everything to preserve it.

Your Excellency, I support the Appropriation Bill.

**The Third Member for the Northern Provinces (The Hon. Iro Katsina):**

Your Excellency, I would like to refer first to some points in Your Excellency's opening speech.

A mention has been made of building a suitable legislative chamber at the centre. This is very necessary, Sir, and I am sure that the Regional Representatives will give their whole-hearted support to the motion of building a new one. I wish also to point out to the House that the accommodation for members of the Legislative Council already discussed to be built, should be increased in view of the increasing number of members in the House of Representatives now in consideration. I would like also to associate myself with the Honourable the Second Member for the North in suggesting for the Clerks of the Legislative Council and their Staff, to have an elaborate office with a library where record books

and reference can be kept for the use of the Members of this House. This should be considered at the same time with building the new chamber.

The next point is the maintenance of public security. This is the matter of vital importance. Indeed, it is the work of Government to maintain laws and orders. The public will be very pleased to hear that Government will take every step that may be necessary now and in future to protect person and property, and to prevent violence and disorder. In carrying out these duties, Sir, I am sure the Government will have the full support of the public.

Now, Sir, if one goes through the Annual Statement on Government activities presented to the House by Your Excellency, and the report on the General Progress of Development and Welfare Schemes, it will be seen that there is a lot of improvement achieved in all the departments, but I noticed that in the Medical and Veterinary Departments, and some others, the progress has been steadily deteriorating owing to shortage of professional staff. I hope that Government will do its best to remedy the position, and I think, if more attention is given to the training of junior service to senior posts, it will help greatly to increase the number of staff.

I wish to say a few words with regard to Agriculture. This Department is doing very well in the North. There is now no shortage of ploughs and the number of mixed farmers is always increasing. The Agricultural and cattle shows being held by the department yearly is very encouraging to farmers. I think it is worthy of grants from Government to make it possible for each province to experience these kind of shows.

The experimental work with artificial fertilizers in the North now being carried out seems to be giving better results, and I am very glad to hear from His Honour, the Chief Commissioner that the experiment will not only be concentrated on commercial crops, but food crops. This, I am sure, will be very much welcomed by farmers and the production of all kinds of crops will be enormously increased, and so the prosperity of the country as a whole.

*Veterinary.*—I would like to point out to this Department that there has been an outbreak of a new disease of cattle called “Boru” this year, and there is no medicine for it in the department. This disease appears in the mouth of a calf and goes gradually through the body down to the legs, and prevents the poor sufferer from sucking the milk. I think it is advisable to start investigations at once and find the remedy for it.

The next point is about drinking water for cattle. In the extreme North in the Northern Provinces where very deep wells are to be sunk, there is much difficulty in drawing water out of the wells, the cattle have to wait for hours before it is their turn to drink however thirsty they may be. For this reason the cattle Fulani have to wonder about looking for rivers, streams, lakes and

pools for easy watering of their cattle, and it is also one of the reasons why it is difficult for the Fulani to settle in one place. I have brought this to the notice of the Veterinary Department, and I think if the Department can provide windmills to those areas, it will encourage the Fulani to settle in one place and make farms and make use of the manure obtained from their cattle.

I would like also to say a few words on the control of cattle diseases between the French and English territories. I have a good reason, Sir, to talk on this very important matter, because I am one of the district heads whose district touches the French border. The Veterinary Department is doing its best to control the diseases in the English territory. All the cattle in the Province I represent are sent to the immunisation camps to be treated every year. Clinics are built in the districts and Veterinary Mallams are sent to inspect and treat animals, but our cattle always are affected with the diseases of the cattle of the French country. Some inspection stations are established on the border for inspection of animals coming from or going into the French territory, but as the country is too wide, the Fulani get away with their cattle from the inspection stations. This matter, Sir, worries all the districts that are on the border. Some time ago, I even raised the question to one of the Veterinary Officers who visited my district, of increasing the number of the Inspection Stations, but he told me that whatever we did here, it would be very difficult for us to have the control of diseases, as long as the French authorities did not mind. I now bring this matter to the notice of Government in order to consider and make arrangements with the French Government of how the control of the cattle diseases can be achieved between the two countries.

Now, talking of the Budget: the Financial Secretary has given a full explanation in his speech covering twenty-four pages, but Sir, it is difficult for one who is not an expert in finance to understand these complicated calculations of money from different sources. However, I have a few points to raise. In page (2) of the Budget Speech, a mention has been made of the price per ton of Cocoa, Groundnuts, Palm Oil and Tin, but the price per ton of the Hides and Skins is not quoted. As the Hides and Skins come from the North, we shall be very anxious to know the price.

On page (4) up to (10) of the Budget Speech, I see, Sir, there are different kinds of loans. I am afraid that these loans are too much for Nigeria. One thing I don't understand, we have reserve funds and yet we are getting into debt. In my opinion, Sir, Nigeria should stop getting into debts that may take years and years to clear, and try to concentrate its requirements on her prosperity, and if necessary some of the projects that can wait should be cut off in order to reduce the amount of loans.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

### The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

Your Excellency: the holding of the Budget Session of this House in the centre of the coal-mining industry for the first time is of historic value. This town is of strategic importance in the economic development of this country. Its role as capital of the Eastern Region enhances its reputation. In association with my honourable colleagues, let me say that we are enjoying the hospitality of the inhabitants, to whom we are grateful. I must also express my personal thanks to the Eastern Secretariat staff who have spared no efforts to make us comfortable during our temporary sojourn here.

The departure from these shores of Mr A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G., our former Financial Secretary, on promotion, as Governor of Barbados, has left a big gap that will be difficult to fill. I am not in the habit of making a clown of myself by throwing bouquets indiscriminately to officials for doing the duty for which they are well paid, but this is an exception which is well merited. By his urbanity, Mr Savage endeared himself to Nigerian labour and nationalist elements. He was too much of a humanitarian to allow himself to be influenced against any segment of our national life on any trumped up pretext buttressed by the prejudices of peoples with axes to grind. He was intelligent but not vain; he was competent but not affectatious; he was efficient but not ostentatious; he was brilliant but not pompous. In spite of the fact that the nature of his job made him a cog in the machinery of imperialism in Nigeria, yet he was tactful enough to realise that not all critics of the administration are a bunch of irresponsible agitators who should be ostracised and their careers ruined. He knew enough of human nature to respect the feelings of people who are ruled by immigrant races and to appreciate their yearnings for a better life. I have always felt, perhaps for the first time in my public life, that in the departure of Mr Savage, Nigeria has lost a sincere well-wisher, an indefatigable worker, a wise counsellor and an enlightened statesman. Indeed, Mr Savage is a rare type of human being needed wherever man is a wolf to his fellow man.

The maiden budget speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary measures up to the high standard set by his worthy predecessor. It is the highest budget in our history and it is an indication that this country is gradually coming into its own. I wish the Honourable Mover a successful term of office. In case of disagreement, I can assure him that, there is no hard feeling.

The Bill provides for an expenditure of £41,450,047. Of this the departmental estimates will be £30,136,350 with an estimated revenue of £30,372,260 and an estimated surplus of £235,910. Expenditure on the Collieries will be £918,677, in spite of the deficit of £106,122 to be brought forward into the 1950-51 account, leaving an accumulation deficit of £102,994 to be carried forward to the

1951-52 financial year. It is significant that the Colliery is seeking a loan of £125,000 "to enable it to carry on." The Nigerian Railway expenditure will be £10,395,020 with estimated net deficit of £171,920, taking into consideration an operating surplus of £1,307,870 and interest on investments and sundry receipts totalling £188,100. In other words, the departmental estimates will show a surplus balance of about a quarter of a million pounds, whilst the Colliery and the Railway will operate necessarily at a loss. Is this not a clear case for handing over our colliery and railway to private enterprise, in order to enhance efficiency?

The decision not to impose additional taxation, direct and indirect, is a wise one, especially in these days when tax-payers are conscious of the fact that, in spite of onerous taxation, comparatively speaking, they hardly enjoy a fair return from same, hence in the last few years, increases in taxation have necessarily carried political embarrassments in their wake, to the discomfiture of Government and the governed. In associating my views with those expressed by the previous speakers in respect of the unusually high level of companies income tax in this country, I submit that efforts should be made to see whether a sliding scale on the basis of volume of business transacted would not be more equitable for the small companies, instead of the present system.

I am particularly struck at the sum of £1,003,450 estimated for pensions and gratuities. This represents an increase of £99,420 over and above the previous year. In view of the fact that pensions represent £700,000 and gratuities £200,000, I am suggesting that this Government should reconsider its policy in respect of pensions, and ruminates whether arrangement could not be made with reputable insurance companies to assume the risk of pension disbursements on payment of a reasonable premium, instead of saddling it on the shoulders of the Nigerian tax-payers. There are many pension schemes in vogue, and I hope that possibilities of this medium will be explored.

Another part of the estimates which attracted my attention is the vote for passages totalling £350,000. I appreciate that there has been increase in the number of expatriate officers and their wives in recent years, but this should suggest to the planners of the future of this country the necessity to expedite Nigerianisation on a larger scale so as to remove the need for recruitment of a large number of expatriate officers. It is significant that we spent more money, last year, for passages when the actual expenditure was £360,190. I wonder whether a Nigerian Mercantile Marine Service would not be an answer, provided the Marine Department would have the vision, the vigour and the enterprise which have characterised the activities of private enterprise in this respect ever since the opening of this part of Africa to the rest of the world? I

hope that I am not treading on the toes of the Honourable the Third Nominated Member, who is an executive of the oldest shipping firm in West Africa!

The amortisation of the two loans mentioned by the Honourable Mover, by conversion and redemption, affords a relief. I agree with him on the reasons given for preferring the new type of loan over those of the London money market. I have consistently criticised the rate of interest of our loans as being excessive, especially in view of the fact that we have always received 19s 6d in the pound, defraying 6d in the pound or one-fourtieth as "expenses of raising loans" in London. The decision to discard the supplementary sinking fund is timely. After all, our public debt is usually a priority charge in our annual budget, as well as the statutory sinking fund. That our public debt charges should amount to a mere £874,930 is a happy augury for the future. Although we are being saddled with new loans from the Ibadan University College and the Cocoa Marketing Board, I hope that we shall not make the mistake of using them exclusively for material development, as was the case in the twelve loans floated from 1899 to 1935. We need bridges and harbours and railways and electrical undertakings alright; but our immediate needs are pipe borne water supplies and schools and hospitals and better housing to enable us to enjoy life more abundantly. The fact that 20 per cent of last year's estimated expenditure was for social services might be an indication of a change of policy. I do not know whether it is still the policy to invest our statutory sinking funds in far away places like Fiji, Jamaica, Swansea, South Africa, etc., as had been the case hitherto. I repeat what I said before: "It is certainly a curious system of economies for the Nigerian Government to invest money belonging to an impoverished country like Nigeria in other countries for their development, whilst we are underdeveloped. Charity begins at home. To rob Peter to pay Paul is not cricket."

It is with mixed feelings that I received the news about the decision to purchase the royalties which hitherto had been paid to the United Africa Company Limited, for the sum of one million pounds. Of all people, I should have been very happy to learn of the ending of this scandal on our national economy, for many reasons. In May, 1942, I published a study on this aspect of the treaty rights of the Royal Niger Company, indicating that "This monograph is an attempt to show how the conclusion of unequal treaties gave a private corporation, which was vested with political authority, power not only to possess large acreage of land in Nigeria for ever, but also made it possible for a succeeding government to guarantee payment out of the revenue of Nigeria, derivable from mineral royalties of the country, to this corporation or its assigns for a period of ninety-nine years. That this state of affairs is inimical to the best interest of the aborigines of Nigeria; that to continue to deplete the treasury of Nigeria for this purpose is an

unfair burden on the tax-payer of Nigeria; and that there are sufficient grounds to cancel this treaty obligation are my humble submissions . . . . . The Director and Shareholders of the Niger Company Limited have a great opportunity to display statesmanship . . . . . Profit motive should not blind one to a realisation of the fact that some of these treaties which were negotiated with African Chiefs, by non-African adventurers and makers of modern African history, some of whom had superiority of arms, are unfair and unethical, and probably illegal . . . judged by the canons of law, the dictate of human conscience, and the force of enlightened public opinion." In March, 1943, Mr Justice S. B. Rhodes, then an Honourable Member of this House, invited Government's attention to this brochure and asked whether consideration had been given to the possibility of compounding these royalties by the payment of one lump sum? The Acting Financial Secretary replied in the affirmative. Four months later, in company with seven other editors from British West Africa, we were entertained to luncheon at Unilever House, Blackfriars in London, by the Board of Directors of the United Africa Company, and during a post-prandial discussion, I was informed that the United Africa Company had assigned their royalty rights to the Nigerian Properties Limited in 1936 for the unexpired period of sixty-three years. In November of the same year, I suggested in my book entitled *Economic Reconstruction of Nigeria* "cancellation or commutation" of this treaty right. That same year, the United Africa Company was said to have offered to surrender same "in return for a capital sum, and investigators were appointed to determine the amount." And now the sum agreed upon is one million pounds. Credit goes to Mr Savage for his deep interest and effort in obtaining the surrender of this curious royalty right.

Ever since the announcement of this news, there has been strong reaction against the payment of such a huge sum of money out of our treasury. A decision was taken at a public meeting in Lagos at which many voters in my constituency denounced this arrangement, on the ground that royalty is not due to the United Africa Company but to the Northerners who are the real landlords, and that the United Africa Company should be called upon to refund its previous intakes from 1900-1949; they suggested that the refunded royalty should be used to hasten educational and economic development of Nigeria, particularly the Northern Region.

I endorse the view that before concluding the arrangement the United Africa Company should have been informed of the cumulative cost to the tax-payers of Nigeria all these years, to conduct a geological survey of the areas concerned, plus the capital expenditure on the establishment of the Mines Department and the collecting of mining revenue. These should have reduced the purchase price considerably. There is also a suggestion that the million pounds should be paid by the British Treasury since the Charter of the

Royal Niger Company was granted and revoked by the Imperial Government. Unfortunately, the Finance Committee has approved this huge expenditure and it is now a *fait accompli*.

I want to say how very much I appreciate the following statements of the Honourable Mover: "If this country is to grow rich, prosperous and successful, the key to the opportunities around us lies, in the main, in our own hands. There is no royal or easy road to a better standard of living in Nigeria. We are a poor country, not endowed with material resources which can ensure a quick passage to a prosperous future. But we can do a lot better with the means at our disposal if only we all have the will to make better use of the resources already in our hands." These expressions are pregnant with possibilities for a greater Nigeria, what with our resources of coal, lignite, iron, lead, zinc,—to name a few.

I am informed that a firm of experts in the field of fuel technology has suggested, on the basis of tests made of our coal and lignite, the establishment of factories for the manufacture of montan wax, motor spirit, kerosene, diesel oil, detergents, plasticisers, varnishes, etc. I understand that they demonstrated how a gross revenue of £2,500,000 can be earned annually over a period of forty years, provided we maintained an annual production of 600,000 tons of lignite, necessitating reserves of not less than twenty-four million tons of extractable coal, which Nigeria can easily afford. But to make this project a reality, this firm of fuel technologists is said to have suggested the establishment of a pilot plant for experimental purposes at a cost of £50,000. Frankly, I see no reason why this pilot plant should not be established without further delay. After all, the sum required for the initial project is only three-quarters of what we are voting for prison rations for the next financial year. If we could only grasp this great opportunity and carry out this programme boldly with imagination, not only shall we produce liquid fuels and other chemicals from lignite and its by-products, locally, but we shall create a source of revenue, and at the same time set an example of how an under-developed area can be developed on its own boot-strap without passing the hat round, and without increasing taxation.

In this connection, I endorse the views of the Honourable Member who, in his speech yesterday, urged that this country should consider the possibility of increased export of our surplus coal for sale abroad. This is a sure source of revenue and I trust that the Colliery Department will take note. Again, we can manufacture cement in this country, taking into consideration the experiments of certain Government departments during the war. With our limestone and clay deposits, we should seek for expert advice, if that has not already been done, to enable us to manufacture cement on a mass production basis. If, in addition to these primary industries, we also encourage secondary and tertiary industries, we should be on

our way towards national prosperity. Hence, I find myself unable to agree with the Honourable Mover that "We are a poor country". Indeed, we are a potentially wealthy country, provided those at the helm of our affairs are energetic and imaginative in the development of our natural resources for the greatest good of the greatest number.

The Education Department vote shows a decrease of £38,290 in an estimate of £292,580, out of which the sum of £108,640 has been earmarked for personal emoluments; £136,700 has been reserved for various grants-in-aid, whilst £11,580 will be spent for transport and travelling expenses. I would require assurance that it is not the policy of the Education Department to discourage Nigerians from operating their own schools, if they are able to do so with or without Government assistance. The closing down of seven schools belonging to the Education Missionary Society, an indigenous Nigerian voluntary agency, since 1946, has made many Africans suspicious, in spite of official justification. Surely, if a particular person is not fit and proper to manage a school, he could engage another, provided the requirements of our education law are satisfied. From a superficial observation, the unwillingness of the Education Department to reconsider its decision on this score savours of victimisation. Then there is another instance of one indigenous Nigerian voluntary agency by name of Abooso Apostolic Mission, which operates at Amaba via Ovim. I am told that in spite of the fact that the sponsors had spent nearly £900 in erecting school buildings official permission to operate had been withheld.

Now, I do not claim to be in possession of all the pertinent facts in the two examples cited, but it is my considered opinion that, since the State has not been able to provide education for all, it should encourage any voluntary agency, indigenous and otherwise, to operate schools, so long as certain basic minimum standards are maintained. Efforts should be made to remove the general impression that only European and certain favoured African voluntary agencies can have the fiat to operate schools in this country.

The Inland Revenue Department has a great responsibility because of its role in our direct taxation. Whilst it must be conceded that the letter of the law is there to be enforced, yet this department can profit by applying the spirit of the law as well. Realising that accounting is virtually a new experience in Nigerian commercial life, this department cannot afford to leave an impression that it seeks to reap where it had not sown. It is becoming usual for some officers of this department to assess income tax on companies which, to all intents and purposes, have not earned sufficient income to cover their expenses for the year, much more to afford to pay income tax. That cannot be the intention of the framers of the law regarding companies income tax. Continuation of this policy will have one effect: it will be their responsibility

to wind up certain companies which cannot afford to pay income tax because they keep bad accounts and virtually bankrupt.

May I request explanation from the official responsible in connection with a case which was reported in the *Daily Times* of 31st January, 1950, to the effect that the Supreme Court struck out with three guineas costs the action instituted by the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax against a Syrian, named Rashid Khalil, Manager of Royal Hotel, Lagos, because the plaintiff failed to put in appearance. The Inland Revenue Department was reported to have claimed £821 13s 10d from this Syrian, being tax and penalty alleged due and payable by Khalil for the years 1946-49. Could it be true that this department was so inefficient that it preferred to have the case struck out with costs? If the report is true, then it is scandalous and should be probed at once. The tax-payers of this country can neither spare to lose the amount claimed for tax nor the costs awarded by the court. Yet of the £57,590 estimated for this department. £49,420 will be for salaries, and £4,800 for transport and travelling expenses.

With an increase of £75,210, Labour Department is asking for a vote of £171,750, out of which £109,410 has been earmarked for salaries, £15,650 for transport and travelling expenses, £250 for cablegrams and telegrams at Fernando Po alone, and £200 for cablegrams and telegrams at French Gabon alone. When the Labour Department was established, its aims and objects were said "to provide assistance and advice to workers and employers impartially, to promote good relations between employers and employed, and to provide accurate information regarding industrial matters." Has the Labour Department fulfilled the hopes and aspirations of its founders? The catalogue of strikes and labour disputes of the last five years provides a fair index to the answer. I am not competent to decide whether this is evidence of inefficiency or not, but certainly it is not one of efficiency, in spite of sincere efforts and hard work of certain individual members of that department. In its *Quarterly Review* of September 1949, a statement was made that "sixty per cent of the registered unions in the country, including some of the largest, are not members either of the Trades Union Congress or of the Nigerian National Federation of Labour." I should be obliged if the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour would place at my disposal a list of all the trades unions in the country indicating those identified with the Trades Union Congress and the Nigerian National Federation of Labour.

The Medical Department in asking for £742,940 has increased its budget by £43,900. Again, personal emoluments account for £360,780, about one-half, with the following allocated for actual medical service presumably outside the regions: drugs, dressings, etc., £133,200, grants-in-aid £94,000. Transport and Travelling expenses £34,450, equipment, apparatus, etc., £32,300, hospital diets £26,500. The position in respect of the abolition of private

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practice is still a matter for speculation; it needs further clarification. Whilst it is true that colour discrimination is supposed to have been abolished in our hospitals, yet I must call attention of the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to what appears to be a recrudescence of it in Jos. According to *The Northern Advocate* of 2nd February, 1950, one Dr D. W. McLaren to whom the tax-payers of this country pay £1,200 salary plus expatriation allowance of £400 per annum, exclusive of perquisites and other allowances, was reported to have refused to treat one Miss E. A. Esan, a native of Nigeria who had attended the Plateau Hospital for treatment. He was alleged to have informed this Nigerian patient that the particular hospital in question was not meant for Africans but for Europeans and that she should go to the General Hospital which, presumably, was reserved for people of her race and colour. The distance between the two hospitals is reported to be about two miles and the physical and psychological strain of such alleged professional and official indiscretion upon this lady can be better imagined. I understand that a report of this act of racial discrimination was brought to the notice of Government. I would like the Honourable the Director of Medical Services to explain the position and, if the allegations are true, he should take appropriate action not only to avoid a recurrence but to request this civil servant to make an unreserved apology to the lady in question.

With reference to the vote on Military and Defence, there is an increase of £54,219 in an estimated expenditure of £805,960, out of which £750,000 has been set off as contribution to His Majesty's Government on account of military expenditure in Nigeria. That the sum of three-quarters of a million pounds should be contributed by the tax-payers of this country to maintain armed forces in which the tax-payers are discriminated against on account of their colour is more than I can stomach. So far as I know, there are not more than three commissioned officers of Nigerian extraction in such armed forces. At Kaduna, in March 1948, I and three Honourable colleagues of mine registered our dissent from this particular sub-head of the estimates, because this expenditure was intrinsically defective in principle, since no Nigerian had been granted commission by the King although, one Nigerian has been commissioned by the King since then and two are to be commissioned (if not already commissioned), yet I am of the opinion that the policy of Nigerianisation has not been energetically carried out by the military authorities for reasons best known to them. In the circumstances, I shall again register my dissent against this particular sub-head in the Select Committee. If Nigerians are not good enough to be officers in the armed forces of their country, then money paid by Nigerian tax-payers should not be used to maintain a military establishment which discriminates against Nigerians on account of their race and colour.

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A conference was held recently in London in connection with policy for colonial forces, and our Acting Financial Secretary represented this country. I think that this Honourable House is entitled to some information about any commitments made on behalf of our tax-payers, if such information has not been given. There is need for revision of the pay of our soldiers in the light of Tudor Davies report, the Harragin award, and the increased cost of living. Those in charge of the military should be more considerate in handling labour problems so as to guarantee to our soldiers better conditions of work. At present it would appear that force is used needlessly to exact sweated labour from our soldiers. That is a source of their complaint.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is a favourite hunting ground for critics due to alleged inefficiency in respect of most of its services. The present incumbent of the post of Director of Posts and Telegraphs is a gentleman who has my respect and admiration; but that is personal. Whilst I notice an increase of £307,770 in its vote of £1,250,670 yet I am stunned to observe that £671,680 will be used for salaries and wages to staff—more than half of its vote—£60,000 for transport and travelling expenses, and only £59,120 will be spent for internal mail services whilst £46,500 is earmarked for external mail services. The sum of £223,380 is reserved for uncompleted works. I will repeat what I suggested at Ibadan last year: "Perhaps, a Cable and Wireless (Nigeria) Limited will be an answer to the accusations of inefficiency levelled at the Posts and Telegraphs Department." Until private enterprise is allowed to man our telecommunications system, as distinct from purely postal services, I can see no way out of our perennial difficulties in this respect. May I call attention to one instance of inefficiency? After the Public Relations Department had effected arrangement for the press to transmit news of the deliberations of this Honourable House, with the least minimum of delay, the Posts and Telegraphs have proved to be unequal to the occasion. The result is that all the efforts of the Public Relations Department and the press for an efficient system of communication have been frustrated.

There are certain points in connection with provincial administration which I wish to place before the House in the hope that those responsible will tackle them in a true spirit of statesmanship. In the Northern Provinces, certain Easterners who sojourn at a place called Ejule in Igala, Idah Division, have alleged that both the District Officer and the Attah of Igala had not only compelled their wives to pay tax, but that they, the male element, are being subjected to forced labour. They complain of brutality and corporal punishment at the hands of the local authorities. In the Eastern Provinces, a protest has just reached me from Port Harcourt from the Association of Market Men and Women to the effect that they had raised objection to the allocation of certain commercial

plots in the market area to Syrians to build forty shops by the Resident of Rivers Province, contrary to the Port Harcourt Town Council scheme. I do not know whether this allegation is true or justified, but no harm can be done by investigation bearing in mind that the interests of the indigenous races should be paramount to those of the immigrant races. From the same region comes widespread complaint of excessive increases in the direct taxation system at Port Harcourt. Those who paid £23 last year are said to have been assessed to pay £100 this year, and those who paid £60 have been requested to pay £929. It is not indicated whether these assessments are cumulative with retrospective effect, so the general impression is that it is the fruit of arbitrary assessment. An investigation would appear to be necessary.

The Public Works Department was described by one Honourable Member to be "wasteful", but it appears also to be warped in its attitude towards the aspirations of persons of African descent in its senior service. Two Nigerians are engineers out of 118 and there is a sum-total of five Nigerians in the senior service of this department out of 250. I stand to be corrected by the Honourable the Director of Public Works. No amount of Sunday school lessons will convince me to disbelieve that this department deliberately pursues a policy of racial discrimination cloaked with official subtlety. Yet in its estimates, the Public Works Department will spend £213,300 for salaries out of £238,930, excluding £305,260 for maintenance works, £297,330 for maintenance services, and £1,463,190 for "extraordinary" expenditure. I must assert with all emphasis that the brain of the African is not one whit behind that of any other race so far as studies in mathematics and engineering are concerned, hence I cannot appreciate this studied attempt to freeze out the black man in a department in which he has great possibilities and potential contributions to make in the development of his country. I have before me a letter from a young Nigerian road engineer who was qualified in one of the accredited mid-western universities in the United States. This youngman is a B.Sc. (Engineering) and also holds a licence as an interne from the Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Surveyors of the State of Ohio. Because of his American qualification, he has been denied entrance into the senior service of his country even as a junior engineer. Now, I am not competent to discuss the relative merits and demerits of British and American technological knowledge, suffice it to say that the last war proved the efficacy of American engineering technology. It is needless for me to make further comments since this same department had offered one of the two Nigerian Engineers on its staff an initial salary of £128 per annum in 1936, in spite of the fact that he held a degree in engineering from a British University. Therefore, I find it impossible to accept without a pinch of snuff the statement of the Honourable the Director of Public Works regarding difficulty in

recruiting staff, *vide* Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1950 laid on the table of this House, last Thursday.

May I be permitted, Sir, to make a few general remarks? Some departments are still complaining about inability to obtain certain supplies, due to the delay of the Crown Agents to fill their indents. Two Honourable Members expressed my thoughts when they suggested that if delivery of indents through the Crown Agents is slow, then an alternative method of speeding up supplies should be tried, if even it means a departure from orthodox procedure. A friend of mine, who is executive of a very large firm of importers, told me that if indents were placed with his firm for the supply of electrical plant and machinery to generate light and power for certain townships, the order can be filled in a comparatively short time. And yet many towns in Nigeria must remain without electricity because of the apparent inefficiency of the Crown Agents. Perhaps, by the time the Nigeria Trade Commissioners' office begins to operate in London, the tax-payers of this country would escape the inefficiency from which red-tape cannot be divorced.

Certain Honourable Members have referred to the last paragraph of Your Excellency's speech of a week ago. Some of the references were too sentimental and the paragraph was most unfortunate. I should think that if any section of the population is "a very small minority" then the less said of it the better.

True, some of our youths are agitated and are making legitimate demands for immediate change in the political structure of the country. This is nothing extraordinary: it is merely a reflection of the spirit of change with which the twentieth century is interwoven. Our youths are in revolt against the cant and hypocrisy of contemporary times. So far as I know, they are not antagonistic towards any particular race, and they do not necessarily loathe any particular nation. So far as I have been able to ascertain, our youths do not hate any particular person and they do not dislike any particular official. But they have a highly developed sense of justice, hence they are averse to exploitation and oppression; and they want to be free. Edmund Burke said: "Tell me what are the prevailing sentiments that occupy the minds of your young men, and I will tell you what is to be the character of the next generation."

Why, then, should some of us, members of a generation which has had its opportunity and failed to usher in freedom in their lifetime, have the audacity to misinterpret the yearnings and desires of our youth? If we prefer to remain slaves, what right have we to sentence the generation which follows us to slavery? Only confirmed slaves would tighten the chains of slavery around their necks and those of their children. I am not a slave and I have no desire to commit my children to slavery; but if I were a slave, and preferred to have my children follow in my footsteps, then it

were better that I had never been born. Edmund Spenser in his *Faerie Queene* said: "A fool I do him firmly hold that loves his fetters, though they were of gold".

I respectfully submit that I will not hesitate to advance the view that it is unfair for some members of this Honourable House to have condemned an accused person who was being tried by the court on a charge for attempting to kill the present Chief Secretary to the Government. Whilst I am in complete agreement with the views they had expressed in this assembly, yet I feel that it is wrong to make comments on an issue which is *sub-judice*. I am one of those who strongly oppose the idea of the Judiciary being influenced by the Executive. I feel the same about the Legislative. Our Standing Orders in this respect are clear-cut: "Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as may prejudice the interests of the parties thereto." Although Your Excellency is an arbiter of what is the correct interpretation of the Standing Orders, yet I submit that to condemn in this legislature an accused person who is on trial cannot be justified as a parliamentary privilege.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that all who love their country must naturally expect their country to be free within the shortest possible time. In years gone by, I was staunch in my belief that Great Britain will set us free without fuss. If I did not have such faith in the Briton, I would not have joined the delegation to the United Kingdom in 1947. In my university days, when I was studying French, I was unable to appreciate the significance of certain excerpts from Barere's speeches during the French Revolution, one of which reads: "The tree of liberty grows only when watered by the blood of tyrants". There can be no doubt that something must be wrong with a great nation which continues, in spite of experience of centuries, to use the same old tactics and techniques to rule unwilling peoples only to lose them in the end with bad blood on both sides. A chapter on India in the latest book by Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Crocker, entitled *Self-Government in the Colonies*, shows how the policy of force hardened even the school children and youths of India so that when the time of parting came, it was done with bitterness and hostility.

The defeat at the polls of Mr Arthur Creech Jones and Lieutenant-Colonel David Rees Williams, the two pillars of the Colonial Office, until recently, may be a reaction of resentment on the part of the British public against an antiquated colonial system and policy; but so far as I am concerned, my faith in the sincerity of Great Britain towards Nigeria is beginning to wane and I must admit openly that if Nigeria must be free, then the experiences of former British dependent territories must be a lamp to guide the feet of those who seek for a free Nigeria in their life-time. As I said sometime ago, "I shudder at this thought, but history has yet to

convince me otherwise. If we mean to liberate our country, we must reckon with these realities and cease from living in a fool's paradise." I have doubted the wisdom of these thoughts in the past. I have waited for one positive act on the part of those who govern to prove me wrong; but I have waited in vain. I now realise that I have been dealing with those who think they are perfect and not mere mortals. In his *Man of Destiny*, George Bernard Shaw said: "There is nothing so bad or so good that you will not find Englishmen doing it; but you will never find an Englishman in the wrong. He does everything on principle. He fights you on patriotic principles; he robs you on business principles; he enslaves you on imperial principles."

Only a change of heart can save this country from the pall of gloom now hovering around it. It is not whether Britain is right or wrong; and it is not whether Nigeria is right or wrong. In the final analysis, the test is: what is right for Nigeria? May history lead us to find out what is right and do it quickly so as to preserve goodwill, fellowship and mutual respect among the many communities which comprise this great country with a great future.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

#### His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :

Your Excellency, I am somewhat reluctantly dragged to my feet by the fact that there appears to be another of those rather peculiar—but I hope not sinister—hiatuses in the proceedings of this House. I seemed to catch a gleam in Your Excellency's eye which made me think it possible that you would, almost at any moment, be calling on the Honourable the Financial Secretary to wind up this debate, so I thought the moment had come when at any rate I would try and get in my little say.

First of all I should like to reciprocate, with a year's compound interest, the thanks which were conveyed to the West at Ibadan a year ago by His Honour, and I should like to thank him and his Officers, and the people of Enugu, for the welcome which they have given to us from the West. They have considered our enjoyment, they have thought much for our comfort and even to the extent of arranging a wedding of an Honourable Member to take place while we are in session.

There are just one or two matter to which I should like to refer. At a recent meeting of the House of Assembly in the Western Provinces I was greatly struck by the speech which was made by the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Dr Mauwa, and the general theme of this speech was to the effect that more effort should be made in this country at self-help, and he rather deplored the attitude adopted by some people in blaming on to the Government all the responsibility for all the ills that flesh is heir to. I think I have seen, even in this Honourable House, a slight indication in one or



two speeches of that particular feeling of considering that Government is responsible for every single thing that goes wrong. In that connection I should like to refer to a matter which was raised by one or two members—they referred to the lack of discipline which exists in the schools of today. They have indicated that ill-discipline is the result of mis-education and that mis-education is the fault of Government. Now it is perfectly true, I think, that during the war years the Educational Department and education in general had to fight a very difficult battle. Many of the schools which I have visited two or three years ago were suffering severely from lack of staff, and particularly from lack of well-trained staff. You would find in a Primary School a packed row of young men aged apparently about twenty who should, one imagined, be farming rather than wasting ink, and in front of them you would find a pupil-teacher who must be at least five or six years younger than many of his own pupils. That is hardly the way in which you can expect to find children leaving school with a high sense of discipline.

The point I wish to make here is that this ill-discipline of which we have heard is not primarily the fault of Government. It is the fault of war conditions in which these boys went to schools, and I should like to say now that in my opinion, after visiting recently considerable numbers of schools, that we are past the worst and that the future of boys at our schools is considerably better than it has been in the past. It is a significant fact that our teacher training colleges in the Western Provinces there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of the pupils within the last year or so. As with the press, I take it that Government policy is not to stifle criticism but to encourage calm and constructive criticism from the people. This applies in equal measure to my mind to the younger generation in this country. What we want is not lack of criticism, but sound criticism. Now, it was the fashion a few years ago in our teacher training colleges to look upon any criticism of Government, however unfair that criticism might be, to be fair, and any boy who defended Government was looked upon as paying lip service and being a stooge, a blimp, a today and a yes-man. Now that attitude of mind in training colleges in the Western Provinces has recently changed and there is, I think, a genuine desire for knowledge and understanding and a determination on the part of the pupils to judge for themselves and not allow others to judge for them. Only recently I visited a training college in the Western Provinces and the pupils there spoke with enthusiasm of a visit which they had received previously from the Regional Public Relations Officer, in which he had talked to them about what Government is doing, and answering all sorts of questions which they raised. They told me that they were very greatly looking forward to a similar visit from him in—they hoped—the near future. The Regional Public Relations Officer himself said how much he

had enjoyed that visit and the high standard of interest and the very useful type of question put to him by the students.

For that reason I feel that we should not today feel quite so worried as regards the discipline in our schools, because with the steady improvement in the standard of education and character, perhaps, of the teachers in these schools I am sure we can look forward in the future to a higher standard of discipline. But what does cause me very grave concern—and this is a matter which I do not think I have ever heard raised in this House before—what is causing me grave concern is the attitude of parents toward the education of their children.

Now, in our Primary Schools, particularly, we are attempting to give more and more agricultural bias to that education, with the slogan to the Standard IV to Standard VI boy of "Back to the Land". We all know, Your Excellency, that these boys, or the vast majority of them, do not go back to the land, and if we ask the question why, the answer in a great many cases is that their parents have not the slightest desire for them to return to farming—they are still under the impression that the pen is better than the plough. They are still under the impression, many of them in the country regions, that the Standard V or Standard VI boy will become a clerk, and even to this day they are unaware of the fact that he is very much more likely to become a 'boma' boy and to knock about in the large towns in lorry parks, and so on. They do not realise that these unfortunate boys will not earn their living by their pens, but by their wits.

It is very seldom that I find myself in disagreement with the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces, but I feel that I must cross swords with him over this question of adult education. He, I think it was, who maintained that our primary need was for compulsory primary education for all children and rather put adult education in a very much less important category. But I feel I am talking of adult education not as merely giving to a few adults a nodding acquaintance with the three R's, I am talking of adult education in a very much wider sense, and one of the ways in which surely we must educate parents is by making them really interested in the schools to which their children go. A great deal has been done in that direction in the way of Teacher-Parent Associations at schools, and so on. It doesn't seem to me to be of much use if we insist on an agricultural bias and rotation of crops in school farms, and so on, if first of all parents themselves have no desire for their children to farm, and secondly, if they do return to farming they do not believe in any of these new-fangled ideas about farming, and so surely it is not only the duty of Government but also the duty of all men of goodwill to attempt to educate parents as well as children with regard to the extreme importance of farming in this country. Every year, as

Honourable Members are aware, we get more and more children leaving primary schools, and there is a movement afoot as soon as possible to have compulsory primary education for all children. Well, surely it is a matter of pressing importance that we should get not only the children but also their parents to do all that is possible to bring their children back to the land. Now this attitude of parents does not only apply to the agricultural bias on education, it applies, in some cases at any rate, also to technical education. It was only a matter of three years or so ago that I was present at the opening of a school the object of which was to give instruction with a very definite technical bias, and we all made speeches and spoke of the use to which our hands could be put, the delight of creating something fine, and many other hopes of that kind were expressed. A matter of two years or so later I visited that same school and the technical bias of which we had such high hopes had completely disappeared and the school was carrying out what one might describe as its normal curriculum, and the cause of this was that the parents themselves objected to their children being taught the use of their hands by being given a technical education rather than the education which would suit them to a life of pen-pushing, as one Honourable Member described it. Attempts are now being made to win the parents back into an enthusiasm which at that time we all felt for technical knowledge, but here again I do feel we ought to stress the importance, not only from the Government side but from every other side, of getting at the parents and talking them into an appreciation of what is happening today in the way of need for improved agricultural methods and the training of craftsmen.

I mentioned the school farm and I would like to say a word or two on the subject of the farm school. In the Western Provinces we started a farm school with great enthusiasm. We sent round to primary schools and told them about our farm schools, and we hoped to recruit a considerable number of Standard VI boys to attend these farm schools. We had a certain amount of initial success, but as I think the Director of Agriculture will agree with me, we found that the average Standard VI boy did not take to farming, and although all sorts of inducements, as it appeared to us, were put in his way to encourage him, the fact remained that although some of the boys started fairly enthusiastically, most of them gave it up within a very short time of starting, and only a very, very small minority settled down to farming. There are, I know, a number of contributory factors. That is quite true. But the point I wish particularly to make is that the Standard VI boy, encouraged by his parents, will do anything rather than go back to the land, even if he is encouraged to do so by having training in modern methods of farming.

Now my Honourable friend on my right, turning to another subject, mentioned a matter of extreme importance—the tarring

of roads, and I entirely agree with him. The faster we can tar our roads and the more of our main roads we can tar, the better, and I know that the Director of Public Works agrees with me entirely that the only solution to the state of roads which take heavy traffic in this country is tarring, and that no other solution has been found. I speak of course of roads on which there is a heavy burden of lorry traffic—and the Honourable Member went on to say that he thought the tarring of main roads should take precedence over the making and upkeep of feeder roads. While I agree entirely that the tarring of roads should have the highest priority, I think it would be the greatest possible pity if we eased up on our feeder road programme. One Honourable Member mentioned the importance of amenities for the villages, and mentioned the possibility of each village at some future date having a cinema. Another Member suggested that too much money has been spent on the large towns and too little on the districts and on the rural areas. Now my experience tells me that if you visit a village which is off a main road and not connected to a main road by a quick, easy feeder road, that almost the No. 1 priority in the demands of that village is that they should be supplied with a feeder road. Now I quite agree that rural areas have been somewhat neglected, and I should be very loath to agree that they should be further neglected by the policy on the part of Government of failing in assisting them in the creation of communications to link them up with other parts of Nigeria. The demand for roads in these villages comes from men and women and from young and old, and I think it would be a great mistake on our part if we were to discourage this very natural desire, and this very popular and much-desired amenity.

Last year I spoke, I remember, at some length on the subject of political progress in the Western Provinces and I have no intention now of going over that ground again, but I should like to record my thanks to the Oni of Ife for the remarks he made in regard to democratic and political progress made of recent years in the Western Provinces. I should like also to say that in my opinion no man is better qualified to make that statement than is the Oni of Ife who is himself in the vanguard of progress and who has given to the Western Provinces a demonstration of what a democratic ruler should be and of what a democratic ruler can do.

Sir, I support the motion.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

Your Excellency, I rise to support the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

I am glad to associate myself with those of my colleagues of the Eastern Provinces who have extended the warm welcome of the Region to Your Excellency and Lady Macpherson and to all visiting Honourable Members.

I desire to pay a sincere tribute to Your Excellency's patience, good sense and statesmanship in the way Your Excellency has literally begged for comment and criticism from our local counterpart of His Majesty's Opposition, since the debate on the Budget opened. Your Excellency could indeed have put the question on the first or second day of debate, when there was a lull on the speeches. It is my earnest hope that when this country comes to political maturity we shall carry with us, not only memories, but practical appreciation of British constitutional procedure and prove ourselves not only willing but anxious to weigh and accommodate the other man's viewpoint as an indispensable ingredient in statecraft.

The Budget before us is a formidable document and I must confess quite frankly that my attitude rather is that of a humble enquirer desiring the unravelling of some of its mysteries. In view of the fact, for instance, that supplementary expenditure for the first nine months of the financial year 1949-50 exceeded one-and-a-half million pounds (the exact figure is £1,661,700) with an estimated Surplus Balance for that year of £710,650 why does the Financial Secretary budget for the paltry surplus balance for the financial year 1950-51 of £235,000? In other words for a surplus balance of less than one per cent of estimated revenue?

Again, if the rumour is true that unexpended Colonial Development and Welfare votes cannot be re-voted—perhaps the Honourable the Development Secretary will offer an explanation here with confirmation or refutation of this rumour, why does the Budget show an estimated revenue of £4,189,120—from Colonial Development and Welfare Grants, against an estimated expenditure under this head of £4,164,120—£25,000 less than revenue? In connection with this question of re-vote of unexpended Colonial Development and Welfare money I have particularly in mind grants for a bridge in my district of the Calabar Province which we are unable to rush through this month but which we are extremely anxious to see through before the next high floods. I hope the Honourable the Development Secretary will explain with particular reference to this bridge over the Enyong Creek on the new Ikot-Ekpene-Aro Road.

I note that the Honourable the present Financial Secretary proposes to carry out his predecessor's policy of expenditure stabilisation enunciated at Ibadan last March. Commenting on that proposal last Budget Session, I said, *inter alia*: "I cannot, however, endorse the suggestion to stabilise expenditure on education without two important reservations. We have to face the inescapable necessity to train secondary school teachers for commerce and industry as well as for purely academic utility."

Quoting the following statement from the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech:—

"It is recognised, however, that there is a real need for a greater quantity and of more varied types of secondary education and of extended training within industry. Unless, therefore, secondary teachers' training on a considerable scale is undertaken during the next decade in relation to economic development . . . . we shall lack essential trained persons for commerce and industry in the years ahead",

quoting this statement I expressed the opinion that the then level of budget provision did not indicate that we were planning to meet our needs in this field. I still feel so with relation to the present provision. But I shall return to this topic later.

In the gigantic task of piloting this country to manhood and maturity I can discern that Your Excellency's administration is grappling with three major problems—all closely knit and interwoven with each other and all concerned with foundation laying. (I am not thinking of political advance and constitution making at the moment—things in a sense the effect, and not the cause, of foundations).

Broadly speaking, our development falls into three categories—physical, fiscal and human. Again broadly speaking, the departments of Agriculture, Transport, Public Works and the Development programme generally concern themselves with our physical well-being and advancement; the various marketing boards, and their sister twin departments of commerce and industries and marketing and export, touch directly on our fiscal policy, while several agencies, principally the Department of Education, devote attention to our human development. Various Honourable Members have commented on what I might call the departments of our physical development and I do not propose to weary Your Excellency by repeating those comments or making fresh ones.

About the Marketing Boards: I am amazed at the way we seem to take them for granted. With the exception of one or two Honourable Members, notably the Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi I, K.B.E., the Oni of Ife, we have been tardy to pay the wisdom and foresight of Your Excellency and your predecessors, together with the business acumen of Sir Sydney Phillipson and his various Boards and Committees, the warm tribute you all deserve. An accumulated reserve of over £40 million in some eighteen months is an incredible story in the history of our fiscal policy and its attendant success. All this money could, under the old code of trade, have gone into the pockets of the various combines, leaving us with no guaranteed prices and no prospects in the face of merciless world competition, to boot! But it required a global war and the grim realities of that struggle to rouse the conscience of Government here and in the United Kingdom to a realisation of the

inequity of the old order. Time was when Government felt puny and helpless at the hands of trading combines in the face of an evil which threatened to crush the peasantry of this country; but, thank God, who "fulfils Himself in many ways"—even by Marketing Boards!

It will probably require as much, or even greater courage to face up to the problem of our human development. In the quotation from our late Financial Secretary with which I opened this speech, we can see the handwriting writ large on the wall:—"unless Secondary Teacher Training on a considerable scale is undertaken during the next decade in relation to economic development, we shall lack essential trained persons for commerce and industry in the years ahead."

The picture, Your Excellency, emerges in much bolder relief if for the words 'secondary teacher' we substitute 'high level specialist'. With the permission of the late Financial Secretary, I will repeat his text, thus: "unless high level specialist training on a considerable scale is undertaken during the next decade in relation to economic development, we shall lack essential trained persons for commerce and industry in the years ahead."

Your Excellency, in my maiden speech delivered in this House in March, 1947, I laid emphasis on human development. I expressed the opinion that two hundred scholarships per annum was far from excessive. In my view, the Nigerianisation Scheme suffers from lack of vision. Its horizon is the Civil Service. But this is hopelessly inadequate. What modern country depends for its industry and commerce—for its production as distinguished from consumption—on its Civil Servants? This reminds me of a District Officer friend of mine who told me in very bitter tones that of the fourteen of them in his College House who graduated together he alone had the "misfortune" of entering the Civil Service.

The keynote of policy enunciated by Your Excellency in your opening address last week was 'Participation'. We endorse this policy most heartily. Participation, not only in the direction and execution of Government policy, not only in the legislative and administrative spheres, but also in the specialist fields. This postulates specialist training in the higher levels, for example, engineering (civil, mining, electrical and mechanical), business administration, and industrial technique.

All talk of advancement towards self-government (and we Nigerians talk loudest of all) without a sound physical foundation coupled with the training of Nigerians to man the various fields of specialist activity, sounds hollow and short-sighted. The greatest development is human development. Knowledge is power. We want to induct Nigerians into the secrets of the white man's power—education in all its realms and levels. Your Excellency, I suggest that we must use overseas institutions and establishments on a much

more intensive scale, both for the theoretical courses and for the practical experience mentioned by Your Excellency in your address. Every minute of delay in establishing the projected Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology is, without the slightest exaggeration, the equivalent of five progress years lost, five self-government years as they will say at Glover Memorial! Your Excellency, we shall never achieve our ambitions for this country without an adequate supply of Nigerian specialists, technicians and business administrators in the higher levels.

Before passing on to other matters of moment, I crave Your Excellency's indulgence and that of Honourable Members, to allow me to touch briefly on the human side of the work of a number of government departments. In common with my honourable friend, the Fourth Eastern Provinces Member, but unknown to either of us, I had raised the issue of the status of Pharmacists and Dispensers by way of question. I await the answer of the Honourable the Director of Medical Services.

Similarly I await the answer of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, through the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, to my question on the status of telephone operators and supervisors.

It is very depressing to note that the Public Relations Department, of all departments, should contain Africans who complain bitterly and long over ill-treatment. This department, like Caesar's wife, should be above every vestige of suspicion of ill-will or discrimination. Any guilt on this score renders the whole work an object of the department nugatory. At Kaduna in 1948 we pressed in Finance Committee for recognition for a Member of the Staff of that department who is now in the Senior Service. At Ibadan last year we raised the question of another member who had spent some fourteen years in England. It was admitted that he was good and I had a personal assurance that his case would be considered. What has become of that promise? Again this year I am compelled to seek redress for yet a third member by way of question addressed to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, as a matter of form. Is the human relationship of this department all that is to be desired? I respectfully request Your Excellency to have a word with the powers that be in this department in the interests of that harmonious relationship which we all have so much at heart. If the ship springs a leak here, all our voyage "will be bound in shallows" and possibly also in "miseries".

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

May I ask a question. The Honourable Member was referring to the Public Relations Department? You had left the Posts and Telegraphs?

[Hon. A. Ikoku]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

Yes, Sir. While on the subject of government departments, I might state that I associate myself with the plea of the Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces for a suitable home for the travelling files and typewriters of the Clerk of this Council. We have watched his peregrinations with disgust during 1949 and now that he has landed at last at the Tower of the Secretariat, it is earnestly to be hoped that the tower clock, if not a bell, will ring out for ever the old year of a nomad's life and ring in a new era of peaceful planning and expansion within his sphere for an officer whom we all hold in the highest regard at once for his efficiency and his unflinching courtesy.

Your Excellency, I now beg leave to touch briefly upon educational administration and the teaching profession. First, then, the administration of education. The recent phenomenal expansion in primary, secondary and teacher training facilities raises the question of quality. I sounded a note of warning in the Eastern House some eighteen months ago. Book learning and examinations are not in themselves education; they are mere incidents in the educative process. We must look to the quality of our schools as this reflects the quality of the new generation to whom we must hand over all that is dear to our own generation. The new Code has set the administration of Voluntary Agency primary schools in its proper perspective and made satisfactory financial provisions for that administration. But in the sphere of secondary education and teacher training, the official government inspectorate is inadequate both in quality and in numbers to cope with the great increases in institutions. This is particularly so in the Eastern Provinces. The Regional Directorate also calls for strengthening in view of the onerous and multifarious duties that the Regional Deputy is expected to discharge.

If we are to get good value for the large sums of money voted for education, both from central and regional funds, it is a sound business proposition to ensure that an adequately staffed inspectorate exists to make sure that development is in step with approved policy. We must so staff our Regional Directorate that high level decision—and action—can be taken and executed with promptness and expedition.

Before leaving the question of educational administration, I should beg leave to draw the attention of the Honourable the Director of Education to the existence within his department of a school of thought inclined to the extremely dangerous and suicidal view of limitation of teacher training. In a country over 90 per cent illiterate a more reprehensible policy could not be imagined. I am quite aware that financial considerations are largely responsible for any inclinations towards the view that teachers are being trained in excess of our needs and I imply no reflections whatsoever upon any members of the Department. But I should invite the

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Honourable the Director of Education here and now to dispel any illusions there may have been on this subject and give the country an assurance in the name of the Government that the official view is diametrically opposed to this school of thought.

Turning to the teaching profession. Your Excellency, I must thank you and the Executive Council for your recent decisions with regard to teachers in Voluntary Agency Educational Organisations. I refer to the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme and what is popularly known as "Senior Service posts". It is the view of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, however, that in the former case the pension constants should be the same as those used in computing pensions and retiring allowances for Civil Servants, while in the latter the salary scale should be A, not B.

We are not impressed by the argument that Voluntary Agency teachers are not Government employees. No one denies that Teachers occupy a key position in the whole fabric of the State. If they are not Civil Servants, technically speaking, they certainly are much more than that. They are builders of the nation and agents directly of Government or associated with Voluntary Agencies in carrying out Government's obligations, second only to the maintenance of law and order—that of the care and welfare of the nation's children.

If for reasons of economy we cannot give teachers the same salary conditions as others of their status and education enjoy, let us say so frankly and sincerely and not try to tease and annoy those with a sense of vocation among teachers with specious arguments. Our objective should be the creation of a National Teaching Service.

Despite the desperate need for making up the leeway in educational matters in the North, His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, told us in his masterly exposition yesterday in this House that they are already meeting with difficulty in filling training vacancies in some of the Northern Teacher Training centres. It is true of the South as it is of the North that the younger generation are growing to despise the teacher and his calling. In remuneration as in status the teacher comes last. When Your Excellency or some distinguished Government visitor tours the Country, how many teachers are included in the list of "local notables", in comparison to lawyers, doctors and business men? These things hurt, and the effect goes deep. In view of the masterly speech of my friend, the Honourable Sulemanu, Emir of Abuja, on the status and remuneration of teachers, I shall add not a word more. I wholeheartedly endorse every word of the Emir's classic address.

Reverting to "Senior Service" posts, I am fully aware that there is no foundation whatsoever for the ugly rumour that there will be differential treatment between expatriates and non-expatriates

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in Voluntary Agency organisations in the matter of determining points of entry into Scale B on conversion. I could answer for the Government here but I suppose my word can hardly carry the desired weight. I should therefore invite my Director again to give an assurance on behalf of Government and allay the fear and suspicion which if left to gather force might destroy much that is valuable in Voluntary Agency schools and institutions.

In conclusion, Your Excellency, I should like to say a word or two on the maintenance of law and order. I desire to offer to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government the sincerest congratulations of all men of goodwill from the Eastern Region on his miraculous escape from the dastardly attack on his life. We in the East owe an apology to Honourable Members and to the whole of Nigeria for the nasty record our irresponsible elements have created in the last twelve months. We are thoroughly ashamed of this record and do beseech you not to judge us by a few misguided and misdirected youths.

I am confident that I am speaking with the full support of the Eastern House of Assembly (and by that I mean the unofficial members of that House) when I assure Your Excellency and Honourable Members that all men—and women—of goodwill in the Eastern Region are solidly behind Your Excellency in your solemn resolution to preserve law and order.

If there are any who believe that in the stirring up of discontent and incitement to lawlessness and indiscipline lies the short cut to political careerism and the eventual imposition of their satanic will on this fair land, they have made grave miscalculations. The solid good sense of the ordinary man and woman will react sooner or later against their bamboozling and tomfooling tactics. In fact, the reaction has begun. Their lies will out and they will eventually be discovered in their nakedness. Playing foul is always an admission of weakness. All players of soccer know this. Resort to violence is an admission that the game is up our friends of the school of violence know that they have lost the game, at least in the political sphere. When Germany began to use V-bombs for indiscriminate bombing, I knew that they had done their worst and I expected every moment, sitting before my radio to hear that the war was over. Violence is a sign of weakness; it is a psychological admission that you are losing the game. It might do our friends of the school of violence a world of good to bear in mind the old Roman adage that it is not always in the power of the same man to make a war and to call it off. On the part of us Unofficial Members we will do well to remember the ancient Ibo paradox that only a strong man can keep the peace. There was abundant evidence of British goodwill towards the Germans before 1939 as there is now. But during the war years the only language Nazi Germany understood was their own—that of violence.

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First the Royal Air Force stopped the Luftwaffe over the air of Britain. Then a follow-up with our friendly 1,000-bomber visits to Cologne, Hamburg and other German cities. The magic worked. The violent could now hear in their own language. That is the way of the world.

But there is a higher way. Today British goodwill towards Germany reaffirms itself. The Royal Air Force had to create the opportunity for it, however. If we want peace, Your Excellency, to quote another Roman proverb, we must prepare for war.

To our compatriots we extend the right hand of fellowship in our united effort to build a free and autonomous Nigeria, but to such of them as resort to violence, we would sing the gentle reminder that "He that taketh the sword, shall perish by the sword".

The road to autonomy, Your Excellency, will be hard and dreary. It may be long; it may be short who can tell? But it certainly will require all our qualities of head and heart and hand. The pilgrims to that Holy Land will need something like the following travelling kit:—

Work, real hard work, no words; truth, not falsehood; consistency, not political opportunism; tolerance, not a dictatorial attitude hidden under a cloak of false modesty; a deep and abiding philosophy of state, not shallow pet-phrases calculated to evoke the cheap applause of innocent audiences; construction, not confusion; co-operation, not impotent self-sufficiency; self-surrender to the highest ideals of service, not a self-imposed martyrdom coldly calculated to put us in a position to impose our wills on our less fortunate countrymen; above all—love, love, love all the way—not hate.

#### The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Your Excellency, I rise to congratulate you, Sir, for your memorable speech made last Thursday when you opened this Session of the Legislative Council, in this new but historic palatial edifice for which we ought to congratulate the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces, and the Members of Legislative Council from the Eastern Provinces and the Eastern Provinces House of Assembly, and the good people of the Eastern Provinces.

Your Excellency, you repeated and emphasised the policy of your Government in this wise—you said, Sir:—

It is a policy based on faith in the good sense of the people of Nigeria as a whole, and it has constant regard for the well-being of the most numerous, and important, section of the community, the great mass of stout-hearted farmers and villagers. It is a policy based on mutual confidence; confidence between the Government and the people (and by "Government" I mean the whole structure, of which this Council is an important part): confidence between the people

and their local government and traditional authorities: confidence between African and European: and confidence between African and African. The main theme—and it is a theme which I am constantly emphasizing—is “participation”. The aim of my policy has been, and will continue to be, to bring the people in and to give to their representatives ever-increasing responsibility, not only for shaping policy but also for carrying it out.

Your Excellency went further in dealing with the Constitutional Review, thus:—

“the time has come for the greater association of Nigerians with the Government, not only in the spheres of legislation and finance, but also in the sphere of policy making and executive action”.

Your Excellency, this policy that has been initiated by you has been watched as what we have been panting for year in and year out up to this moment, but we are happy indeed that Your Excellency has given us the hope, a sincere hope, for which all of us will be grateful to you for ever. It is, I would say, Sir, always a general belief of us that when the Governor goes the new Governor will make good his own plan. We will have a new Governor and probably we will have a new policy, and I sincerely hope that this policy of Your Excellency will be the foundation and corner-stone of the superstructure of our new Constitution, and if the new Constitution were built on this sound foundation of Your Excellency's policy, and it comes into operation (I mean the new Constitution) some time this year or the next, I can very boldly prophesy that in ten years' time Dominion Status will be knocking at the door of Nigeria and will be tenderly pleading “open to me”. Dominion Status is self-government but, Your Excellency, some irresponsible political charlatans have started to incite innocent youths of Nigeria to commit atrocious crimes of “violence on the person” and of sedition. It is a shame. They ring it stoutly in the ears of these poor misguided, and at the same time credulous, youths that they want self-government for Nigeria now, now. This they know is a lie. It is sheer folly to have self-government which you cannot defend. It is a farce, it is a sham—it is not self-government at all.

Your Excellency, if these youths that I refer to should go to jail at any time for the offences which I also refer to, their mal-instructors must also join them and have a bite of the bitter pill and a sip of the bitter cup.

**The Hon. the Attorney-General:**

On a point of order, Your Excellency, I am bound to say that the cases of these youths that are being referred to are *sub judice*.

**His Excellency:**

I was in some doubt whether the Honourable Member had some particular cases in view, in which case he would be out of order.

**The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):**

I do not refer to any particular case at all and the subject has nothing to do with what I am saying in this House of Assembly.

As I was saying, Sir, we all want self-government for Nigeria as soon as possible, but definitely I can assure you, Sir, it is not “now, now”. There is a case which I can quote of a country which agitated for self-government at a time when it was not ready for it. Great Britain granted that country self-government. I am referring to Burma. This was in 1947, but now Burma is seeking to go back into the British Commonwealth of Nations. As I said, Sir, these political place-seekers are the very small majority Your Excellency referred to in your speech on public security, as follows:—

“Finally, I must refer to public security. There is, I regret to say, a small minority—fortunately it is possible to say a very small minority, noisy though it is—which appears to imagine that it can achieve political ends by stirring up dissension and ill-will, and even by resorting to violence. I am confident that the vast majority of the people of this country utterly reject that view, and that I have, and shall continue to have, the widest public support in taking every measure which may be necessary to maintain law and order, so that political and economic and social advance may proceed. If there are in Nigeria people who mistake friendliness, and a sincere approach, for weakness, they are making a very grave miscalculation. We all deeply deplored the tragic events which took place here in Enugu and elsewhere in the Eastern Provinces last November, and we await the report of the Commission of Enquiry, which I hope will be published within a few weeks. We look forward to receiving the guidance which we hope that that report will give us, and all of us must devote all our energies to ensuring that never again shall such tragic events mar Nigeria's progress. If there are those who wish to make the publication of that report the occasion, not for getting things better, but for attempting to make them worse, I warn them of the serious consequences of such a misguided purpose. I am sure that I have every public-spirited Nigerian behind me when I say that the Government will take every step that may be necessary now and in the future to protect person and property and to prevent violence and disorder and I give a solemn promise to those public-spirited people that they will have Government's full support when they declare themselves on the side of law and order.

Unless that primary task of Government is faithfully discharged all our plans for political and economic advance, which command such wide support and on which the progress of the country and the welfare of its people depend, will be delayed and disrupted. I assure you that the task will be faithfully discharged, and I am confident that in carrying out this duty to the public the Government will have your ready and full support."

I believe, Sir, that empty casks make much noise. I can assure Your Excellency that the people of Lagos whom we represent see with you, Sir, on this particular point of public security. I refer to a new slogan of "Self-Government for Nigeria, Now, Now", but whatever the results may be I say, Sir, that the people who started such a slogan could only be political ignoramuses or ordinary mischief-makers. They are bound to retard the progress of Nigeria on account of the incitement given to the innocent youths of this country.

The people of Nigeria would hate violence of any kind but mark you, Sir, I would say that it is only when it is necessary that one should use force. Using force when it is not necessary is applying the law of the jungle, and I would say, Sir, that some time ago a Colony under the British Government tried to use force to obtain self-Government. It cost that country a Legislative Council. Therefore I am praying that we in Nigeria will beware. If we run too much we may fall before we get to our goal, and at the same time we should not creep into the arms of . . . .

The Enugu shooting incident was also referred to by Your Excellency. It was a very unfortunate incident indeed and we all deplored it, but as the whole matter is *sub judice* in the hands of the Commission of Inquiry I shall not say much about it, but I would say, Sir, that when the report of the Commission of Inquiry is released, whoever is responsible for the terrible incident must be punished according to the law. It is, however, regretted that some of our political bankrupts are capitalising on this horrible and unfortunate incident, as if to say such an incident could not have happened if Nigeria had self-government. I say, Sir, that this is a gross mistake and is a great lie. Accidents know no place and they know no persons.

Your Excellency I congratulate our new friend the Financial Secretary and I say to him in Yoruba "ẹ ka bọ"—"Welcome". The Honourable the Financial Secretary has prepared his Budget and presented his Budget speech in a very able manner. He has followed the system of his predecessor, Mr Savage, now His Excellency the Governor of Barbados, about whom Your Excellency quite correctly said "His high reputation was built on his integrity," and to that I would add his passionate desire to serve

in the best interests of the people amongst whom he worked. This gentleman deserves all the encomiums showered on him and I wish him the best of luck wherever he may be.

Your Excellency, the Honourable the Financial Secretary has made no provision for a contribution to the Supplementary Sinking Fund for the forthcoming year for reasons stated by him. In this respect, however, it appears that he has disagreed with his predecessor. I hope this will only be a confirmation of the Hausa proverb "Sarikin goma samanin goma", that is "ten kings ten periods" and not the case of "when doctors disagree the patient dies".

Your Excellency I endorse the idea that air services in this initial stage of development of Nigeria should be adequately subsidised by Government.

I also would like to congratulate the Government for having done its best to buy off the United Africa Company royalties which have been a burden on Nigeria from year to year for the past fifty years. Only those who believe in reality will succeed. Those who believe in theory or the idealists will always fail and that is why I congratulate the members of the Finance Committee of this Honourable House when they passed the vote that a million pounds be paid once and for all to free us from this annual charge on the revenue of Nigeria.

Your Excellency, the Second Member for the Western Provinces and His Highness the Oni of Ife have my full support as to the desirability of reducing the system of company tax in this country in order to encourage the formation of private limited liability companies by Nigerians and to attract foreign companies and their capital into Nigeria. I will refer the Financial Secretary to the case of the small country known as Puerto Rico which, in order to attract foreign capital into that country, has recently removed company tax for the next ten years. We want capital in Nigeria and whatever we can do to direct capital into the country, let the Financial Secretary do his best in that direction.

Your Excellency, the Honourable the Financial Secretary has raised a very important point in his address when he said at page 19 of the printed address:—

"Now that the period during which the capitation share was fixed is coming to an end, the time may be opportune for Regional Administrations in consultation with Native Authorities to consider the desirability of increasing the Direct Tax and reapportioning as between Regional Administrations and the Native Authorities."

Your Excellency, on this point I agree entirely with the Honourable Mallam Balewa of the Northern Provinces that the present arrangement of apportionment of the revenue accruing from



direct taxation among the regions is unfair, at least, to the North, and on the suggestion of the Honourable the Financial Secretary I hope these difficulties will be remedied so as to remove any kind of acrimony between region and region now and for ever. In that revision I would suggest that provision should be made for one region to be able to raise a loan from another region if necessary.

Your Excellency, I am in full agreement that one of the most outstanding developments in the economic field in Nigeria is the establishment of Marketing Boards, namely the Nigerian Cocoa Marketing Board, the Groundnut Marketing Board, the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board and the Nigerian Cotton Marketing Board. Their functions are to stabilise prices, to improve produce both in quality and quantity, to develop produce areas and the people thereof, and above all the Cocoa Marketing Board has been able to give a loan of £2,700,000 to the Government with the promise to give more if required. It is also gratifying, Sir, to know that the Enugu Colliery Board has been formed and I wish it every success. I am strongly submitting that the Nigerian Railway Board should be formed for the proper management of the Nigerian Railway economy and its staff. The economy of the Nigerian Railway has left much to be desired. This is so, Sir, almost every year. As far as the staff is concerned—wages and general condition of service—the employees of the Nigerian Railway are not satisfied, and there is no smoke, as I said before, without fire and as such, Sir, the condition of service of the staff of both the Senior Service as well as those of the Junior Service must be looked into, not by way of patching one side and getting trouble on the other side: it should be looked into generally and the cause of the trouble should be removed. I also support the Third Nominated Member in the suggestion that Harbour Boards should be formed in Nigeria. The Electricity Corporation Bill is before this House and it will be a welcome institution if it comes into being.

Your Excellency, I welcome the project of extending the railway from Nguru to Maiduguri for the reasons given on page 66, continuing to page 67, of Sessional Paper No. 4 which I will just read to you—it reads, Sir:—

“ Approval has been given to carry out a survey of Bornu Province for an extension of the railway from Nguru to Maiduguri. Thirty years ago Lord Lugard contemplated further extensions to the Nigerian Railway and this was one of his propositions which, he went on to state, would open up the vast plains of Bornu, the soil of which is said to be equal to that of the Egyptian Sudan for cotton cultivation, and would secure the trade of the whole Tchad Basin as far as the Egyptian Sudan. This objective still exists at the present time and, in addition, it has been shown that Bornu can grow other crops of

importance equal to, if not greater than cotton, namely grain, groundnuts and rice. In addition this area can maintain sheep, goats and cattle.”

Your Excellency, the position of this area for time past has reminded me of a verse of Gray's *Elegy* written in a country churchyard:—

“ Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear  
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen  
And waste its sweetness in the desert air.”

Now that this gem, this flower, is coming into the limelight I hope it will be in the best interests of the people of Nigeria as a whole that this area be opened up, not only for communication but also for trade in general. I sincerely hope Government will expedite this work without any delay.

Your Excellency the exodus of teachers from the teaching profession is deplorable. These teachers leave the Voluntary Agency Schools mostly for Government clerical appointments. This is detrimental to the country as a whole. Deserving Voluntary Agency Schools must be encouraged by way of subsidy high enough to retain qualified teachers in their schools and, owing to the importance of education in the aspirations of Nigeria towards self-government, this Honourable House, I am sure, will vote the money when called upon to do so. Imagine the lot of these poor teachers. Why do they come away: because the conditions of service are not attractive enough. Their salary is poor and it is bad economy to see a job that will fetch you more money and stick to one that will pay you less.

Some time ago, Sir, in this Hall and in this Session, I asked the indulgence of Your Excellency to pose a question to the Honourable the Director of Education. I have just received a letter from the Secretariat that the question will not be answered because I have not got the permission of Your Excellency, but if that were so I will speak about it here and now. I wanted just to confirm the information that reached me concerning the teachers' superannuation scheme which was approved by Government as far back as 1945, and which up to date not a single teacher has benefitted thereby, and not a penny has been paid by the Government. Those are the little drops of water that make the mighty ocean which carries the teachers away from the teaching profession.

Your Excellency it is apparent that the payment of expatriate allowances to expatriate Civil Servants is not producing the desired effect. Here is a typical example. I am reading from Sessional

Paper No. 4 at page 34. What is obtaining here, I say Sir, is obtaining in all Government Departments—this paper says:—

“Plant in all undertakings is in urgent need of expert maintenance and unless professional engineers with considerable experience are recruited very soon, the continuity of supply is in danger. The establishment is now 20 per cent below strength. Twenty-one officers have left the service since July, 1947 and a further five are expected to leave in the near future. The position therefore is indeed serious.”

I was reading from the Sessional Paper but you get similar reports from all Government Departments. These expatriate officers resign or retire because the salaries attached to their work has not been enough for them, and they get inducements of higher pay somewhere else in the world. If that were the case, should not something be done? Should not a sort of enquiry be made concerning this matter to remedy the deplorable situation? I say, Sir, that it is not only the Senior Service—even the Junior Service has the same trouble, the same noise is being made but unfortunately these people in the Junior Service have nowhere else to go to. They have to fight it out in Nigeria here, and to air out their grievances they go on strike and that is why I say, Sir, that it is the whole system of Government service—the system of payment—that must be looked thoroughly into—not the Senior Service this time or the Junior Service the next time. The population is rising and probably the census of Nigeria will be a sort of eye-opener—We should all know about these things—and furthermore the world at large is setting up a sort of economic standard which if it is high in one place will naturally be high in another place, and I suggest that we must move with the times, otherwise we shall be left behind and as such I do not agree with people who say that Nigerianisation must proceed despite the fact that we have no people that are suitably qualified to man our works. We want the best for Nigeria and the best must be secured at all costs anywhere in this world—whether he be African, European, Asiatic or anything else. We want the best for Nigeria.

**His Excellency:**

I am afraid I shall have to invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that he has exhausted his ration of time.

*Extension proposed, seconded and granted.*

**The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):**

Your Excellency, we in Lagos do not grudge the installation of automatic telephones at Port Harcourt and I hope that the Honourable Dr Ibiam of the Eastern Provinces will change his mind and discriminate no more against the installation of the same kind of automatic telephone for Lagos.

Sir, I agree that the Clerk of the Legislative Council should have his own separate office and staff and should be responsible directly to the Legislative Council. Our Legislative Council should have a library of its own.

Your Excellency, the progress on the Lagos-Ikorodu-Shagamu-Ibadan road, and also the Ijebu Ode to Benin road is too slow. The Honourable the Director of Public Works could take a leaf from the war time expediency when Bailey Bridges were used at difficult places where it was found that ordinary bridges would take a long time to construct. I would like to advise him to look into this.

I do not agree, Sir, to any increase in the present postal rates as suggested by an Honourable Member for the Eastern Provinces. It was when postal rates were lowered in England years ago that more money poured into the coffers of the Chancellor of the Exchequer—not when the rates were high.

I agree, Sir, and I commend it to Your Excellency, that Nigeria must be industrialised as much as possible and as rapidly as possible. The tobacco factory at Ibadan is yielding much revenue to the Government and provides employment for many of our people. It is a very good example and I commend the Government to let us follow it. It is a private enterprise, of course, but it is at the mercy of the Government that it is established and I am sure industrialisation will invite many more companies and capital to come to Nigeria.

The salaries of Government pharmacists has been attended to by many Members of this Assembly and I associate myself with the views that the salaries of these Government officials should be raised. These people have not been properly graded and their work has not been appreciated by the Government, and I respectfully submit, Sir, that their condition of service should be looked into by Government. As I said before, Your Excellency, the magistrates of our courts should not be fettered with this system of incremental salaries. A magistrate does not just have to learn how to work, when he gets to the Bench. His work is to dispense justice according to the law in the same way as the Judges do, but the Judges have consolidated salaries and the magistrates are left behind. I still maintain that a person who is expecting an increase of salary at the end of the year is quite different from a person who feels that “this is my salary—this is my work”. The latter does his work accordingly and I am strongly recommending that the salaries of the magistrates should be consolidated. Why? Because the salary attached to that post is inadequate to attract anybody to that business, except those who like to go there for experimental purpose—or perhaps I should add who just like to serve their country!

[Hon. A. Adedoyin]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

I would join the Members of this Council in congratulating the Honourable Chief Secretary for the miraculous escape he had from a tragic death, and not only for that but also for the success of his brother in the Parliamentary election in England.

Before I resume my seat, Sir, the Fourth Member for the Western Provinces has referred to the press publication concerning the Alake of Abeokuta on the question which has been answered by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government concerning the freedom of that famous personality. The Honourable Gentleman complained about the press reports which were neither written nor published by either the Government or the Alake. A more reasonable attitude, in my humble opinion, would have been to let a sleeping giant lie and attack the "offending" press at the right time and in the right place. The Alake is not a prisoner and he has the right to live in any part of Nigeria or to go to any part of the world, if he chooses.

Thanks to Your Excellency. I support the motion.

**His Excellency:**

I think I might consult the pleasure of the House as to whether we might adjourn now. I am grateful to Honourable Members for their co-operation this morning. I should not wish to halt the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces when he was in full flight, and I should like to consult the wishes of the House as to whether we should adjourn now. If the Honourable Member will resume his seat I will do so.

**The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):**

I think the remark made by the Honourable the Second Member for the East was somewhat prejudicial to my friend.

**His Excellency:**

I did not hear it.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

Your Excellency, I feel very reluctant to rise at this time to speak because I feel that all the Honourable Members want to go home and if Your Excellency will grant me the indulgence of opening this House tomorrow I shall be very grateful.

**His Excellency:**

I shall be happy to meet the wishes of the Honourable Member if he feels that his position has in any way been prejudiced. Do I understand that the Honourable Member would prefer to begin his speech tomorrow morning?

[Hon. Nyong Essien]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

Yes, Sir.

**His Excellency:**

If there is nothing else to be raised, I think that completes the business for the day. We shall resume again tomorrow morning at 9.30.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Council adjourned at 1.38 p.m.*

# Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Friday, 10th March, 1950

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Chamber of the Eastern House of Assembly, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, the 10th of March, 1950.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour Sir Chandos Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Captain Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Acting Attorney-General,  
The Honourable A. Ridehalgh, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,  
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,  
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,  
The Honourable C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Director of Education,  
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,  
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,  
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,  
The Honourable E. A. Carr.

- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Honourable B. E. Sharwood-Smith, E.D.
- The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,  
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.
- The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable P. V. Main.

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Member for the Colony,  
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.
- The First Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.
- The Second Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.
- The First Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.
- The Emir of Gwandu,  
The Honourable Yahaya, C.M.G., C.B.E.
- The Emir of Katsina,  
Alhaji the Honourable Usuman Nagogo, C.B.E.
- The Oni of Ife,  
The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.
- The Atta of Igbirra,  
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.
- The Emir of Abuja,  
The Honourable Sulemanu.
- The First Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Bello Kano.
- The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.
- The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Iro Katsina.
- The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.
- The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.
- The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.
- The Second Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.
- The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.
- The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable N. Essien.

- The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.
- The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.
- The Second Nominated Member,  
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.
- The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.
- The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Soetan.

## ABSENT

## UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

- The Oba of Benin,  
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.
- The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.
- The First Nominated Member,  
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.
- The Third Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

## PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of March, 1950, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS

## The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :

Sir, I rise to give notice that at a later stage of this Council I shall move the following:—

“ Be it resolved :

“ That this Council agrees with the “ Statement of policy proposed by the Government for the future regulation of grants in aid of the Medical and Health Services provided by the Voluntary Agencies in Nigeria ”, as contained in Sessional “ Paper No. 27 of 1949 ”.

## The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :

I rise to give notice that at a later date I shall move the following:—

“ Be it resolved :

- “ That documents presented to the Trusteeship Council  
“ of the United Nations in respect of the adminis-  
“ tration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom  
“ trust be laid on the table of this Honourable House  
“ from time to time ”.

### QUESTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

90. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

For <sup>her</sup> replies to

(a) Supplementary Question to No. 123 (1) (d) by the  
First Lagos Member,

(b) Supplementary Question to No. 84 by the same  
Member,

asked at the Ibadan Budget Session of the Legislative Council in  
March, 1949.

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:

(a) In attendance at the Ijebu-Igbo Dispensary are two midwives  
and one Native Administration dispensary attendant by name,  
Sabina Kogbodoku, Julie Onagbeso and Mr Odubajo. Sabina  
Kogbodoku resigned her appointment on 15th March, 1949, and  
was re-engaged on 23rd April, 1949.

(b) The Honourable Member has been misinformed. No  
medical patients have been admitted to the Igbobi Orthopaedic  
Hospital to the exclusion of urgent surgical cases.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon.  
H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):

128. To ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works:—

(a) When will the old dilapidated bridge across Aba River be  
replaced by a permanent and more suitable bridge considering the  
enormous number of Motor Vehicles, Bicycles and Pedestrians  
using the bridge daily?

(b) Is Government unaware of fatal accidents that have  
occurred on this old temporary structure some time ago?

Answer—

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:

(a) Since this timber bridge, which has recently been re-decked,  
is structurally sound, it is not proposed at this stage to replace it  
by a permanent bridge.

(b) No, Sir. As far as Government is aware no fatal accidents,  
the cause of which could be attributed to the condition of the  
bridge, have occurred during the past year.

### His Excellency:

Before we go on with the Debate on the Appropriation Bill I recall  
to Honourable Members that on Wednesday this Council decided  
to refer to a Select Committee the Report of the General Constitu-  
tional Conference together with the comments thereon of the  
Regional Houses. I have decided that the composition of the Select  
Committee should be the same as that of the Select Committee  
appointed at Ibadan at the opening meeting of the last Session to  
advise me on how the Constitutional Review should be carried out.  
That is: All Honourable Unofficial Members, the three Chief  
Commissioners, the Honourable the Financial Secretary, the  
Honourable the Acting Attorney-General, and the Honourable the  
Chief Secretary to the Government who shall be Chairman.

### BILLS

#### (Second Reading)

THE 1950-51 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1950

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong  
Essien):

Your Excellency and the Honourable Members of this House. I  
rise at this moment to contribute to the Motion or the Bill before the  
House. The peculiarity that lies in my method of speech this  
morning is caused by the peculiarity of the speeches which I have  
heard in this House—I may not say since the opening, but I can  
say, yesterday. That peculiarity on my part may lie in my deviat-  
ing from the usual method of delivering a Parliamentary speech in  
this House. Your Excellency, it is not my wish to digress from  
Parliamentary rule, without obtaining permission from the Chair.  
I will not waste the time of this House but I am digressing only for  
a few minutes.

### His Excellency:

I cannot give the Honourable Member a blank cheque. If he  
transgresses our Standing Rules and Orders I shall pull him up.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong  
Essien):

This year, Sir, is my ninth year in this House. I was sworn in  
here on the 28th of November, 1938, and I served at a stretch of five  
years from 1938 to 1943. From the year 1947 I served to this day  
in 1950. The nature of speeches I heard under the old constitution  
excelled the nature of those I heard yesterday. The speeches I  
heard in this House yesterday, Sir, if not checked, have predicted  
detriment to the Parliamentary destiny of the East in particular  
and of Nigeria in general. Why I say that, Sir, is because such a  
speech had never before emanated from the North, nor from the  
West, nor from Lagos, but from the East. There is no justifiable

reason why private feelings should rule this House. Our political sun rose in the North, passed through the West and is now setting in the East. It is significant of the fact that the old Constitution is to be buried in the East, so as to manure the soil of the East for the New Constitution to germinate and spring up, as it were a resurrection, with fullness of life and beauty from the East, through the North, to the West, which is the usual course of the natural sun. Your Excellency, I am not going to be personal but I may be personal. That due to my advantage in this House as the oldest member in terms of service, with due deference to the Honourable the Member for the Colony, he is the father of the House, I am asking that, after during the interval this morning Your Excellency will be pleased to grant me permission, I wish to contact my Honourable Colleagues of the North, and those of the West, as well as Lagos, before or after consulting the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government for his advice so as to form a committee to go into what has presented itself in this House as a giant to destroy the good services of Nigeria. Yesterday it was said and the saying is still in operation that the policy of imperialism is divide and rule. But in this House. Your Excellency, with no fear of repercussions I am convinced that all the Officials in this House, including Your Excellency's august person, are no more for imperialism but for humanism. I am convinced of that. To bring back the vast culture of the ancient Romans and the ancient Greeks, to bring up in full manhood all that is fine and beautiful in Nigeria for the glory of the British and the glory of Africa, as well as the glory of all humanity. Well, Sir, I place that as a request before Your Excellency so that the Committee will report through the Chief Secretary to Your Excellency. I feel, Sir, that in certain places or in all places unity—all places in so far as administration is concerned—unity spells on persons a sign of progress in every administration. Even in the British policy, it is not in every aspect of it that unity alone works the policy of the country.

I read as an instance of that, Sir, from this book addressed to Truth on the 11th of February, 1944. The title of the book is *Writings of a Rebel*. It is written by one of the most loyal subjects of His Majesty the King, Commander Geoffrey Bowles, R.N., of His Majesty's Navy. On page 24 he writes:

"When a person in power mouths the dog-latin word 'unity' he means 'Agree with me or be damned—especially when I am wrong.' The free man's reaction to that is 'When you are wrong, I will be damned if I do agree with you.' Unity supports power, and power is always abused. For freedom, opposition against power is more important than unity. It is not men who matter. What matters is right and wrong. Virtue consists in choosing right when there is a free choice between right and wrong. That free choice is the right of free men. Prisoners are denied the virtue of choosing right

because they are forcibly prevented from choosing wrong. Nothing is so united as a flock of sheep. When the bell wether jumps over a stone, the rest of the united flock follow and jump, even when the stone is taken away. The Gadarene swine were united. Some politicians would have us imitate sheep and swine. Diversity is an element of liberty. Unity is a mental mousetrap into which free men do not walk. Man being what he is, political unity is usually intellectual death".

Even though, Sir, I referred to a little bit of clouds that darken this House yesterday, I have no doubt that we are progressing. Whosoever knows that knowledge is power, wealth is power, knows also that there are other powers besides those of Government. When a man is destructive of the best interests of the nation I make this political declaration that such a man can never hold me by the nose and drag me to every corner of his property. In the best interests of the people I am what I am in this House. Whenever I do anything it springs from my mind. If I follow you—I follow humanity as I am following Your Excellency now. So, Sir, I am waiting if Your Excellency will grant me that permission because you know, Sir, what is best and which way the wind blows, little grains of sand, little drops of water. Even though the reference I have made might be to something very insignificant yet I know that one bad apple spoils the whole pie.

**His Excellency:**

I do not know if the Honourable Member wants me to reply to this request but I am bound to say that I cannot from this Chair give permission for any Committee to be set up or any action to be taken which does not relate to the business of this Council. I cannot advise the Honourable the Chief Secretary to authorise the Honourable Member to take some action outside the Council. I am sure the Honourable Member understands the position.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

As Your Excellency pleases, but

**His Excellency:**

That does not prevent the Honourable Member from doing anything he wants outside the Council. Formal approval of the Chair cannot be given unless on a subject that is the formal business of the Council.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

The Bill before us portrays the nature of the Honourable Member in that Office as being a round peg in a round hole. I am referring to the Secretary, Finance. He has truly succeeded

his predecessor—like attracts like. He has taken upon the sceptre or jurisprudence on Accountancy laid down for him by the Honourable the Secretary, Finance, now His Excellency the Governor overseas in the person of Mr Savage. I mention that name with all due deference because he is one of those very few officials in Nigeria who captured and captivated the very spirit and soul of Nigeria and played with it to the satisfaction of everyone who came in contact with him. Never was there hurt in his mind, always cheerful; he carried every burden he was presented with without feeling the least weight. I do realise that. I now join my Honourable Colleagues to congratulate Mr Savage. I am requesting that this be recorded and transmitted to him as an encouragement in his new office. We wish him and his admirable lady every success they wish for themselves. In favour of his successor this much can I say: that we are glad to give him a hearty welcome. He has already endeared himself to us by the reference he made to the prosperity, beauty, and strength of Nigeria. He has been endowed with a clear vision of the future of Nigeria. As Joseph predicted famine in Egypt and controlled her and managed her affairs to her prosperity and safety, the "wizard" of our finance today is our Joseph. Into his able hand we commit the service and the life of Nigeria as long as he is in that office. That is our comment. May he be blessed in all his undertakings, and appointed a Governor of any Colony and Protectorate to which his office may call him.

Your Excellency, I welcome my Honourable Colleagues from the North as well as those from the West. This is the first time we have had his honour in the East. It envisages the future greatness of Nigeria. Looking around I am compelled to say how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. In unity and co-operation our freedom is sure. I appeal to you all to bury our difference and suspicions, so that when it comes to a point of disagreement we agree to disagree. Let us build upon the foundation of goodwill and common interest. We all have now dropped into one melting pot. That is the way to prosperity: what affects one affects all. I welcome you all, my Honourable Colleagues and Friends. From us here in the East you have our implicit confidence. We do assure you that it is not in us, nor was it in our fathers to retreat at the darkest hour of the battle of existence. We are behind you to give you our support.

Your Excellency, this is a peculiar year because of the peculiarity of major events which are happening now in Nigeria. They are destructive in nature. One is under inquiry and the other is still pending in court. I do not want to be framed up by the law in view of the legal circumstances at the moment. Nevertheless I wish to make only a casual reference to the attempted assassination of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government. As I

was going on my daily rounds in my own area I witnessed two women quarrelling. One said to the other "You are a witch." In the midst of the crowd that surrounded them, and the accused turned round and look at the crowd and asked: "Is this the face of a woman who is a witch?" Your Excellency, I humbly request that Your Excellency turns your graceful face, and I ask this Honourable House to turn their eyes to the face of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government and decide whether such a face is the face of a man who should die violent death?

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

I take it that the Honourable Member is not moving a formal Motion to that effect?

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

Well, I say, Your Excellency, No, Never. I support my Honourable Friend the Member for Calabar when he said that that matter should be left entirely into the hands of the Criminal Investigation Department for thorough investigation with a view to remove violence from Nigeria. Resort to violence is unconstitutional. Even in the past days when our government was in our hands violence was not justified; nor was it a lawful means by which to claim a right. From the period of that state of nature to present moment of civilization, the rule of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" still holds.

Therefore, this reproach of violence should be justly and constitutionally removed from the land. It is right and proper to complain of political and administrative errors and failings. That should be done constitutionally and not violently.

Even though error may triumph  
Though long the rule of might  
Today throughout earth's borders  
We'll strike for truth and right.  
It is not with the sword or canon  
Will we prepare the way  
But tongue and pen and heart throb  
Shall speed the coming day  
Of our constitutional emancipation.

Your Excellency, may I refer to Your Excellency's speech, the last paragraph of which reads:

"Finally, I must refer to public security. There is I regret to say, a small minority—fortunately it is possible to say a very small minority, noisy though it is—which appears to imagine that it can achieve political ends by stirring up dissension and ill-will, and even by resorting to violence. I



am confident that the vast majority of the people of this country utterly reject that view, and that I have, and shall continue to have, the widest public support in taking every measure which may be necessary to maintain law and order, so that political and economic and social advance may proceed."

That is our city of refuge.

" . . . . . That the Government will take every step that may be necessary now and in the future to protect person and property and to prevent violence and disorder."

But the word "now"! Everyone is entitled to his own opinion; and of this section of Your Excellency's speech my opinion is this: that yesterday up to the moment of the violent incident Government was negligent of protecting the life and property of the people of Nigeria. If that was so, that negligence has caused the wholesale massacre of innocent citizens of Nigeria. How murderous! It is now the time for us to begin to ring out the old and ring in the new. Yesterday we might have been negligent, today we are sensible. We are standing on our feet and occupy the floor of common right to defend everyone against the aggressor, and that is not without the power that is responsible for our lives and property. So far as the final massacre is concerned, in my own Regional House I said that I would not say anything until the Report of the Commission of Enquiry comes out. It is then that every man will take his turn and see that the cause of that incident be crushed to ashes wherever it may be found. I am not going to say anything more on that incident until that time. We must expect every man and every woman to do his or her part when the Report is released—I will do mine.

Your Excellency, I have to thank the Government for the steps taken to let the people have their own Government. It is evident, Sir, that whosoever contributes to the drawing up of a constitution of the people he, Sir, has got the right of possession of and participation in that Government. We shall do our best to co-operate to the end.

The Local Government Bill: How gratifying it is for all of us to welcome this Bill! With Your Excellency and your lieutenants behind us we are on the right way to success in this new system of government. Whenever we err we wish to be corrected. All we want is equal chance for equal ability and equal pay. So do we all want to be in this world and so make advance.

**His Excellency:**

I do not want to stop the Honourable Member—I know I have the House with me in this. I wish to give him as much latitude as possible but I hope that he will restrict himself as much as he can in any references to Constitutional Review so as not to anticipate future business.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

My next point is Education. Our schools are not bad. With due deference to the Honourable the Director of Education I make bold to say, Sir, that all the schools we have in this country right up to scholarships which have been granted—are trade schools to bring up clerks, lawyers, doctors, and so on. But we have no State School where statescraft is taught—political science and other sort of sciences. Such a school obtains elsewhere. Why not establish one here? I said at Ibadan during the last Budget Session that in so far as administration is concerned we want trained and qualified administrators for our administration. Government in Britain is solely in the hands of well-trained amateurs and not professionals. A professional has two masters to serve, his own profession and something else at the same time. He cannot give satisfaction as a statesman in a dual capacity. His vocation is that of money making. His people's interest is of less concern to him, except he gets an axe to grind. We do need them as a fortress and defence of a city. When I was taking overseas tuition in law I read a maxim as follows: "Lawyers are the fence of a state." I wonder if in Nigeria Lawyers do realise that primarily their profession does make the "fence" and "defence" of Nigeria—their fatherland first and foremost. Yesterday it was said and the saying is still on that lawyers build their houses on fools' heads. Today, I am happy to say that although lawyers cannot help building their houses on fools' heads, they have begun to show themselves as stalwart statesmen, contributing constructively to the welfare of this country of their birth and pride. They are expected to serve in equality with their knowledge of the tenets of political science, legal ethics, and of civics. They should form themselves into a true and impregnable fence of Nigeria. Theirs is the duty to collect and compile our laws and customs for use in our courts.

**His Excellency:**

I am obliged to inform the Honourable Member that he has exhausted his ration of thirty minutes.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):**

I move that he be allowed another thirty minutes.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

I am grateful for extension to me of the privilege granted to be commonly enjoyed by all the Honourable Members of this House.

**His Excellency:**

I hope the Honourable Member won't be too encouraged.

**The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. Nyong Essien):**

I won't be, Your Excellency, at the end of my thirty minutes.

We need our professionals to come up to the platform of selfless service. I refer to professionals in medicine. It is a bounden duty of this profession to see that our herbs are used. Is there no balm in Nigeria? Is there no chemist or doctor to see that not all medicines should be imported? It is said destroying our trees and plants, because on them depends the life of man. Africa is a land of trees. The birds are beautiful, the trees are beautiful, the flowers are beautiful: no man can deny it today, but only man is vile. For wisdom, knowledge and understanding research work holds the Key. The avenue to this is education, primary, secondary and superior, and we have men and women of this calibre of whom we can be proud. Medical men should do their best to let us enjoy the property of African soil by producing through medical science our own native remedies. Money-making has got its page in the dictionary of a state. It is a means to an end.

Now the Police: they have done very good work in our midst. We know too that without them no order can be maintained or restored. I love the policeman even though I am being chased every day almost every minute by him: I do not worry at all about it. The policeman will assist me to face my enemy because I love him. I co-operate with the law. Your Excellency, since I was appointed to this House in 1938 I pleaded the cause of changing the uniforms of the police. Up to now they still appear to me to be in the uniform of Native Administration messengers. It is a serious reflection against this country. We have the money to turn out our men to what they ought to be. It is queer and ridiculous to see a policeman being converted from a Native Administration messenger to a school pupil wearing a beret instead of a helmet. Why not bring them up to the level of policemen in the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone? Your Excellency, I thank the Government for making an improvement in police quarters in my area. But the work is too slow and delay is dangerous. This long delay need not continue because a stitch in time saves nine. I now refer to the major part of police duty. The police is set in warfare as an army of cats to invade the kingdom of mice; but unfortunately some of these cats are turning themselves into mice to consume the bread, the cake and the cheese to which they were set to watch. It is a serious reflection on the administration of Nigeria especially the British Police Authorities. I know that a human being is liable to err. But when leading police officers turn into cats it is a disgrace! And where lies the safety of life and property? I appeal to Your Excellency to look into that Department.

**Commercial Houses:** I thank the commercial houses, the United Africa Company Limited and others for granting

scholarships to our people. That step leads me to remind those commercial houses of their pioneers who trained up Africans in United Kingdom to handle with remarkable ability and efficiency the business of their houses in Africa. I should like to refer them to their greater responsibilities, namely, Commercial Developments and Welfare of Nigerians engaged by them in their services. It is incumbent upon the Authorities of those Houses to produce not only Clerks and Managers to staff alien concerns, but also and particularly to help Nigerians to establish businesses of their own coupled with the knowledge of the techniques of trade and industry. For everywhere Commerce is King.

Finally, Sir, this is a point which I do not want to miss in this Session: the training of African rulers. I know that our Government does mean to rise and give a seat of administration to those of its trained Africans or Nigerians. By means of sound training a Governor rules as a King, a Chief Commissioner rules as a King, and a District Officer is a King of all he surveys. Your Excellency, knowledge spells power: our people should be trained for the management of the offices for which they are born to hold. The future of this country should be properly moulded and shapened. Special attention should be paid to youths into whose minds a good sense of responsibility should be inculcated by those who are in authority over them. It is true that the youth of today refuse to pay any attention to old men, whom they think are fools, but truly we know that they are fools. When I was at school I lived with my Housemaster until I finished my schooling. Even when I was teaching I lived with my Housemaster. If I know a thing or two, or any virtue which may be found in me, that passed into me through the training given me by my Housemaster. The youth of today believe in themselves only at the expense of the benefit of experience of their elders. That is why they are wayward. I am appealing to Your Excellency, for a school to be established where our prospective rulers can be trained. Thank goodness that the Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces has already got through this House with a Motion for compulsory education. We want to draw and attract them to these schools.

Your Excellency, there are so many things, but this for the time being is sufficient. I am here with others to contribute my quota to the building up of this great nation. Thank you.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

Your Excellency, from the comparative lack of criticism affecting my Department during this debate, it might appear that the one-time favourite sport of Honourable Members known to some as "baiting the doctor" has suffered a decline in popularity, but

perhaps this is more apparent than real and we shall find that the main thrusts are being withheld until various motions concerned with medical matters come up for debate. Be that as it may, one or two questions have been raised which call for comment on my part, and these I shall endeavour to deal with as briefly as their importance will allow.

The Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces has indicated that most development schemes appear to be concentrated upon the large towns, and has asked us not to forget that it is in the villages that dwell the people who may be regarded as the economic foundation of this country. One must admit that upon superficial examination it may appear that this criticism does not apply to our medical plan, but such is really not the case, as the many hospitals shown ought properly to be regarded as the nuclei serving a network of smaller institutions in the form of Rural Health Centres, Dispensaries, sub-Dispensaries, Maternity Homes and the like, designed to bring the benefits of modern medicine to as vast a majority of the peasantry as conditions of finance and personnel permit. Your Excellency will recall that an outline of policy designed to further the health of the rural population has recently been approved by yourself and by Their Honours, the three Chief Commissioners. I hope that when the Regional Development Committees come to consider the forthcoming recast of the Ten Year Development programme they will accord practical recognition to the immense economic advantages of fostering such a policy.

No-one could agree more heartily with the Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces than I do, Sir, that it is a joke—although there is no humour in the situation—to treat a patient in hospital and then send him back to his home village where, through lack of reasonable water supplies, he shortly becomes reinfected and a candidate for readmission to our already over-crowded hospitals. It was therefore most gratifying to learn from His Honour the Chief Commissioner for the Northern Provinces, when he spoke to us a couple of days ago, that great progress in the direction of the provision of lined wells is being made in the North, and to know from other sources that progress in this direction is also being reported from other Regions. I am hoping for much in the way of simple improvements, including the protection of existing water supplies, from our Mobile Field Units, but for the moment they are too heavily engaged in a battle with a devastating epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever which is once again raging in the Northern Provinces. One looks forward to the day when these units can be diverted to augment the static services attending to the medical needs of the rural population.

Turning to another subject, Sir, it is pretty obvious that our pharmacists have been doing a great deal of lobbying amongst Honourable Members of late in a campaign to gain the sympathy

of this House in respect of their claim for a higher wage scale, for several members have stressed the responsibilities attached to such a post and have suggested that the remuneration is not commensurate with these responsibilities. When the Harragin Commission assessed the worth of a newly but fully qualified pharmacist, or dispenser, as they were then called, at £96 per annum I myself was highly indignant and promptly put forward a plea, couched, though I say it myself, in very much stronger terms than those used by Honourable Members during this debate, with the result that the then Financial Secretary agreed to raise the initial salary to £144 per annum, a step-up equivalent to no fewer than seven increments. I have often wondered since if I was altogether wise in taking up the cudgels thus on their behalf, for I have a sneaking feeling that had I left the officials of the Association to fight the case they might have gained something less than I did and yet have been more satisfied with a lesser increase by reason of its being obtained through their own unaided efforts. I am sure my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary will examine anew the relative claims of our pharmacists, having regard to their scholastic attainments and professional responsibilities as compared with those of other Higher College products.

My friend and colleague, the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces has asked me to make a statement upon the United Missions Hospital, a scheme which I am very naturally anxious to promote, as I must confess to being a party to, if not a leading partner in, its original conception. After much planning and discussion, estimates were produced providing for the construction of a teaching hospital where post registration and training could be provided for nurses and/or midwives in Mission, Native Authority, Government and, it may be, private hospitals. Unfortunately that estimate turned out to be rather high at total figures of £133,250 capital and £15,500 recurrent expenditure. The main problem became, and still is, where and how to find the money. In actual fact the figure for capital cost can probably be cut to quite a considerable extent, but even so I do not imagine that the full building programme will be completed unless at least £90,000 is forthcoming.

It has been agreed that the proposed hospital should be situated at Umuahia, where a suitable site has already been chosen, and as Honourable Members are aware, Government is in any case going to build a new hospital there at an estimated cost of £36,000, of which £12,500 appear in current estimates. The matter of the allocation of development funds is not in my hands, but I am prepared to advocate that to this sum £9,000 set aside for the provision of a Midwives' hospital at Calabar be added, as well as the sum of £6,600 earmarked for the equipment of the new General Hospital at Umuahia, making a total of £51,600. As to the balance, I suggest that as the Central Government and the Western Regions stand

to benefit from the scheme, these should share with the East the responsibility of making the necessary additional contributions.

As to the present stage of negotiations, Sir, last month I received a somewhat tough letter from the Secretary of the Medical Board of the Christian Council of Nigeria, indicating that, while the three co-operating Missions (the C.M.S., the C. of S. Mission and the Methodist Missionary Society) are prepared to commence building before full grants are available, they all insist that it must be made absolutely clear that their participation in the scheme can only continue as long as it is the firm intention of Government to implement the full training scheme as originally envisaged at the earliest possible date. I hope, Sir, that building will commence within the coming month or two and that a suitable formula can be arrived at as between the Regions concerned, where by the balance of funds required to implement the major scheme can be allocated at no distant date.

Lastly, Sir, I wish to give what can only be an interim reply to the Honourable the Second Lagos Member, who yesterday told the House of an incident savouring of discrimination in Jos. My answer is to the effect that when I come into full possession of the facts of the case I am confident that I shall be able to give the Honourable Member an explanation to his satisfaction, as the Medical Officer involved is one of the most conscientious doctors in the country, who would never turn away a sick person, whatever his or her status in life, and who has the welfare of Nigeria and Nigerians very close to his heart at all times.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

**The Hon. the Director of Public Works :**

Your Excellency, at the Budget Session last year at Ibadan I had occasion to thank you, on behalf of the Western Regional Staff of my Department, for your words of appreciation of the Council Chamber that we then met in. Today, Sir, I am pleased to be able to repeat these thanks on behalf of the Eastern Regional staff. The appreciation of their strenuous efforts expressed by yourself in your opening speech and by other Honourable Members will be an encouragement to them all. Next year I, or my successor, will, I hope, have occasion to repeat these thanks again on behalf of the staff of the Colony Division. It is much regretted that in both cases hitherto the buildings have not been quite finished. In the case of this Assembly Hall at Enugu, six months ago, the walls were barely half way up and it was still unroofed at the beginning of this year.

I have with me here in Enugu, Sir, sketch plans for the proposed Council Hall for Lagos, to be constructed and usable, but possibly not quite finished, in time for the Budget Session of

1951-52. It is likely that Honourable Members will like to see these plans at a later date.

It is, unfortunately, not possible to paint any brief overall picture of the activity of the Public Works Department, except in terms of money, and I am afraid that at this stage I must quote some figures. The total expenditure this financial year on capital works, and excluding recurrent works and services, is expected to be about £3,100,000, of which some £700,000 is represented by works for Native Administrations, for which officers of my Department have been responsible. This is over three times as much as in the year 1946, only four years ago, when the Development Plan was started in earnest. The Appropriation Bill now under debate, together with the provisions in the Regional Bills and with our obligations to the Native Administrations, call for the assumption of responsibility for the expenditure of some £6,500,000 on capital works alone. This is six-and-a-half times as much as only four years ago. It will be quite impossible to achieve this programme without considerable recourse to contractors and other forms of outside assistance. Of the total of £3,100,000 expected to be spent this year, about £1½ million is on account of development works.

It is unnecessary to quote long lists of works completed and in hand as Honourable Members have been provided with progress charts which indicate the stage reached on each approved work. I will restrict myself to a few comments.

Good progress has been made with rural water supplies. His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, has dealt with that Region, and I would merely add that the total of water points established during the year in all Regions is nearly 1,000, and a further 320 are in hand. In addition, about 5,200 feet of drilling at nineteen boreholes has also been done. As regards urban water supplies, that at Minua is now functioning and only finishing touches are needed. Work has begun at Ilorin, under agreement with a large firm of contractors, and during the coming year it is hoped that Sokoto water supply will be operating and that work at Maiduguri will be begun. In the Eastern Region the schemes for Onitsha and Abakaliki should be completed soon. At Lagos the new intake on the Ogun River is being installed and a part of the new main from Iju has arrived. Plans for Oshogbo, Ede and Ilesha water supplies are now ready and it is hoped to make a start soon, either departmentally or by contract. At Warri only the booster pumps are still awaited to complete the work. The stage reached in all other schemes is as shown in the Progress Charts.

Now, Sir, all this work is in hand in spite of the fact that we have only three Water Engineers as against thirty-one provided

for in the Development Estimates. The burden is, of course, falling on the Provincial staffs, already overloaded with building and road work.

As regards roads, 238 miles of trunk roads have been completed during the year and over 200 miles are in hand. Ninety-six miles of road have been provided with a bituminous surfacing and, in addition, many miles of feeder roads have been constructed. But the year has been essentially a year of bridge construction. Altogether 2,060 feet of permanent bridging were completed and another 4,050 feet are in hand. A number of major bridges are now under construction, including one of the longest in the country at Foggo on the Kano Eastern Road. This bridge is being built under contract, but all the others are being dealt with departmentally. Some of this work is difficult, and the layman, who only sees the finished work—perhaps only a steel span with a few feet of concrete at either end, above a muddy bank—little realises the care, the thought, the calculation, the toil and the anxiety that have gone into the work that is out of sight, sometimes 60 feet or so below ground level, so as to ensure that the structure of the carriage way is carried with safety. This part of the work takes months to do, perhaps even years on rivers where it is only possible to work in the dry season.

Only two days before I left Lagos, the Ogun River on the Ikorodu Road was spanned. The invisible work below the surface took a year to complete. The part that you see, the superstructure, was erected on the bank in a few weeks and slung across the river in a matter of six hours.

The Honourable the Second Member for the Northern Provinces has made specific mention of the Foggo Bridge. It is true that there are six or so Engineers and Inspectors working on this bridge, and it is also true that the salaries paid far exceed those of corresponding Public Works Department staff; in fact, the Inspectors alone get more than the average Provincial Engineer. But although the Nigerian Government pays these salaries, the persons concerned are the employees of the contracting firm and, by the conditions of the agreement, this firm, quite rightly, insists on selecting its own staff and paying the current world market price for their services. I can only add that I wish I could post a similar quantity of staff on our own departmental bridge work.

During the course of this Debate, Sir, there have been a few, but not many, complaints of the state of the roads. Honourable Members no doubt realise that the maintenance of the roads is entirely a Regional responsibility and that I have no say as to the amount of money needed or on what roads it may be spent. Such influence as I have is in the main restricted to technical advice. Such matters, Sir, are best raised in the Regional Houses of Assembly. I understand, Sir, that at recent meetings of these

Assemblies they were raised, and the weather was registered as stormy. I would therefore just take this opportunity of making a few general remarks. To start with, it bears pointing out that the amount of money spent on the upkeep of each mile of road, after due allowance has been made for the rise in costs of labour and materials, is now a little less than it was before the war. At the same time traffic and consequent wear and tear have in general doubled and on some roads trebled themselves. Motor vehicle registrations have risen from 8,614 in 1938 to 21,500 in 1949. It would hardly be surprising, therefore, if there were some degree of deterioration in the road surfaces. But has there been this complete detachment. Often I think people are apt to judge a road by the worst section of a road and their experiences on that section. Often I think a bridge is narrow, not because it is only 12 feet or 15 feet between the handrails, but because someone has hit the handrails, whatever the cause of hitting them might be. I am indeed sensible of the fact that there are many roads and many sections of roads which are corrugated in the dry season or troublesome in the wet, and that much improvement remains to be done. But taken on the whole the condition of the road system of this country is very fair and well up to, if not superior to, those of most other African countries. I cannot entirely disagree with the statement made to me only ten days ago, by one of the most candid and caustic tongued critics of my Department or, for that matter, of all Government Departments, when he remarked to me, "Well, you know, the roads of Nigeria are really very good".

Before leaving the subject of roads I should like to mention that recently the representative of a well-known firm has visited Nigeria with a view to participation in the road tarring programme. The report has not yet arrived but preliminary discussions would seem to indicate that costs would be about 25 per cent higher than departmental work. It appears, however, that this firm is actively pursuing its investigations, for since my arrival at Enugu I have heard that an enquiry has been made as to freight rates and port facilities for importing into Nigeria 10,000 tons of granite chippings. These chippings form the stone mat, that is spread over a newly-tarred surface, and in the Public Works Department we normally employ stone at or near the roadside for the purpose. It is incredible to me that imported stone could by any possibility be cheaper than the local material. That any firm should consider it worthwhile to make such an enquiry shows a very serious fear of the trends of labour output in this country, and is ominous in its implications.

The largest proportion of the Development expenditure, namely about £500,000 has been spent on buildings. I would like to remind Honourable Members, since it is frequently overlooked, that this is about only one-third of the Nigerian Government's building

programme for which my Department is responsible. For side by side with the Development Programme, is that connected with decentralisation and constitutional changes. Here in Enugu, for example, this Council Chamber, the printing office near by, the catering rest house, where many of us are staying, and numerous quarters and offices are all concerned with this part of the Nigerian programme and have had to be given priority over Development work proper. Western Region Members are no doubt pleased that a start has at last been made on the big female educational establishments at Ede and Ilesha—under contract. But what is not quite so satisfactory is the cost of these contracts, which represent an increase of something like 40 per cent on current work. Soon it will be possible to start the Secondary School at Enugu—also by contract. I hope that it will also be possible to get the contract system going properly in the Northern Region and in this connection it is possible that assistance will be forthcoming from the Engineering Branch of the Colonial Development Corporation, who I understand are considering setting up an agency at Kano.

I think, Sir, that "contracts" is a subject of constant interest to Honourable Members, and so I would mention that current major contracts, excluding those almost concluded, amount in value to £750,000, a figure which it is expected to increase soon. In addition, Sir, a very large proportion of works are done under schedule rate labour contracts. For example, here in Enugu, with the exception of this Council Chamber, all other work has been let to African contractors at labour only schedule rates. This system is far the most satisfactory in the present stage of local contracting and is much preferred. The African is supplied with all the materials he needs and is thus saved from the risks and losses due to fluctuating prices of imported materials and to the difficulty of obtaining them. At the same time he gains the experience so much needed in the organisation of his labour and the achievement of good workmanship. This system, however, does not lead to any lessening of the need for supervision or in the responsibilities of officers of my Department.

In conclusion, Sir, I want to turn to the question of staff. Much mention has been made of staff by Honourable Members, and in your opening speech, Sir, you made a very serious statement when you said, in respect of the professional and technical departments—particularly the engineering services—"We are very near to a disastrous breakdown". I would like to amplify your statement, Sir, in regard to the Civil Engineers of the Public Works Department, although what I am about to say applies also to other branches of the staff in a more or less degree. As regards recruitment, the position has improved slightly, though we are still very many short of the approved establishment. If we compare the position now with that of 1946, we find that there are 109 Civil Engineers compared with eighty-two then and, in addition, there are over

twenty Nigerians in my Department undergoing professional training in the United Kingdom, or about to do so. But there has started in the past year or two, and is now reaching very serious proportions, what I can only call a flight from the Department. Of the eighty-two Civil Engineers working here in 1946 forty-two have left Nigeria and another five have told me of their intention to do so as soon as possible. Only two of these officers had reached the age limit and they included many of the best and most experienced of the staff. The consequence of this is that the proportion of experienced to inexperienced officers which stood at 72 per cent in 1946 is now reduced to 33 per cent.

It is said, Sir, that it is the last straw which breaks the camel's back. For years now we—I mean the Public Works Department—have been an emaciated camel, but an emaciated camel can still stagger along even with a very large load of straw. But now there is this blood letting in addition—the best rich blood at that—and though the camel still stands upright it is definitely beginning to wobble at the knees.

I do not propose to deal now, Sir, with the reasons for this flight from my Department. Honourable Members have mentioned some, and others include difficulties over family life and the cost of schooling and maintaining two households. Of one thing I can assure this Council, it is no case of inefficiency or inability to do their jobs. All but one of these departed officers is actively pursuing his profession elsewhere, many of them in superscale posts in other Colonies, many of them in private enterprise, some of them in other organisations in Nigeria. Engineers from Nigeria are much sought after, and it is most unfortunate that their services are lost to this country.

There is, however, one reason operating in their decisions which I might mention. It was put to me only a few days ago by one of the Senior Officers of the Department when I asked him why he proposed to retire. He gave me several reasons, and then he added, "I am tired of the lack of appreciation of our efforts and the atmosphere of constant criticism in which I have to work".

These words were told to me, and in passing them on to Members of this Council I do hope I shall not be misunderstood. Honourable Members at this debate have been sparing in their harsh words. Many have shown sympathy and understanding of our difficulties, but Honourable Members well know that this has not been altogether the case at other times and at other places.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

I think, Sir, it is apparent that we shall not be able to finish the debate this morning and I suggest that we have a break now.

**His Excellency:**

The intention is that we should have only one sitting today and that we should complete the business of the day at one o'clock. Is it your wish that we break now for a few minutes and resume until one o'clock?

We will have a break now and resume until one o'clock.

*Council adjourned at 11.7 a.m.*

*Council resumed at 11.30 a.m.*

**The Hon. the Director of Agriculture:**

Your Excellency, you were good enough Sir, to make reference in your speech of 2nd March to "notable advances now proved in practice, for increasing the yield of the land." I should like Honourable Members to appreciate the fact that the experimental work to which you refer is being progressively extended, and that the work is not confined in any sense to the Northern Provinces, and that it is not by any means aimed at increasing production of export crops alone. My Friend, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces, has elaborated how some of these advances are being brought to practical account and I hope I shall not be thought guilty of undue repetition if I refer to one of them again.

In the Northern Provinces, as Your Excellency and His Honour have already stated, the Production Development Board has launched a scheme of major importance for the widespread distribution of fertilisers. It is doubtless true that in the future much fertiliser will be applied to groundnuts, but some will be applied direct to cereal crops and some to cotton. However experience shows that food crops grown in subsequent years benefit handsomely from such applications. In replying to my Honourable Friend the First Member for the Northern Provinces, I would say that in my opinion this is the best campaign I can suggest at present in favour of production of more millet and guinea corn. In the Eastern Provinces, extensive swamp clearance is planned for rice production and no less than nine closely supervised fertiliser experiments on farmers' own lands are being conducted this year, entirely upon the production of food crops other than rice. In the Western Provinces, special fertiliser experiments are in progress with crops of maize and yams. In the same region remarkably interesting and valuable results have been obtained from the use of fertilisers on tobacco in experiments conducted in collaboration with the British-American Tobacco Company.

The wide range of activities of my department is fully covered in the Annual Statement you have presented to the House, but I take the liberty to draw particular attention to this example of work with fertilisers in view of the implication in the recent remarks of some Honourable Members that Government's Agricultural Depart-

ment is neglecting work on the production of food crops in favour of export crops. I take some exception to this kind of suggestion, for it is not only misleading, but constitutes an unfair reflection on the work of the too few expatriate officers who still remain in Nigeria, and particularly upon the work of the increasing band of young Africans, of both senior and junior service, trained in agriculture, who are available for consultation in most parts of the country.

It is highly desirable that every encouragement be given to young men of the highest calibre to present themselves at our Agricultural Colleges for training. At present there are all too few of these, and I believe that Honourable Members could assist materially in this direction, and thus help to solve our present staff difficulties.

In Your Excellency's speech, reference was made to the value of Nigeria's exports for 1949, which reached to a total of £60 million. It is within the knowledge of Honourable Members that of this total the value of cocoa alone amounted to some £10 million, or one-sixth of the total.

It might be thought that the owners of so valuable an asset as the cocoa estate would do their utmost to protect it from wastage. It is regrettable to find, however, that there have been continued instances of obstruction directed toward the efforts of responsible officers, whose only purpose is the protection of this most valuable, but gradually wasting asset. It is not possible for me to measure closely the extent of disease damage indirectly caused by obstruction which has taken place on occasions in every year since 1946, when preventive protective measures were started; but the loss is considerable and is unrecoverable. The team which has been recently formed to deal with cocoa disease and rehabilitation under an Emergency Scheme has met with opposition, but it continues to be available for the conduct of adequate measures for disease control, in the hope that all owners will gradually come to accept the Government's policy and programme.

My Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary has shown how the economy of Nigeria is underpinned by Agriculture, and has drawn attention to potential dangers from drought and pests. We can do nothing to stop droughts, but we can, by judicious management of the soil, do much to offset the evils which follow such calamities. For example, the proper use of mechanisation, which is receiving our utmost attention, can help to ensure that widespread planting of a crop takes place at the right time to enable it to take most benefit from limited rainfall. Each and every one of the four commodity Marketing Boards has shown its capacity and desire to assist in the control or destruction of pests and diseases in important crops. Although I happen to be a member of each of these Boards, I do not hesitate to stress the importance of their contributions toward agricultural research and development, in a

way which tends to spread responsibility to the people most concerned, and to relieve my short-staffed department from heavy burdens.

I would like to congratulate my Honourable Friend the Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces upon his suggestion that continuous review of the agricultural and economic possibilities of Nigeria is as important as review of the New Constitution. It is to be hoped that when advanced political stability has been reached, a much increased measure of thought and energy can be directed toward finding the best ways and means of making life on the land more attractive to young Nigerians.

In this connection I should like to mention briefly something of the experimental work in resettlement which is in progress in this country. Let me take, for example, the scheme in the Shendam Division of the Plateau Province. I describe it as experimental, but it is well established already in so far as it has gone. The total area for settlement may reach to as much as 1,000 square miles. The first settlement of fifty families of people from congested tribal areas to new land in uninhabited bush took place early in 1948. In December of that year a second settlement was laid out. At present there exists the original settlement of fifty families, the second of seventy-three families and two more for fifty families each. The programme for the future envisages the establishment of not less than three settlements yearly, and it is hoped that this rate can be considerably increased.

I could speak at length on the detailed amount of hard work put into this enterprise, by the planning officers; but what has really made for success has been the enthusiasm and will to work of these pioneer settlers, inspired by the knowledge that the mixed farming practices which they have undertaken to adopt, will build something of lasting benefit for themselves, and a conviction that they are to enjoy real pride of ownership. Your Excellency, I should like to read from a District Officer's report on this scheme:—

"The first settlement had to be made attractive, and the settlers were therefore paid daily labour rates and given 2-lb of corn a day, this to continue until the settlement could be said to be well established. They were moved into a temporary harbour area until they could get some houses built, and labour gangs were employed to assist with clearing. The settlers worked communally to start with and got in as much corn as possible the first season. After the first harvest each was allotted his own farm of twenty acres and continued clearing, and at the second harvest each man averaged eight acres under cultivation, not counting rice in the marshland, and had enough corn to subsist himself and his family for the year.

The settlers had been given such amenities as could be provided. For instance, a canteen was set up and from its profits first aid supplies were bought. The former was run by

an ex-storeman and the latter administered by an ex-stretcher bearer. A very successful feature of the scheme this year has been the demonstration plots where new seed varieties and new methods of cultivation are tried out, and are on view for all to see. There are one-fortieth acre plots laid out as a nursery, and run by the Native Administration Agricultural Assistant, and records of yields are kept of each crop.

In December, 1948, the second settlement was laid out, and the first of what might be termed true settlers moved in. That is to say, settlers who had the pilot scheme as an example but who would receive only the minimum of practical assistance. All they actually received was the clearing of their village area (and, of course, the marking out of compounds and 20 acre farms) and the equivalent of about £3 10s a head subsistence to tide them over the hungry months before the new harvest. Such was their enthusiasm and will to work, however, that each had cleared in the first season sufficient ground to grow corn which will probably carry him through the year, as well as rice, a crop previously unknown to them. It is worth recording that the spirit of this settlement has been far ahead of that shown in the pilot scheme. Here the people knew they were working for themselves, and they tackled the road work with such a will that they used to have their task finished by mid-day and then went back to their farms. When the time came tax was paid at once, and they still had cash to buy cloth. Having good crops on their farms, too, they are well content."

Your Excellency, it is of interest to note the contrast between results so far achieved with this scheme and those obtained with settlers trained in the farm school to which my Friend His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces referred yesterday. At both, we are perforce now dealing principally with illiterates. We are bound to admit that we have not yet found the best approach to induce the ex-school boy to adopt an agricultural career. It may be that mechanisation may provide a part answer, for most boys are attracted by mechanics in some form or other. We shall hope so. In the meantime, we continue to study the problem at our farm schools.

I have every sympathy with my friend the Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces and my friend the Second Member for the Western Provinces in their representations. It has not ever yet been possible to post a full time Agricultural Officer to their Provinces. I cannot state when this condition can be remedied, but I do propose to examine the lists of trained staff to find out if there are any members of the staff whose homes are in the Ijebu or Rivers Provinces who could be spared for more general touring in these areas.



One Honourable Member, I think it was my friend the Honourable the Reverend Member for the Colony deplored the fact that "his people would not go back to their own land", and he deplored with others the rising price of foodstuffs. I do wish we could find a ready answer to both these problems. Several people have suggested to me that Government should undertake directly the growing of foodstuffs, as one remedy. Few who do so can appreciate the magnitude of such a task if it were to be in any way effective. It would, in fact, be quite impracticable, for supervision costs alone would be prohibitive.

Sir, His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces has referred to the unlikelihood of my personally being able to undertake the growing of food over the fourteen million acres of the Northern Provinces. Since the opening of this debate this morning I have come to the conclusion that I should probably only succeed in growing a bigger and better crop of thorns for the "emaciated camel" described by my Honourable Friend the Director of Public Works.

I am sure, Sir, that Government is following the best policy it can within the limits of its resources. We shall steadfastly pursue the search for acceptable means to increase yields, and to offset losses from pests and water shortages, and ever increasing or maintaining fertility.

Sir, I support the Bill.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Your Excellency,

I do not think that I would have taken part in this debate, in view of the battery of official spokesmen which surrounds me, had it not been for the speech which the Honourable the Second Lagos Member made yesterday. There are one or two important matters which he mentioned on which I assume that he would welcome a reply, and which should not be left without comment. Before I reply to him I should like to refer very shortly indeed to one or two points which concern me particularly, either as leader of this House or as the head of the Civil Service.

First, I welcome the appreciative comment which has come from all sides of the House regarding the members of the staff of this Council, and as they are unable to speak for themselves I thank the Council, on their behalf, for what has been said. The Council is aware that a new post of Assistant Clerk to the Legislative Council has been created. I am very glad that that has been done. I certainly think it was necessary. We hope that our present Clerk will be with us for several more decades but there must come a time when he will wish to lay down his office and it is necessary that a good man should be working with him, learning his task under the Clerk's guidance. We have advertised this post and we shall take

[P.S.G.]

the greatest care in the selection. Meanwhile, Mr Adebo has agreed to serve with his friend Mr Ojo and, as you see, has been working with him at this meeting. Mr Adebo has higher things to look to in Government Service, and it was good of him to agree to serve temporarily in this capacity. It is my responsibility to see that the Clerk of the Council is adequately provided with staff. I am hard pressed as a rule in my time but I always try to make time to see him when he comes to me with a request concerning the Council and I shall continue to give him all the help I can. We recently allotted to him a more suitable office, next door to the Council Chamber in Lagos, but I do not pretend that it is adequate and I hope very much that it will be agreed here in Enugu that a new Council Chamber should be built: the new building should, of course, include adequate offices for the staff of the Council.

I must next make an apology to the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member. (I hope, by the way, that the colour of his quill pen does not indicate any change in his political views). I should like to tell him that I am extremely sorry that a decision taken in this Council has not been carried out. We decided at Ibadan, on his motion, that Your Excellency's speech, with a summary of the speech of the Financial Secretary, should be translated into some of the Nigerian languages and widely published. I am extremely sorry that that was not done. Copies of Your Excellency's speech with a summary of the Financial Secretary's speech were indeed printed—I think the number circulated was 25,000. But no translation was made and I assure the Honourable Member that action will now be taken as he requests. I think that it would be suitable if the three principal speeches on Government policy which Your Excellency has made to this Council were translated and circulated at the same time. I am concerned that this serious mistake has taken place. After each meeting of the Council we go through the proceedings and check whether supplementary questions have been dealt with and whether any other consequent action has to be taken. I cannot say, without reference to papers in Lagos, how we failed to take the necessary action in this instance but since a formal decision of the Council was recorded this is a serious error on our part, and I sincerely apologise.

I should also like to say a few words about the Council Chamber in Lagos. As soon as it became apparent, as the constitutional review proceeded, that a much larger Central Legislature would probably be created in future, we gave our minds to the question of where the new legislature would be housed in Lagos. It is true that we anticipated that we might continue, as we have done over the past two years, to hold some of the meetings of the Central Legislature in the Regional capitals, but I understand that the General Constitutional conference at Ibadan has since recommended that the practice should not be preserved. I myself,

# Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Saturday, 11th March, 1950

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Chamber of the Eastern House of Assembly, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 11th of March, 1950.

## PRESENT

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour Sir Chandos Hoskyns-Abrahall, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Captain Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Acting Attorney-General,  
The Honourable A. Ridehalgh, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,  
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,  
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,  
The Honourable C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Director of Education,  
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,  
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,  
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,  
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Honourable B. E. Sharwood-Smith, F.D.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,  
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.

The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable P. V. Main.

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Member for the Colony,  
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.

The First Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.

The First Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.

The Emir of Gwandu,  
The Honourable Yahaya, C.M.G., C.B.E.

The Emir of Katsina,  
Alhaji the Honourable Usman Nagogo, C.B.E.

The Oni of Ife,  
The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.

The Atta of Igbirra,  
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.

The Emir of Abuja,  
The Honourable Sulemanu.

The First Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Bello Kano.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.

The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Iro Katsina.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.

The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.

The Second Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable N. Essien.

The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin,

The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable E. E. E. Anwan.

The Second Nominated Member,  
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.

The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Soetan.

#### ABSENT

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Oba of Benin,  
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.

The First Nominated Member,  
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

#### PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of March, 1950, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

His Excellency:

I wish to make a correction to the composition of the Select Committee to consider constitutional matters which I announced yesterday. Through inadvertence I omitted to mention the name of the Commissioner of the Colony, whom it was my intention to have on the Committee and to whom I now offer my apologies.

#### QUESTIONS

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

62. To ask the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

For a detailed account of the accident which occurred on the 1st day of September, 1949, at Ikot-Ekpene-Itu Road in which the Staff of the Magistrate Abakaliki were involved?

Had similar accidents occurred there within the last ten years? If so, can details be given including any compensation awarded to the injured person?

[C.C.E.P.]

[Answer]

*Answer—***His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

The Honourable Member presumably refers to the accident in which the staff of the Magistrate, Ikot-Ekpene, were involved at Mile 46½ on the Ikot-Ekpene-Itu road. The cause of the accident was a mechanical failure and, due to the smashing of the steering column lock-pin, the lorry got out of control. One person was detained in hospital suffering from shock and others were treated as out-patients. No other accident has occurred at mile 46½ during the last ten years.

**BILLS****(Second Reading)**

THE 1950-51 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :**

Your Excellency, I am not sure at this late stage of the debate whether a major or a minor key is the more desirable, but in my case the pitch at least is fixed: it is that of those well-known instruments, the pick and the shovel, the hammer and the hoe.

I have been impressed, as I was last year at Ibadan, by the interest expressed by Honourable Members in the question of the industrial development of this country: the improvement and extension of agriculture in all its branches, the exploitation of the country's natural resources, and the introduction and expansion of manufacturing industries so that Nigeria's primary products may be processed here, or articles now imported from abroad may be made here. These are all matters in which the Commissioner of Labour is interested, because they represent the work and activity which are essential if living standards are to be raised. Trade disputes, strikes and other labour troubles are merely incidents on the way: they lead to adjustments and, perhaps, remove passing grievances, but in the long run higher wages, better working conditions and better living conditions have to be striven for by way of work. They are secured by the proper use of the country's most important natural resource, the one without which the other natural resources have little value or meaning—I refer to the country's manpower.

My Department is very well-placed for observing the country at work. Both the employed and the employers tell us their troubles and we spend much time in seeking to resolve their differences. We are not like the three well-known monkeys who "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil". Of course, Sir, we carefully avoid intentionally speaking any evil, but as for seeing and hearing, in the course of our work we see all we can and hear all we can, good and bad alike. As a result of this professional inquisitiveness, a picture is formed: the picture of the country at work. I do not intend it as an unkind criticism when I say, with respect, that, in my opinion, there is not enough activity in the picture. There

[Com. of Labour]

[Appropriation Ordinance]

seems to be plenty of room, if not need, for more people at work, for more people working harder, and for more people working better. I have heard uninformed and hasty judgments very unflattering to the Nigerian worker, his industry and his skill; but Sir, I have myself seen Nigerian men, and women, engaged cheerfully and for long stretches at work which by any standards is hard. I have seen examples of Nigerian craftsmanship of which anyone might be proud.

These, Sir, are indications that the problem of productivity, of quality and rate of output, can be solved. Talking will not do it. Employers and trade unions, both separately and together, must give thought to the difficulties which are to be overcome. Honourable Members do not need to be told that the normal way of life over large areas of this great country is subsistence farming; that the idea of employment for regular wage-earning is a new one to most of our people; and that the proportion engaged in wage-earning employment is very small indeed; it is certainly less than five per cent. An example of the sort of thing I have in mind, Sir, is this: that it may well be, in circumstances like these, that the idea of being paid for a specific task, or piece of work, would appeal more to the worker and so produce better results than the idea of payment for time which traditionally has no particular value. This is, as I said, merely an example. I might suggest such other matters as the instruction and education of the worker so that he may understand better his place in the scheme of things generally and in the particular enterprise in which he is engaged; more vocational training and apprenticeship; more, much more, attention to discipline and to foremanship; a much more lively interest in what is called personal management.

A word, Sir, about trade unions. Several Honourable Members have referred to the movement and to its effects, and at least one has suggested that it is a foreign importation of doubtful value in Nigeria. In the main all organised human endeavour is performed by two sets of people, the one deciding the action and giving instructions for its performance, and the other receiving the instructions and carrying them out. In the field of labour these two groups are generally known as employers and workers, respectively. For so long as such a division of work and function prevails—and that, I should think will be for a very long time indeed—the members of either of the two divisions will collectively have points of view which, in some matters, will differ considerably from those of the other division. Trade unions are, amongst other things, means which make it possible for these differences to be perceived, defined, expressed and resolved in an orderly way. But, Sir, the proper use of these processes is something which must be learned and acquired by trade unions, and by employers too. There are limits to the efficacy of tutelage and precept, and limits to what can be learned without experience. It is natural therefore

that our trade unions, in their youth, should make mistakes and, sometimes, serious mistakes of a nature not to be anticipated solely by reference to the history of the progress, in very different circumstances, of the British trade union movement.

I have referred to the youthfulness of the Nigerian trade unions. It would, Sir, I suggest be a very good thing if Nigerians, trade unionists and others, were to look ahead and form some idea of the characteristics they would wish to see, from a Nigerian point of view, in the adult movement into which this youth will grow. Our Trade Unions Ordinance is based on the law of the United Kingdom and, not surprisingly, our trade unions themselves look to the United Kingdom for models. In connection with this, Sir, the effect upon the British trade union movement of its long and oft-times painful advance is overlooked. The trade union movement here, under the protection of advanced and benevolent legislation, has not been strengthened and refined by any such struggle for right and principle but has had benefits freely bestowed upon it. Its basic idea, that of community of interest, is, of course, not new and is obviously no innovation in tribal communities. Tribes and tribal unions have for centuries existed by acceptance of the principle. What is new is the extension of the idea beyond, or even across, the family, the tribe or the tribal union on the basis of the interests shared by and peculiar to the persons engaged in the new occupation of regular wage-earning.

These, Your Excellency, are all matters well worthy of earnest study and are some of the matters to which the Department of Labour directs its attention. I take the liberty now of commending them, in the general interest, to the attention of Honourable Members.

Sir, I should say something about strikes, not only because—regrettably—the word “strike” springs at once to many people’s minds when “trade union” is mentioned but also because—even more regrettably—the Commissioner of Labour and his work are not uncommonly regarded as being in some measure responsible for them. My Honourable Friend, the Financial Secretary, and other Honourable Members have expressed their concern at the irrecoverable losses, the inconveniences and the disturbances caused by strikes. On this, I will content myself with saying that, although the record is perhaps nothing to boast about, it is surely not as bad as it might have been if, where we have now at least the elements of organised labour with representatives who can be approached and reasoned with, we had instead formless, unruly groups of workers who would be easy prey to rumour, emotional appeals and irresponsible agitation.

There is much misunderstanding, Sir, of the legal aspects of strikes. One Honourable Member put down a question on this subject which had unfortunately to be ruled out on technical grounds. As the matter is of importance and of general interest, I

will, with due deference to my Honourable Friend the Attorney-General, attempt to clarify it a little. We may seek, but we will not find, any reference in our law to the word ‘strike’. ‘Legal’ and ‘illegal’ are not terms which can be applied precisely to strikes. No law confers a right to strike in the popular sense and, in law, any action by persons to induce others not to work for an employer, or to cease to work for an employer, comes within the law of conspiracy. Any such action, or the action of participating in a strike, may also constitute a civil wrong, or tort, as being an offence against an individual who suffers damage in consequence. The effect of the Trade Unions Ordinance, is this: if a strike takes place in contemplation of, or in furtherance of, a trade dispute the persons concerned are protected from the law of conspiracy and from any action for damages arising out of an alleged civil wrong suffered in consequence of the strike.

The law does not provide this protection for the persons concerned in a strike which is *not* in contemplation of, or in furtherance of, a trade dispute.

The term ‘trade dispute’ thus has a vital importance, and has a meaning defined in the Ordinance as follows:—

“ ‘Trade dispute’ means any dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or with the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person.”

On a relevant point, Sir, workers often feel that, after a strike, they possess a moral and a legal right to return to their jobs. I will not presume to examine the moral aspect, but from the legal point of view, if the withholding of labour or the refusal to perform work is a breach of a contract of service, it is none the less so when it is done as part of a concerted action by a group of workers: that is, when it is the individual’s contribution to a strike. The rights and responsibilities of the two parties, as determined by the contract, remain unaffected.

We have a special case provided for in section 305A of the Criminal Code Ordinance. This somewhat involved provision might briefly and roughly be described as making generally unlawful any strike in an electricity or water supply undertaking, or any strike which endangers life, public health or valuable property, unless in each case seven days’ notice is given.

It is perhaps worth mentioning, Sir, that in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and in some other industrially developed countries, there are highly specialised laws for the regulation of industrial relations. Where groups of workers and trade unions are recognised as ‘bargaining units’ a strike is unlawful and the strikers are punishable at law if the strike takes place before the

resources of the negotiating machinery have been exhausted and have failed to effect a settlement. Even then, it is in some cases necessary for a majority of the workers concerned to declare, by secret ballot, that they are in favour of striking.

There is one ugly manifestation which has threatened particularly to mar the Nigerian industrial scene: the adoption by workers of 'go slow' tactics as a means of pressing their demands. However regrettable an ordinary strike may be, it is at least an honest demonstration implying a readiness to accept the consequences. I have no good word to say for 'going slow'. It seems to me to be dishonest, demoralising, and an unworthy attempt to gain an end at the expense of others. I hope most sincerely that in their own interests and in the wider interests of the public the trade unions will have nothing further to do with a line of conduct which can only bring discredit upon them.

I will conclude, Sir, on another note altogether. I am sorry, personally sorry, that the heavy burden of work upon us all has made it impossible for me to introduce in this session of this Council certain important labour measures. Honourable Members will like to know that over the past two years a considerable amount of work has been done on the preparation, in the light of the changing circumstances of this country, of a draft Factories Bill and of a draft Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill. The first of these is of great importance to the industrial development of the country and the second represents a much-needed improvement of our present workmen's compensation law which, notwithstanding the benefits it has provided for workmen during its eight years of life, has now become out of tune with the times. However, I hope that very soon Honourable Members will have these Bills before them and that they will see in them new and important indications of Nigeria's social progress.

Sir, I support the motion.

#### The Hon. the Development Secretary:

Your Excellency, I am in the happy position of being able to report that during the past twelve months very considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Development Plan, though that progress has not been as great as we had hoped it would be at Ibadan last year. We then estimated to spend over £6 million. We shall have spent during the past twelve months between three-and-a-half and four million pounds.

The primary cause of the under-expenditure has been, not so much lack of materials and equipment—indeed for the most part materials have been forthcoming fairly well—as lack of skilled staff. Honourable Members will have noted, from the diagrams accompanying the half-yearly development reports which have been

sent to them, details of the staff position. But I am sure that the real seriousness of the position, Sir, will be realised when I say that in the numerous departments concerned with implementing the Development Plan out of an approved total establishment of 938 no less than 467 posts are vacant. I do not propose to say anything more about this at the moment, except to make two points: first of all, if we do not get the trained technical staff, we cannot carry out the plan; and secondly, in the light of the staff position I am amazed at the volume of work which has been done in the past twelve months.

I do not, Sir, propose to review in detail the progress of each of the schemes which go to make up the plan, or to reply to every individual criticism which has been made by Honourable Members who have spoken in this debate; this I will do in Select Committee, but I should like to refer to one or two now.

The Honourable the Oni of Ife drew attention to the slow progress of urban water supply schemes in the Western Provinces. The primary reason for the slow progress of these schemes is that under the plan approved a free grant of only thirty per cent of the cost is made from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, leaving seventy per cent of the cost plus the cost of maintenance to be borne by the local authority. In many cases this has proved too great for the local authority. It is true, Sir, that a loan was offered to the authority concerned, but the repayment instalments in respect of the loan, plus the costs of maintenance would have proved too heavy. But I am now happy to announce that the free grant has been increased from thirty per cent to fifty per cent, and I hope that will enable more rapid progress to be made.

The Honourable the Third Nominated Member, Sir, drew attention to the delay in the unloading of ships which takes place in our ports and he pressed for the establishment of a Harbour Trust. As I think all Honourable Members are aware, Sir, the management of our ports has recently been the subject of examination by an expert commission. Their report, Sir, has been received and is now being considered. In this connection I would only remind Honourable Members of what I said in introducing the Electricity Bill, that it is the Government's policy to set up Boards or Corporations to take over functions now carried out by Government Departments where they are of a commercial rather than a governmental nature.

The Honourable Member also expressed concern with regard to the silting up of Escravos Bar. I can assure him that his concern is fully shared by Government. But I am informed that the dredging of a river bar in a swell such as obtains on the Escravos Bar is, I understand, an operation of very great difficulty. So seriously do Government regard the position that experts from two dredging firms have already visited the Bar and examined conditions thereon while the dredger *Ibadan* was actually at work. The utmost

that can be said at the moment is that it is not yet certain that that dredger will not be able to improve the depth of water on the Bar. I would like to make it plain, Sir, that Government would be perfectly willing to let out the dredging of this Bar to contract on a payment by results basis. I can assure the Honourable Member and this Council that the Government regards this matter as one of the greatest importance and urgency.

The Honourable the Second Lagos Member urged that we should grasp the opportunity to develop the by-products of our coal and lignite and recommended that advantage should be taken of the limestone deposits in Nigeria to manufacture cement. I can assure the Honourable Member that we have already grasped the opportunity to develop the by-products of our coal and lignite and that at this moment Messrs Powell Duffryn are erecting a pilot plant to test the possibility of the commercial development of those by-products which laboratory tests have proved to exist. As to cement, the Colonial Development Corporation are actively examining the possibility of manufacturing cement in Nigeria.

The Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces asked for an assurance with regard to re-provision of development funds with particular reference to a bridge over the Enyong Creek. The position with regard to Colonial Development and Welfare funds unexpended at the 31st of March, Sir, is that because the British Act of Parliament provides that not more than twenty million of the 120 million provided may be spent in any one year, it is impossible for a guarantee to be given that money unspent in one year will be automatically re-voted in the next, but I can give the Honourable Member this consolation that in the past no request for the re-provision of unspent balances has ever been refused.

Since the Ten Year Plan was first drawn up a number of new factors has arisen, the most important of which are:—

- (a) Costs have increased and we shall have to cut some schemes now included in the Plan if the total commitment is not to be exceeded;
- (b) Public discussion and criticism have indicated changes which can and should be made in the Plan itself and in the priorities of the various schemes included in it.

It has therefore been decided to recast and to review the Plan. When the Plan was originally prepared there was much criticism that there had been insufficient consultation with those for whose benefit it was intended. Great care has been taken to afford no opportunity for such criticism in regard to the revised Plan, and I hope that Honourable Members, to most of whom I have recently had the opportunity of explaining in detail the steps which are being taken to secure that consultation, are satisfied as to the adequacy of those steps. In connection with the revision of the

Plan, I would like to say, Sir, how glad I was to hear so many Unofficial Members emphasise the importance of providing adequately for economic development and stress the need for an expansion of community development with which is intimately connected the provision of amenities in the villages as opposed to the towns. In this connection I would like the plea of the Honourable the Emir of Abuja that first things should come first. I hope that those Honourable Members will do their utmost to persuade their fellow members of the Regional Development Committees to adopt those views so that they may be reflected in the recommendations for the revision of the Plan which will emerge from the consultations of the Regional Development Committees. For as I have already explained to those Committees, it is the intention to revise the Plan very largely on the lines recommended by them. The revision is expected to take up the greater part of this year, but I hope that next year's development estimates will be prepared on the basis of the revised plan. I would merely say here, Sir, that before the Plan is finally approved it is intended to present it to a Select Committee of this House.

During the Budget debate last year, Sir, I said that I hoped that enough had been said to show that Government was fully seized of the need of economic development and was determined to satisfy that need. Much has already been said at this meeting on this subject, but much more could be said. During the past year, although I do not pretend that enough has been done to keep pace with the wishes either of Government or of Honourable Members, still a very great deal has been done and, as my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary said, a high level of economic activity has prevailed. The activities of the Colonial Development Corporation have already been mentioned. I would only say in this connection that arrangements have been made to ensure that the closest co-operation is maintained between that Corporation, the Government and the various public bodies concerned with development, such as the Regional Production and Development Boards, in order to prevent overlapping and the waste of resources. In connection with the work of the Colonial Development Corporation, I would, however, like to mention the thrill it gave me personally to see furrows half a mile long being tractor ploughed in 36-acre fields at Mokwa; 2,000 acres have already been ploughed. This is an experiment in mechanised agriculture upon the success of which much will depend.

During the year under review the Groundnut Marketing Board and the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board have contributed a gross total of £4,300,000 to the Northern, Eastern and Western Regional Production Development Boards and the latter have thus been enabled to undertake a number of schemes of the first importance to the economic development of the country. I do not propose to

give a list of these schemes but I would like to mention one or two because this is possibly the most exciting type of development this country is undertaking at present. The finance is provided by the industry from its surplus funds; the development is of agricultural land which could not be undertaken by any other agency and much of the profits will revert to the producers through their Marketing Board. For a country like Nigeria it is an attractive form of economic development not merely for the material gains which it should bring, but also because of the confidence which it will generate among a people utilising their own resources to help themselves. There is the scheme sponsored by the Northern Production Development Board to encourage the widespread use of phosphatic fertilisers. The Department of Agriculture has satisfied itself, after long and patient enquiry, that the use of these fertilisers ensures a higher yield of produce, and the sum of £250,000 has been made available for the wide distribution of these fertilisers. The Board is also financing a scheme for the cultivation of rice with mechanised aids in the valleys of the Sokoto and Rima rivers in Sokoto Province. It is estimated that capital expenditure on this scheme, over a three-year period, will be £136,000. Another scheme which the Board is undertaking is to establish a pool of heavy equipment. It is spending £56,000 on the purchase of winches, tractors, agricultural implements and accessories, which equipment will be hired to Native Authorities for development schemes approved by the Board.

The Eastern Provinces Regional Production and Development Board has a scheme for rehabilitating the eroded lands of the Onitsha Province by establishing thereon certain plantations. It also has schemes for the expansion of chea's growing in the Ogoja Province and for a Palm Plantation in the Calabar Province.

The Cotton Marketing Board has sponsored the formation of a development team which is now formulating proposals designed to increase the output of exportable cotton lint by over 100 per cent in the next five years, while the Cocoa Marketing Board has amongst other schemes set aside £163,500 to finance road development schemes of great importance to the cocoa-producing areas of the Western Provinces and the Cameroons.

One Honourable Member pressed the Government to control the prices of foodstuffs. Well, Sir, experience has shown that in a country like Nigeria it is impossible effectively to control the prices of foodstuffs, and the only solution of the problem of high prices is the greater production of foodstuffs. Honourable Members will have observed that many of these schemes are for the greater production of foodstuffs.

In addition to the work of the Regional Production and Development Boards, the Regional Development Boards, which are the Loan Boards, have approved loans and finance totalling £194,568.

An important and indeed essential adjunct of economic development is the provision of power, and it is to facilitate the efficient provision of power that it is proposed to set up an Electricity Corporation. I am well aware of the criticisms which have been offered of the Electricity Department, but the dangerous shortage of staff in that Department is a severe handicap—how dangerous that shortage is will be appreciated when it is realised that there are only twelve experienced engineers at present on duty out of a total establishment of fifty-seven.

Honourable Members will be glad to hear that it is hoped that the Nigeria Office in London will be open at a very early date. The Commissioner, Mr Featherstone, has proceeded on leave and is engaged on making the final arrangements, and Honourable Members will I am sure be glad to hear that Mr Adebó will shortly be proceeding to the United Kingdom to assume duty in that Office. No more suitable choice could, I venture to say, have been made.

Before I close, Sir, I should like to refer to Broadcasting, regarding the importance of which in these days no one will have any doubt. Preliminary conversations have been held with the British Broadcasting Corporation, to ascertain whether they would be prepared to operate on behalf of the Government a Nigerian Broadcasting Service, stations being erected at Lagos, Kaduna, Enugu and Ibadan. It is hoped that a decision will be made before very long.

My difficulty, Sir, is not to find subjects to talk about, that is easy, for wherever one turns in this large country there is development of one form or another, whether it be provision of improved rural water supplies, or agricultural schemes for greater food production, or industrial schemes, *e.g.* for the establishment of cotton and sack factories, but to exercise a wise choice in order to give Honourable Members an adequate overall picture of development in Nigeria. I have, I hope, said enough to convince Honourable Members that, albeit with some shortcomings, we are doing all we can to promote development of all kinds throughout the country.

Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

Your Excellency, I would like to begin my reply to this debate on a personal note by thanking Honourable Members for the kind reception which they have given my introduction to the budget and for the many personal compliments which they have paid me. I am in no doubt about the position of high esteem in which my predecessor was held by this Honourable House. It will be no easy task reaching for the heights which he achieved but I shall try to follow in his footsteps, and if, sometimes, I seem to fail by way of



contrast, I would ask Honourable Members to be a little indulgent and to remember that gold cannot be the product of every mine.

I should like to pay tribute to the high standard of debate which has characterised the speeches on the reply to the budget. Honourable Members have expressed, with a modesty which I think was not warranted by their handling of the subject, difficulty in understanding the terminology of economics. It has been stated, and with truth, that the science of economics is largely a science of commonsense, and there has been no lack in this debate of that inestimable quality which is as desirable as, I understand, it is rare in other debating chambers of the world. It augurs well for the difficult business which this House has still to face, and it would delight the heart of any Financial Secretary to know that in the sterner times that lie ahead, he will be able to count on the support and constructive criticism of a body of men who, in the financial and economic sphere at least, have both feet on the ground.

I think the problem which has probably exercised most the minds of the Honourable Members is the high rate of company tax which it is claimed, I think quite rightly, will act as a deterrent to the importation of private capital from overseas. It should, however, be remembered that, while such taxes as we have in this country may be high, they are few in number. We have no purchase tax, no land tax, no general tax on buildings, no tax on undistributed profits with which owners of capital have to contend in some other countries. Nevertheless I quite see the wisdom of offering some special inducement to capital to participate in the development of our country. There is provision in the present Income Tax Ordinance for relief over a period of six years on profits of new industries which do not exceed £1,000 per annum. That is an advantage which is of value to the small trader but it can have little attraction for the capitalist. It may be that some further measure of relief is desirable for the larger investor on lines similar to those operating in other colonies. An investigation of this problem has already been begun by Government and will be continued after this session. The views expressed by Honourable Members will be useful in enabling Government to reach a decision on this matter.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces referred with some concern to the magnitude of the public debt both present and contemplated. The word 'debt' has an uncomfortable and sinister connotation among men who do not find it easy to be beholden to any man. In national finance, however, there need be no such concern provided the loans are spent wisely on projects which will increase the national income, and provided that adequate provision is made for their amortisation by means of sinking funds. This is the means of getting something *now* for which we would have to wait a long time if we relied solely on our own resources. Interest is the fee which we are prepared to pay for the use of other people's

money. We can, by spending present resources, avoid payment of that interest fee and that is one reason why I have advocated no further payment to the supplementary sinking fund this year. Of course we have to maintain a balance between what we spend and what we hold in our reserves. Our reserves are the statutory sinking funds. If we want development quickly we must borrow from those who are prepared to lend so that we can purchase immediately the means whereby our economy can be expanded.

In the process of borrowing the Government will not overlook the possibilities of raising loans within the country. Honourable Members will recall that the 1956-61 3½ per cent loan was raised locally with the object of giving Nigerians an opportunity of investing in Government undertakings. Only eighty-nine individual Nigerians, representing £51,200 of the £300,000 raised, contributed to the loan. It would therefore appear that only a few hundred thousand pounds of the millions we expect to raise can be floated with confidence in Nigeria.

While on the subject of loans it would perhaps be advantageous if I stated why we do not invest our statutory sinking funds in Nigeria. A number of Members have, in the course of this debate, referred to the unwise process of putting all our eggs in one basket, and we follow this sound advice with our sinking funds. These statutory sinking funds are our reserves. A wise man does not leave his savings around his house; a wise business concern does not invest its reserves in the business; because if the house should be burnt down, or if the business should collapse the reserves would disappear at the very time when they are most needed. Wise countries behave in the same way. We invest our reserves in other countries and the money we borrow from other countries is, in point of fact, an investment by those countries in Nigeria. If we were to invest our reserves in Nigeria and we were to experience a bad trade recession so that we felt constrained to call in our reserves, we would find that they too had receded in value and become worthless. It is unlikely that there would be a general collapse throughout the whole world at one and the same time and so, just as the individual insures against hard times by placing a portion of his savings in an institution outside his own home, wise nations safeguard their statutory sinking funds by lending them to other countries.

Another important point to which I feel I should refer is the problem of using British trucks for the internal transport of produce. There is no special effort being made to compel Nigerian transport organisations to use British trucks. The question is purely one of dollars. As part of the sterling area we are compelled to limit our dollar expenditure to a given ceiling. If dollars were to be made available for American trucks there would be fewer for other and more essential imports from the United States. The trucks produced in Britain or other soft currency areas may not

stand up to local conditions so well as those of American make, but in view of the present scarcity of hard currency it may well be necessary either for us to improve our roads or to state our case to the British motor manufacturers with a view to getting more suitable trucks produced.

The Second Lagos Member referred at various times to the large portion of departmental votes which are expended on personal emoluments. In point of fact, of £30,000,000 which we propose to spend in the forthcoming year over £9,000,000 will be spent on special expenditure, £12,500,000 on other charges and £8,000,000 on personal emoluments. This is as it should be: in all Government and similar concerns the wages bill is of necessity high. It would be quite wrong to try and regard the Government as a business concern where only a fraction of the annual turnover is spent on salaries. Government administration is essentially personal. Were all the materials and machinery required for the building of all the roads, bridges, hospitals and schools available on the site, they would remain there useless if we had the architects, engineers and personnel capable of translating those materials into roads, bridges, and buildings we so badly need. Even were all the schools and hospitals built, they would remain there empty and waiting if we had not the teachers and doctors and administrative staff so that the children could be taught and the sick healed.

I have not answered all the points which have been raised in the speeches of Honourable Members on the second reading: some can be better dealt with in Select Committee. Committee work is the less attractive, more tedious, but probably the most useful part of legislation and I will not, therefore, hold up the progress of this Bill but prepare, if Honourable Members so agree, to press forward to the next step of our deliberations on it.

Sir, I move the second reading.

**The Hon. the Development Secretary:**

I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary:**

Sir, I rise to move that the Appropriation Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Motion carried.*

**His Excellency:**

I might now announce the composition of the Select Committee. It will be all Honourable Unofficial Members and the Honourable the Financial Secretary as Chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Your Excellency, before we conclude our business for the morning I would like to make some reference to the future work of the Council. It is impossible to estimate the time which will be taken by the Select Committees. There are a considerable number of Motions and Bills to be disposed of when we return to the full Council. The Financial Secretary is very anxious that we should proceed, as I think we all are, with our work in Select Committee with the least possible delay. Before the Council started its work this morning I endeavoured to obtain the views of the Council as to whether we might make a start with the Select Committee on the Budget today, but I found I had been anticipated. We might not conclude the debate on the second reading until about 11 o'clock, and I found very many conflicting views in the Council.

It is of course for the Unofficial Members to decide, but I would say for the Financial Secretary that he is very anxious to proceed and as Honourable Members are aware, Heads of Departments are scheduled to appear before the Select Committee at selected intervals over the next week or ten days. Therefore I think it would be valuable if we could give suggestions as to whether the Select Committee on the Budget should or should not meet this morning.

**The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):**

Your Excellency, apart from the Select Committee on Finance there are other Select Committees—Select Committees on the Local Government Bills, on the Electricity Undertaking Bill, etc. But when we start on these Committees—apart from the Select Committee on Finance—from the arrangement that has been made it appears that there will be sittings in the mornings as well as in the afternoons, and these may take perhaps two weeks, and then we'll come back into the open Council once again. In the circumstances, would it not be very much easier for Members to report at any time on the other Committees which are not on Finance? I would suggest that the Finance Committee be started on Monday.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

Sir, I support that suggestion.

**The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):**

Sir, I would suggest that we begin the Select Committee on the Estimates this morning, because I think most of us have come fully prepared for the Estimates this morning, and the sooner we begin on them the better, I think.

**The Second Nominated Member (The Hon. P. J. Rogers):**

Sir, I would like to support the last speaker.

**His Excellency:**

I think the original suggestion was that we should sit this morning in Select Committee and the alternative was that we should start

on Monday. I shall put the second suggestion first as an amendment: the question is that the Select Committee on Finance should begin on Monday morning.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Sir, I think that as the Official Members are not taking part, we should leave it to the Unofficial Members to decide.

A Division was taken which resulted in

" Ayes " 18

" Noes " 5.

**His Excellency:**

In that case we will adjourn.

I should like to make one addition to the Select Committee. The Honourable the Development Secretary will also be a Member.

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary:**

The Select Committee, Sir, will meet in the lounge of the Catering Rest House at 9 o'clock on Monday morning.

**His Excellency:**

In that case I will consult the wishes of the House. The question is that we adjourn until the work of the Select Committee is over or until some earlier call is made.

*Agreed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Council adjourned at 10.45 a.m.*

## Debates in the Legislative Council of Nigeria

Thursday, 30th March, 1950

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met in the Chamber of the Eastern House of Assembly, Enugu, at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 30th of March, 1950.

#### PRESENT

##### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

- His Excellency the Governor,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, K.C.M.G.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government,  
The Honourable H. M. Foot, C.M.G., O.B.E.
- The Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces,  
His Honour Sir Chandos Hoskyns-Abraham, C.M.G.
- The Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces,  
His Honour Captain Sir Eric Thompstone, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
M.C.
- The Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces,  
His Honour Commander J. G. Pyke-Nott, C.M.G., R.N.
- The Acting Attorney-General,  
The Honourable A. Ridehalgh, K.C.
- The Financial Secretary,  
The Honourable E. Himsworth.
- The Director of Medical Services,  
Dr the Honourable G. B. Walker, C.B.E.
- The Development Secretary,  
The Honourable C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Director of Education,  
The Honourable R. A. McL. Davidson, C.M.G.
- The Director of Agriculture,  
The Honourable A. G. Beattie.
- The Director of Public Works,  
The Honourable R. W. Taylor.
- The Commissioner of Labour,  
The Honourable A. H. Couzens.
- The Commissioner of the Colony,  
The Honourable E. A. Carr.
- The Senior Resident, Kano Province,  
The Honourable B. E. Sharwood-Smith, E.D.

The Secretary, Eastern Provinces,  
Commander the Honourable S. E. Johnson, R.N.

The Senior Resident, Oyo Province,  
The Honourable P. V. Main.

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Member for the Colony,  
The Rev. and Honourable T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.

The First Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Obisesan, O.B.E.

The Second Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable T. A. Odutola, O.B.E.

The First Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable I. Olorun-Nimbe.

The Emir of Gwandu,  
The Honourable Yahaya, C.M.G., C.B.E.

The Emir of Katsina,  
Alhaji the Honourable Usman Nagogo, C.B.E.

The Oni of Ife,  
The Honourable Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.

The Atta of Igbirra,  
Alhaji the Honourable Ibrahim.

The Emir of Abuja,  
The Honourable Sulemanu.

The First Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Bello Kano.

The Second Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.

The Third Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Iro Katsina.

The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.

The Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Aliyu, Makaman Bida.

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
Dr the Honourable F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.

The Second Lagos Member,  
Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe.

The Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces,  
The Honourable Yahaya Ilorin.

The First Nominated Member,  
The Honourable P. J. Rogers.

The Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable N. Essien.

The Third Lagos Member,  
The Honourable Adeleke Adedoyin.

The Member for Calabar,  
The Honourable E. E. Anwan.

The Second Nominated Member,  
Major the Honourable J. West, M.C., E.D.

The Fourth Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable A. Soetan.

#### ABSENT

#### UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Oba of Benin,  
The Honourable Akenzua II, C.M.G.

The First Member for the Eastern Provinces,  
The Honourable C. D. Onyeama.

The Third Member for the Western Provinces,  
The Honourable G. I. Obaseki.

The Third Nominated Member,  
The Honourable N. B. Edwards.

#### PRAYERS

His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the Council with prayers.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of March, 1950, having been printed and circulated to the Honourable Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### PETITIONS

**The Oni of Ife (The Hon. Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G.):**

Sir, I rise to present to this Honourable House a petition from the Railway Station Staff Union of Nigeria. The petition alleges that the countrywide strike staged by the Station Staff Union in July, 1949, was called off owing to the understanding reached by the General Manager of the Railway and the leaders of the Union, through the good offices of the Acting Chief Secretary to the Government. It further alleges that the General Manager of the Railway gave an undertaking in writing that he would be prepared to discuss matters in dispute with the Union as soon as normal working was resumed. Consequent upon that undertaking the leaders of the Union instructed all the men to return to work, which they did instantaneously. Although normal working was resumed immediately, the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway has not discussed the matters with the Union up to now. In short it declares dissatisfaction with the salaries which are being paid to certain Station Yard Workers, such as Level Crossing Keepers, Porters, Pointsmen, Shunters and Signalmen, Yard Foremen and certain station clerical staff.

Finally it prays for the sympathetic action of this Honourable House to effect an amicable settlement of the dispute. Your Excellency, this petition is self-explanatory and lengthy. I do not, therefore, propose to read it, but as it is very much important and deserves very careful investigation, I beg to move that it be referred to a Select Committee of this House.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Before the Motion is seconded I should like to suggest to the Honourable Mover that the Motion that the petition should be referred to a Select Committee might be deferred until we on the official side have had an opportunity of studying it. If the Honourable Member would agree to defer the Motion until a subsequent day during this meeting of the Council we could in the meantime make ourselves familiar with the contents of the petition. I therefore ask the Honourable Member if he would defer his motion accordingly.

**The Oni of Ife (The Hon. Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.C.):**

I agree.

**PAPERS LAID**

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary:**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table of the House the following:—

“ Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Bill entitled ‘ An Ordinance to appropriate the sum of forty-one million, four hundred and fifty thousand and forty-seven pounds to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one ’ ”.

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table of the House the following:—

“ Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Bill entitled ‘ An Ordinance to make provision for Local Government in the Eastern Provinces and for purposes connected therewith ’ ”.

**The Hon. the Development Secretary:**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table of the House the following:—

“ The Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the Bill entitled ‘ An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, for the transfer to the Corporation of the Electricity Undertakings owned by the

Government, for the functions of the Corporation, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid ”.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Your Excellency, I beg to lay on the table of the House the following papers:—

Second Annual Report of the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board: Season 1948-1949.

Sessional Paper No. 11 of 1950—Report on a Technical College Organization for Nigeria.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

I rise to give notice of the following motion:—

“ Whereas there have been recent cases in which the secrecy of Select Committees of this Council has been grossly infringed,

And whereas such infringement of the procedure of this Council gravely prejudices the work of the Council and the reputation of its members,

Now therefore, this Council urges upon the Government the need to introduce legislation to grant to this Council and its Members similar privileges to those enjoyed by the House of Commons and Members of that House ”.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :**

Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of the following motion:—

“ Be it resolved:

“ That Standing Order No. 10 (3) be amended by the insertion of the words ‘ sitting of a ’ between the words ‘ before the ’ and ‘ meeting ’ in line 2 thereof.”

**QUESTIONS**

**The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):**

40. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the position at present with regard to Lagos Town Planning—is an approved plan ready?

(b) If not when will it be ready and the public be allowed to see it?

(c) Has Government any alternative accommodation, temporary or permanent, to offer the people likely to be displaced, and will Government give freehold for freehold as promised by Sir Arthur Richards (now Lord Milverton)?

[Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi]

[Question]

(d) What is the total acreage which comes under Ikeja Area Planning Authority?

(e) Is it a fact that dwelling houses are prohibited from mile 7 on either side of Lagos-Ikorodu Road?

(f) Will Government not consider the need of the people for this strip of land for building purposes?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

(a) No single Town Plan for the whole of the Township of Lagos has been drawn up, nor is any such plan contemplated. A plan for an area at Apapa has been approved, and plans for schemes in other areas are being prepared for statutory approval.

(b) Various areas of the Township are being planned or will be planned in the future, and all plans or schemes must, by law, be published so that the public can have an opportunity to lodge objections.

(c) There is at present no approved scheme which will involve displacing anybody. If such a scheme were approved in the future, the Board would, no doubt, consider the provision of temporary accommodation for displaced persons and would also consider a scheme for the redistribution of holdings under sections 35 and 36 of the Lagos Town Planning Order, Chapter 103. I would point out that the initiative in such matters lies with the Board and not with the Government.

(d) 22,028 acres.

(e) Yes, Sir; this action was taken by the Ikeja Area Planning Authority to prevent ribbon development.

(f) This is a matter for the Authority of which my Honourable Friend is a member. As he knows, adequate building layouts have been planned on each side of the railway at Oshodi, Ikeja and Agege, and within these layouts considerable areas are available for building purposes.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiyan, C.B.E.):**

42. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

With reference to the Motion of the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces on compulsory universal education, the amended form of which was unanimously adopted at the last meeting of the Budget Session of the Legislative Council at Ibadan in March, 1949, will Government state how and who is to bring the motion again for discussion at the meetings of the Regional Houses of Assembly and of the Northern House of Chiefs with a view to its final adoption?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Education :**

It was hoped to bring to this meeting of the Legislative Council an amendment to the Native Authority Ordinance in the sense suggested by the Honourable Member in the Motion adopted by the

[Dir. of Educ.]

[Answer]

Council. The necessary amendment, together with several other amendments to the Native Authority Ordinance have been drafted but it is very much regretted that the amendments were not ready for submission to Regional Houses at their last meetings. The amendments will be submitted to Regional Houses at their next meetings and at the same meetings the first part of the Honourable Member's Motion will be raised for discussion in the Regional Houses.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

50. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many delegates attended the International Conferences at Jos and Ibadan, 1949, and from where?

(b) What subjects formed the basis for discussion at these Conferences?

(c) How many delegates represented Nigeria? What are their names and by whom were they sent there?

(d) What were the special subjects of our delegates at these Conferences?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

There were altogether three Conferences, two at Jos and one at Ibadan.

JOS

(A) The British African Land Utilisation Conference.

(B) The International African Conference on Indigenous Rural Economy.

IBADAN

(C) The International West African Conference—(Third Meeting).

The particulars requested are as follows:—

(A) *The British African Land Utilisation Conference*

(a) Fifty-one delegates and observers attended the Conference as follows:—

United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	5
Nigeria	...	...	...	...	10
Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	4
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	3
Gambia	...	...	...	...	2
West African Council at Accra	...	...	...	...	3
Kenya	...	...	...	...	4
Uganda	...	...	...	...	3
East African High Commission	...	...	...	...	3
Northern Rhodesia	...	...	...	...	3
Basutoland	...	...	...	...	1
Swaziland	...	...	...	...	1
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	...	...	...	...	1

[C.S.G.]

[Answer]

Belgium	...	...	...	...	1
France	...	...	...	...	1
Southern Rhodesia	...	...	...	...	3
South Africa	...	...	...	...	1
United Nations Organisation	...	...	...	...	1
United States of America	...	...	...	...	1

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(b) The following subjects formed the basis for discussion:

- (1) Administrative Machinery and Legislation.
- (2) The pattern of Agricultural and Livestock Development.
- (3) Trypanosomiasis and the Tsetse Fly.
- (4) The conservation, use and Development of Water Resources in a Rural Community.
- (5) Staff matters.

(c) Ten delegates represented Nigeria. These were selected and sent by Government and their names are:—

- (1) Mr A. G. Beattie ... Director of Agriculture.
- (2) Mr D. R. Rosevear ... Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests.
- (3) Mr C. W. Rowling ... Commissioner of Lands.
- (4) Mr E. R. Chadwick ... Resident, Administrative Service.
- (5) Mr W. G. Beaton ... Director of Veterinary Service.
- (6) Dr R. Jacobson ... Acting Director of Geological Survey.
- (7) Dr J. L. McLetchie ... Senior Medical Officer, Trypanosomiasis.
- (8) Mr A. H. S. Vigo ... Agricultural Officer.
- (9) Col. H. W. Mulligan ... Director, West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research.
- (10) Mr H. A. Graves ... General Manager, Niger Agricultural Project, Colonial Development Corporation.

(d) The special subjects of the delegates are indicated by the official position they hold. Mr Chadwick was selected as an Administrative Officer with specialised knowledge of the subjects under discussion. Mr Graves was selected because of his knowledge and experience of agriculture; he worked for many years on the Gezira scheme in the Sudan.

(B) *The International African Conference on Indigenous Rural Economy*

(a) Sixty-three delegates and observers attended the Conference as follows:—

Belgium	...	...	...	...	1
Belgium Congo	...	...	...	...	2
France	...	...	...	...	4
French West Africa	...	...	...	...	3
French Equatorial Africa	...	...	...	...	2
Cameroons under French trusteeship	...	...	...	...	2
Madagascar	...	...	...	...	1

[C.S.G.]

[Answer]

Portugal	...	...	...	...	2
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	4
Nigeria	...	...	...	...	7
Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	4
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	3
Gambia	...	...	...	...	2
West African Council	...	...	...	...	3
Kenya	...	...	...	...	4
Tanganyika	...	...	...	...	3
Uganda	...	...	...	...	3
East African High Commission	...	...	...	...	3
Northern Rhodesia	...	...	...	...	3
Basutoland	...	...	...	...	1
Swaziland	...	...	...	...	1
United Nations Organisation	...	...	...	...	2
United States of America	...	...	...	...	1
South Africa	...	...	...	...	2

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(b) The following subjects formed the basis for discussion:

(i) Factors affecting Agricultural Production.

- (a) Soil and the Land.
- (b) Existing patterns of Peasant Production.
- (c) New Pattern of Development.
- (d) Marketing and Processing (the local disposal of produce).
- (e) Land Tenure.

(ii) Development of Rural Industries.

(iii) Agencies for promoting the economic and social development of rural communities.

- (a) The distribution of agricultural credit.
- (b) Co-operative Societies.
- (c) Services designed to ensure the improvement of rural communities.

(c) Seven delegates represented Nigeria. They were selected and sent by Government and their names are:—

- (i) Mr D. H. Brown ... Assistant Director of Agriculture.
- (ii) Mr D. R. Rosevear ... Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests.
- (iii) Mr C. W. Rowling ... Commissioner of Lands.
- (iv) Mr E. R. Chadwick ... Resident, Administrative Service.
- (v) Mr W. G. Beaton ... Director of Veterinary Services.
- (vi) Dr J. L. McLetchie ... Senior Medical Officer, Trypanosomiasis.
- (vii) Mr A. H. S. Vigo ... Agricultural Officer.

(d) The special subjects of the delegates are indicated by the official position they hold. Mr Chadwick was selected as an Administrative Officer with specialised knowledge of the subjects under discussion.

(C) *The International West Africa Conference—(Third Meeting)*  
 (a) Eighty-four delegates and observers attended the Conference as follows:—

France ... ..	1
French West Africa ... ..	12
French Togoland ... ..	1
French Cameroons ... ..	1
French Equatorial Africa ... ..	6
Portugal ... ..	3
Portuguese Guinea ... ..	1
Spain ... ..	6
United Kingdom ... ..	4
Gold Coast ... ..	5
Nigeria ... ..	44
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(b) The following subjects formed the basis for discussion:—

- (1) Applied Air Survey Cartography.
- (2) Sociology.
- (3) Zoology.
- (4) Botany.
- (5) Ethnography.
- (6) Soil and Agriculture.
- (7) History.
- (8) Medical.
- (9) Art.
- (10) Geography.
- (11) Trypanosomiasis.
- (12) Archaeology.

(c) This Government did not send any Official delegates, but facilities were granted to those Government Officers who wished to attend. The following persons in Nigeria were present:—

Mr T. J. Adewale ... ..	Travelling Teacher.
Professor J. P. Andrews ... ..	Vice-Principal, University College of Nigeria.
Mr P. A. Allison ... ..	Assistant Conservator of Forests.
Mr D. W. H. Baker ... ..	Head of the Department of Agriculture, University College of Nigeria.
Mr S. O. Biobaku ... ..	Education Officer.
Dr L. J. Bruce-Chwatt ... ..	Senior Malariaologist.
Mr K. M. Buchanan ... ..	Head of the Department of Geography, University College of Nigeria.
Mr J. D. Clarke ... ..	Senior Education Officer.
Mr F. S. Collier, O.B.E. ... ..	Chief Conservator of Forests.
Mr F. W. De St. Croix ... ..	Livestock Education Officer, Veterinary Department.
Mr D. P. L. Dry ... ..	Social Science Research Worker.
Mrs E. A. Dry ... ..	Social Science Research Worker.
Dr A. J. Duggan ... ..	Medical Research Officer, Trypanosomiasis Research.

Dr R. M. East, O.B.E. ... ..	Assistant Director of Education.
Mr B. E. B. Fagg ... ..	Assistant Surveyor of Antiquities.
Mr J. L. Farrington ... ..	Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria.
Mr M. Greenwood ... ..	Principal Agricultural Officer.
Mr J. O. Field ... ..	Administrative Officer.
Mrs J. M. Johnson ... ..	Research Worker.
Mr R. W. J. Keay ... ..	Assistant Conservator of Forests.
Mr C. J. King ... ..	Sanitary Superintendent.
Dr W. S. S. Ladell ... ..	Heat Research Officer.
Mr P. C. Lloyd ... ..	University College of Nigeria.
Mr G. Lunam ... ..	Fisheries Officer.
Mr P. J. R. Maclaren ... ..	Fisheries Department.
Dr K. Mellanby, O.B.E. ... ..	Principal, University College of Nigeria.
Mr K. C. Murray ... ..	Surveyor of Antiquities.
Archdeacon Dr J. O. Lucas ... ..	Archdeacon of Lagos.
Mr C. J. Potter ... ..	Head of the Department of History, University College of Nigeria.
Dr J. W. Du Preez ... ..	Geologist.
Mr J. C. Pugh ... ..	University College of Nigeria.
Mr D. R. Rosevear ... ..	Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests.
Mr T. A. Russell ... ..	Senior Botanist, Agricultural Department.
Mr W. B. Schwab ... ..	Socio-economic Research Worker.
Dr W. Serle, O.B.E. ... ..	Medical Officer.
Mr O. E. Symes ... ..	Fisheries Development Officer.
Mr K. Unsworth ... ..	Trypanosomiasis Research Institute.
Dr F. L. Vanderplank ... ..	Research Entomologist, Trypanosomiasis Research Institute.
Dr J. M. Waterston ... ..	Pathologist, Agricultural Department.
Dr J. E. Webb ... ..	Head of the Department of Zoology, University College of Nigeria.
Dr R. M. Winston ... ..	Medical Officer.
Mr M. G. Wood ... ..	Education Officer.

(d) Does not arise.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

57. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Judges of the Supreme Court are there in Nigeria? What are their respective qualifications and experience?

(b) How many of them are expatriates?

(c) In view of the fact that there are many eminently qualified legal practitioners both expatriates and Nigerians, why does the Government still retain old administrative officials as Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria?



[Question]

(d) Why has the Judicial Department resorted to recruiting Magistrates outside Nigeria when there are many qualified Nigerians of 'impeccable character' to fill these posts? Is this policy in accord with the Nigerianisation policy of the Government?

(e) Why has the Department not given permanent appointment to recent appointees, instead of renewing their probationary period?

(f) If the probationary period of Junior Medical Officer (House Surgeons and House Physicians) is twelve months, why should that of the Magistrates exceed one year?

(g) How many Nigerians were appointed Magistrates in the years 1945-49 on (i) a temporary and (ii) permanent basis?

For purpose of comparison, how many expatriates were appointed as Magistrates on a temporary basis during the same period?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

(a) 15. 14 are Barristers, one is a Solicitor: all have long experience in the Judicial or Legal professions.

(b) 12.

(c) The officers referred to are qualified for the appointments they now hold under section 5 (or in one case under section 76) of the Supreme Court Ordinance, and none has reached the age at which Judges are normally called upon to retire.

(d) Appointments are made in accordance with the Nigerianisation policy of the Government, due regard being given to Nigerian candidates who are both qualified and suitable. It has been necessary, nevertheless, to recruit a number of Magistrates from outside Nigeria because there have been an insufficient number of Nigerian applicants who are both qualified and suitable.

(e) Temporary appointments have been given to certain recent applicants who have not had the period of practice in their profession which is considered the minimum qualification for permanent appointment. The period of temporary service is allowed to count as professional practice and upon the required period being completed their position is considered with a view to their permanent appointment.

(f) The Medical and Legal professions are very different and I do not think that there is anything to be gained by comparison between the experience considered necessary for appointment to Government posts within these professions.

(g) Twenty were appointed on a temporary basis of whom four were appointed for brief periods to assist in the disposal of arrears; the appointments of four were terminated for various reasons (ill-health, age, etc.); two have received permanent appointments and ten are open to consideration for permanent appointments as the periods referred to in (e) are completed. The foregoing figures do not take account of appointments of non-expatriate practitioners

[C.S.G.]

[Answer]

who are not of Nigerian birth or parentage; of these, during the period, four were appointed on a temporary basis of whom two were appointed for brief periods to assist in the disposal of arrears; the appointment of one will be terminated by resignation in May, 1950, and one has received a permanent appointment. No expatriates were appointed as Magistrates on a temporary basis during 1945-49.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

64. To ask the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

For a detailed explanation of the circumstances leading to the expulsion of Mallam Imoru Na-Udu, Cow-Dealer of Sabongeri, Ibadan, from Ibadan early this year by the Ibadan Native Authority.

Answer—

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :**

The Seriki Gambari, Ibadan, has lodged a complaint against Mallam Imoru Na-Udu to the Ibadan Native Authority. The Native Authority is enquiring into the matter; no decision has yet been reached, and no order has been made that Mallam Imoru Na-Udu should leave Ibadan.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

77. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) How soon shall more Nigerians in the Social Welfare Department be promoted to the Senior Service?

(b) How many of them there are, and how many have already been promoted to the Senior Service.

Answer—

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :**

(a) It is presumed that the question refers to the Colony Welfare Office since no Social Welfare Department exists. There are six Senior Service Posts attached to this office, all of which are at present filled. As no vacancies exist and as new posts are not at present contemplated, it is impossible to say when more Nigerians will be appointed to Senior Service posts in this service.

(b) Of the six Senior Service posts, three are filled by Nigerians, one by an African from Sierra Leone and two by Europeans.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

83. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) For the academic qualifications and experience of the Government Statistician and the reason or reasons for a consolidated salary of £1,800. For how long would his services be required in Nigeria?

(b) For the academic qualification and experience of the Assistant Statistician?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) The Government Statistician is a member of the Civil Service in the United Kingdom from which he is temporarily transferred and in which he holds the rank of Principal in the Ministry of Food. He has no specialized academic qualification but is an officer of long and varied experience in statistical work. He is paid a consolidated salary of £1,800 as being commensurate with the value of the appointment in the United Kingdom he vacated to take up his present work. His services in Nigeria will probably be required for a further four years.

(b) There are five Assistant Statisticians at present. This post will be redesignated Statistician in the near future and instead of the nine Assistant Statisticians now provided for, provision will be made for six Statisticians and three Assistant Statisticians. The qualifications of the five Assistant Statisticians are as follows:—

- (1) B.Sc. (Econ.) London, 1938; Island Statistician, Jamaica, 1945-49.
- (2) B.A. (Hons.) (Social Studies) Oxon, 1941; Diploma in Statistics, 1947; M.A. Oxon, 1947; Head of Research Department Publishing Company, 1947-48.
- (3) Modern Language Tripos, Part I, 1942; Economic Tripos, Part II, 1943 (Cambridge).
- (4) B.A. (Hons.) (Social Studies) Oxon, 1941; M.A. Oxon, 1948; Special Section in Statistics; Ministry of Fuel and Power (Statistics), 1945-48; Medical Research Council (Statistics), 1948-49.
- (5) B.A. (Hons.) (Mathematics), Cambridge; Fellow, Royal Statistical Society, 1948; Administrative Assistant to Director of *News Chronicle*; (Head of Market Statistics Section, 1933-49).

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

84. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

For the academic qualifications and experience of the Assistant Inspector of Mines in the Mines Department and why was he graded at £400 a year instead of £510.

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

No appointment has yet been made to the post of Assistant Inspector of Mines but any person appointed to the post would have to hold a degree or diploma in mining engineering. The question of the salary to be attached to the post is receiving further consideration in the light of the decision that the entry point to Senior Service posts should be temporarily fixed at £510.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

97. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

[Question]

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

What are the academic qualifications and experience of the Administrative Assistant in the Veterinary Department?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) *Qualifications*.—Associate Member of the Corporation of Certified Secretaries.

(b) *Experience*.—Apart from war service in the Fire Service and Central Ordnance Depot where he was a Supervisor, this officer has had fourteen years general clerical experience, having been promoted in 1937 to the post of Departmental Chief Clerk in a large organisation.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):**

118. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many Medical Officers are there at present serving in Nigeria who were appointed before 1st January, 1934?

(b) How many Medical Officers are there at present serving in Nigeria who were appointed on or after 1st January, 1934, and who were appointed on the same terms, in the matter of private practice, as Officers appointed before 1st January, 1934?

(c) How many Medical Officers are there at present serving in Nigeria who were appointed between 1st of January, 1934, and the 17th of January, 1946?

(d) How many Medical Officers are there at present serving in Nigeria who were appointed since the 17th of January, 1946, up to the 31st of December, 1949?

(e) Is it a fact that all Medical Officers appointed on or after the 17th of January, 1946, are by their terms of appointment totally debarred from private practice?

(f) How many Medical Officers who were appointed on or after the 17th of January, 1946, are there who are now drawing Staff Pay?

(g) What is the amount received by any such Officer as Staff Pay?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

(a) 12.

(b) None.

(c) 52.

(d) 59.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) 10.

(g) £150 per annum.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):**

119. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) How many Dentists are there in Nigeria,

- (i) in Government Service?  
(ii) in Private Practice?  
(b) How many Nigerians are there now in training to become Dentists?  
(i) privately,  
(ii) under Government Scholarship?  
(c) Is it the intention to increase the number of Government Scholarships for Dentistry?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

- (a) Ten, Sir. There are six in Government Service and four in private practice.  
(b) Four, Sir. Three are private dental students in the United Kingdom and the fourth, who commenced his studies as a private student, has been awarded a Government scholarship tenable from the 1950-51 academic session.  
(c) The provision of Government scholarship awards for the study of dentistry, as for other studies, can only be made if suitable candidates are forthcoming but the need for more dentists is certainly very great and measures for the encouragement of suitable candidates to apply for such awards are being investigated.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

122. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—  
Can a report be given on the success or otherwise of the New Catering Services on the Nigerian Railways, in view of the fact that the Railway Authorities have discontinued the services of the Nigerian Caterers.

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

I should explain that the Nigerian Railway Caterers Limited, which was previously a private Company, has now been taken over by the Government. The Company is responsible for the operation of the Kano Airport Hotel, the Railway Catering Resthouse at Kano and for catering arrangements on trains throughout the country. The new arrangement has not yet been in operation for six months and it is therefore too early to make an announcement about the success of the new scheme.

**The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):**

129. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—  
(a) Is Government satisfied with the drainage system of Aba Township? If not, should some improvement not be effected before the next rainy season when, as usual, most part of this important township will be flooded, and rendered dangerous to the health of the residents of the African location in particular?

- (b) How long has Aba Township to remain without Electricity Developments? Is it not time this undertaking or scheme be given priority attention under the C.D. & W. plans, etc.?

Answer—

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

(a) A comprehensive drainage scheme for Aba Township was prepared some time ago, the estimated total cost of the scheme being £66,000. About half the scheme was completed by the Public Works Department with Government funds, when it was decided that drainage schemes in Townships should be financed by the Townships. It is understood that Aba Township is applying for a loan to complete the drainage scheme for the Township.

Steps have been taken by Aba Township Authority during this dry season to counteract the tendency to flooding in Aba Township during the wet season.

(b) Materials for the Aba Electricity Scheme have commenced to arrive. Approval has been received to "enter upon" the site. Building must await approval and signatures of final site plans. Meanwhile, the materials arriving are being delivered to the Public Works Department Yard, Aba, and it is hoped that staff will be available to commence the construction at an early date.

**The Second Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. H. Buowari Brown, O.B.E.):**

130. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

Will Government please take steps to enquire into the numerous complaints and troubles in Port Harcourt township with regard to (a) Plots Allocation; (b) Rent Control and (c) Housing question generally; as the new Municipal Council appears incapable of dealing satisfactorily with these and other matters agitating the minds of the inhabitants of the Municipal Town and environs?

Answer—

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

(a) *Plot Allocation.*—There were over 2,000 applicants for fifty-nine plots at Port Harcourt and it was inevitable that, whatever system of allocation was adopted, there would be a large number of disappointed persons. The land at Port Harcourt is Crown land and the right to lease plots there is vested in Government. The Resident endeavoured to enlist the services of the Town Council in an advisory capacity in this matter but the dilatoriness of the Council compelled him to seek other advice. It is considered that the allocations which have now been made by the Resident on the recommendations of the committee he appointed for this purpose are equitable.

(b) *Rent Control.*—The provisions of the Increase of Rent (Restrictions) Ordinance were not made applicable to Crown Land until the publication of Order in Council No. 38 of 1949 at the

end of October, 1949. Active consideration is being given to the setting up of Rent Advisory Committees to advise on the methods and scale of rent restrictions most suitable to each locality. The control of rents is not a specific function of the Port Harcourt Town Council though the advice of members of the Council will no doubt be sought.

(c) *Housing question generally.*—Except for the making and enforcement of building and sanitary bye-laws this question is not the concern of the Town Council.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

135. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

May a statement of policy be made on the Printing Department as being an integral part of the machinery of the Government of Nigeria?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

The Government Printing Department exists for the purpose of printing and publishing the legislation, Forms, Gazettes, Official Reports and other documents issued from time to time by the Government for the information of the public. The Department also acts in many respects as the Government Stationer and performs functions similar to that of His Majesty's Stationery Office in London. There has been for many years a Regional Press at Kaduna serving the Northern Region, and an Eastern Regional Press has recently been opened at Enugu to perform similar functions for the Eastern Region.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

137. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What is the membership of Enugu Colliery Board, and who are the private members to whom the sum of £800 is paid?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

The members of the Enugu Colliery Board number seven:—

Dr C. Raeburn, C.B.E., Chairman.

Secretary (Finance), Eastern Provinces.

A representative of the General Manager, Nigerian Railway.

L. N. Mbanefo, Esq.

L. N. Obioha, Esq.

L. P. Ojukwu, Esq.

I. C. D. Stuart, Esq.

A fee of £200 per annum is paid to each of the four Unofficial Members of the Board.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

138. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—  
Why there are six Senior Medical Officers for the North, three for the East and only two for the West?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

Because of the area which the respective Administrative Officers have to cover for inspecting duties, and because of the density of population concerned.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

139. To ask the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

What is a Civil Secretary, his qualifications and experience, and why is he entitled to a salary scale of Group D2?

*Answer—*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government to Question No. 61.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

140. To ask the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:—

What are the Official designation, qualifications and experience of a Civil Secretary?

Why is he entitled to a salary of £1,600 per annum?

*Answer—*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces:**

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply made by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government to Question No. 61.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

141. To ask the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

Why is provision made for only nine months for the post of a Civil Secretary?

What is a Civil Secretary, his qualifications and experience, and why is he entitled to a salary of £1,600 per annum?

*Answer—*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:**

Provision is made for leave salaries under the Nigerian Estimates and provision under Regional Estimates has therefore been made for nine months only.

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply made to Question No. 61 by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

142. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

How much would it cost to build and equip a modern Operating Theatre of an approved type under the provisions of the Private Hospitals Ordinance?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

It is not possible to answer this question without elaboration of the question by the Honourable Member on the size, on the location, and on several other factors, which are not given.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

143. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—  
How much does it cost the Department to treat every Nigerian patient admitted into Government or Native Administration Hospitals per annum?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services:**

This question is not quite understood, and I am presuming that patient spending one year in hospital; a question which is impossible to answer without knowing what disease he has, whether a special diet is required, or whether special treatment is required.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

144. To ask the Commissioner of the Colony:—  
Why has decrease in the staff of the Lagos Town Council correspondingly necessitated a decrease of £1,200 under Revenue Head 12, Sub-head 15 in the 1950-51 Estimates (Subsidy to Medical Department for services rendered to the Lagos Town Council Staff)?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:**

It is hoped that the Medical Department of Government will second two Sanitary Superintendents on repayment to the Town Council during the forthcoming financial year, but in fact shortage of staff may reduce this number to one. Town Council Estimates must therefore allow for the maximum liability of secondment charges in respect of two Sanitary Superintendents, while the Medical Department must, in conformity with general financial procedure, estimate for the minimum revenue from one Sanitary Superintendent.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

145. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—  
What efforts are being made by the Railway Authorities to minimise avoidable accidents on the many dangerous level crossings between Lagos and Ibadan?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

At all major level crossings (except at Omi where work is at the moment in hand) all possible precautions have already been taken. Crossing gates controlled by signals are installed and warning boards are on the roads leading to the crossings to give motor drivers adequate warning of approach.

(Hon. A. Ikoku)

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

146. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Is it a fact

(a) That before Harragin Telephone Operators had the same grading as the Clerical Section of the Posts and Telegraphs?

(b) That since Harragin the Operators have lost salary and status as compared with the Clerical Staff (Clerical Staff Salary Scale F; Telephone Operators Scale L)?

(c) If the suggestions in (a) and (b) above are correct, will Government consider a reversion to the pre-Harragin parity in salary and status as between these two sections of Posts and Telegraphs staff?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I made on this subject to Question No. 360 asked by the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces in 1948. It is not considered that a case has been made out for regrading telephone operators.

*Supplementary Question to No. 146 by the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):*

In view of the fact that the answer (a) conflicts with the categorical "No" given me at the Select Committee on Finance, may I ask that Government will re-examine the position?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Most certainly, Sir. If conflicting information has been given to the Honourable Member I apologise on behalf of the Government.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

147. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How many Telephone Exchange Superintendents are there in Nigeria?

(b) How many of these are Africans?

(c) If the answer to (b) is nil, will the Government consider the promotion or appointment of suitable Africans to this grade?

(d) If the answer to (c) is there are no suitable candidates will Government provide facilities by way of training scholarships or

otherwise to raise the standard of operators and/or supervisors with a view to their eventual selection for preferment to this grade?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

(a) Two.

(b) None.

(c) and (d) There are no suitable candidates at present but the question of training courses for Telephone staff is under consideration.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

148. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Is it a fact that from March to May, 1944, and again from September, 1944 to December, 1945, the substantive holder of the post of Cinema Officer in the Public Relations Department was absent from his seat on other duties, including secondment to the Gold Coast?

(b) If so, was the Cinema Section closed down during his absence?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative is it suggested that the Officer who held the fort during these periods had in fact no increased responsibilities?

(d) If he had, as is only reasonable to suppose, will Government be good enough to consider the granting of an acting allowance under General Order 292 and/or 295?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

(a) There was no substantive holder of the post at the times mentioned, but it is true that the Education Officer temporarily seconded to take charge of the section was away on duty in the Gold Coast.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. His work was purely clerical, as he did not possess the technical knowledge necessary for the discharge of other duties. During the periods in question no filming or training was carried out and all important matters concerning cinema work were dealt with personally by the then Public Relations Officer.

(d) The officer was not eligible for acting allowance since the duties he was required to perform were not the full duties normally required of the officer holding the post.

*Supplementary Questions to No. 148 by the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):*

(a) How many feet of films were made from 1944 to May, 1949?

(b) What is the nature of those "important matters" referred to in answer (c)?

(c) What arrangements were made to ensure that there was no possibility of misunderstanding arising over the question of acting?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

I can assure you, Sir, that answers to those Supplementary Questions will be obtained and circulated to the Honourable Member and other Honourable Members of the House.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

149. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

(a) Does he approve in principle the appointment of Dispensers to the Senior Service?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, how many such appointments are in fact held at the moment?

(d) If the answer to (c) is nil, will he give the usual sympathetic consideration we have learned to expect from the Honourable Member, including the removal of whatever obstacles (e.g., lack of training facilities) there may be in the way of aspirants to such appointments or promotions?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

(a) Yes, Sir, as Pharmacist Superintendents and Storekeepers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two.

(d) Does not arise.

*Supplementary Questions to No. 149 by the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):*

Referring to answer (c), what is the ratio of dispensers to other grades in the Senior Service?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

I shall require notice of that question, Sir.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

Arising out of that, if this ratio is not satisfactory will the Honourable the Director of Medical Services consider improvement?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

Yes, Sir.

**The Third Member for the Eastern Provinces (The Hon. A. Ikoku, O.B.E.):**

150. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

In view of the great future of Pharmacy and Industrial Chemistry in a young country such as this will he recommend the institution of a Faculty of Pharmacy to the University College, Ibadan?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

No, Sir; it is not usual to have the Faculty of Pharmacy attached to the Universities. Pharmacy will, I hope, be taught at the Regional Colleges.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

151. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) How long does it normally take the Immigration Department to issue a passport?

(b) How many people applied for passports during the years 1940-49, and how many of them were successful? Give reasons for those people to whom the issue of passports was denied?

(c) What is the total complement of the expatriate officials of the Immigration Office?

What are their names, qualifications, experience, and from where were they recruited to the Nigeria Civil Service?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

(a) About four days from the receipt of the completed application with the necessary supporting documents.

(b) There were 11,387 applications for passports and 42,335 applications for travel documents. All these applications were granted and I understand that no one who satisfactorily completed an application form was refused a passport.

(c) There is only one expatriate official in the Immigration Office. He is an Acting Senior Superintendent of Police (Mr Marner) who was transferred to Nigeria in 1949 having had experience of Police and Immigration work in Palestine since 1930.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

153. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the answer to the Supplementary Question No. 66 by the First Lagos Member, whether the Director considers Intermediate Examinations of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers 1947 and the Intermediate Examination, London Association of Certified Accountants 1937 sufficient qualifications for entry into the Senior Service?

If the answer is in the affirmative, why have Nigerians with similar or identical qualifications not been elevated to the Senior Service in the Medical or other Department of Government?

[D.M.S.]

Answer—

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

The Intermediate Diplomas to which the Honourable Member refers cannot be regarded as sufficient qualifications for entry into the Senior Service unless supported by training and previous suitable experience of a responsible nature.

The Medical Department requires officers appointed as accountants to have had a sound training and wide experience and to be of proved ability and integrity. Local candidates possessing these qualifications would be recommended for appointment despite the fact that they may not possess one of the recognised professional accountancy qualifications.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :**

155. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

What are comparative charges for the supply of electrical energy at Bathurst, Freetown, Accra, and Lagos, in the following categories: (i) residential, (ii) domestic, (iii) commercial per 100 watts, (iv) commercial rate consumption per unit, (v) flat rate, (vi) fixed house charge, (vii) power, (viii) general purposes rate, (ix) shop window and sign lighting, (x) meter rent, (xi) ceiling fan, (xii) oscillatory fan, (xiii) desk fixed fan, (xiv) water heater, (xv) kettle, (xvi) cooker, (xvii) thermostatic control, (xviii) boiling rings?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

As the reply is very lengthy a letter is being addressed to the Honourable Member setting out the information for which he asks.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe) :**

156. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of the Colony:—

(a) Will a list of the priorities for installation of telephones in Lagos for 1947 and 1948 be placed at the disposal of the Members of this Honourable House for perusal?

(b) What are the criteria which determine priorities for the installation of telephones in the Colony area?

(c) When did the following firms submit application for the installation of telephones in their offices:

- (i) Kingsway Stores.
- (ii) British West African Corporation.
- (iii) Olympic Hotel.
- (iv) African Continental Bank, Limited.
- (v) African Development Corporation Limited.
- (vi) Department of Marketing and Exports.
- (vii) Colonial Development Corporation.

(d) Of the firms mentioned above, when were they permitted to have telephones installed on their premises?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:**

(a) No priority list is kept by the Colony Office, although there is a waiting list on which are recorded all applications as they are received.

(b) In principle, applications are granted in strict rotation as new telephone connections become available, but in practice, this rotation must at times be overridden by the claims of public interest, and where there is any conflict, the following order of priority is usually followed, provided that in each case I am assured of the necessity for a telephone:—

- (i) Government Departments.
- (ii) Medical Practitioners.
- (iii) Commercial firms, Shipping firms, hotels and other institutions of public importance.
- (iv) Private residences.

The position is complicated by the fact that from the point of view of telephone installations, Lagos is divided into eighty-nine distinct areas serving different parts of the township. Owing to technical factors, therefore, it often occurs that there are several vacant connections in one area while in the adjoining area—sometimes in the same street—there are none. This has inevitably resulted in new applications in one area being granted while those of several years' standing in other areas have still to be granted.

- (c) (i) May, 1928.
- (ii) June, 1947.
- (iii) July, 1947.
- (iv) 28th May, 1947 (I understand that the original application was made in the name of the West African Book Company).
- (v) 29th October, 1948.
- (vi) 1st September, 1948.
- (vii) 6th September, 1948.
- (d) (i) No new telephones have been granted since 1928, the existing ones having been transferred from the former premises.
- (ii) November, 1947.
- (iii) 2nd September, 1948.
- (iv) 14th November, 1949, transferred from the Comet Press Premises.
- (v) The African Development Corporation is at present No. 20 on the list of applicants in that particular area and is using a party line by mutual arrangement with the holder.
- (vi) No new telephone has been installed at present, one having been transferred from the former Produce Department.
- (vii) February, 1949.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

157. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the significance of the visit to Nigeria of El Hadj Sidi Benamor Tijani, the Grand Shereef of Ainmadhi, in Algiers, Algeria, North Africa?

(b) What other parts of West Africa was he scheduled to visit?

(c) Has his name any Nigerian connection?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) The Sheikh Said Tijani came to Nigeria last year as a private person to visit his co-religionists.

(b) He visited the Gambia in 1948 and is understood to have proceeded to the French Cameroons from Nigeria. The Government has no further knowledge of his itinerary.

(c) No, Sir.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

160. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) What were the facts relating to the acquisition of land for the building of Women's Training Centre in Udi Division?

(b) Who were the land owners in question?

(c) Is it a fact that the site surveyed was different from the one agreed upon between the land owners and Government?

(d) What was the compensation agreed upon and who were the parties to the agreement?

(e) Are the land owners satisfied with the deal on the whole?

Answer—

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

(a) 257 acres of land were acquired outright by Government at Enugu for a Women's Teacher Training Centre, a Girls' Secondary School and a Trade Training Centre. Negotiations with the landowners which proved inconclusive commenced in 1945, and notice to acquire was published in *Gazette* No. 64 of 28th November, 1946. Compensation to the landowners was decided by the Supreme Court and Government was granted a Certificate of Title. No appeal has been lodged against this judgment.

(b) The people of Ogui Village of the Nike Clan, Udi Division.

(c) The land acquired was the land specially chosen by the Education Department for the purposes for which it was required. After survey and demarcation the landowners objected to the inclusion of approximately half the area and offered an alternative site, on the grounds that they were not shown the original boundaries. The offer of an alternative site which was recently renewed by the Solicitor to the landowners had to be rejected,



because the land offered was found to be not only unsuitable but land which had been awarded in an Inter Tribal Boundary Settlement Enquiry to another Clan in 1941.

(d) No agreement on compensation was reached and both sides are bound by the decision of the Supreme Court.

(e) While the landowners have intimated that they appreciate the benefits which will derive to their own people, and to the people of Enugu and of the Region, from the institutions to be built on the land acquired, they state that they regard the area as excessive.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

161. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:—

(a) Is it a fact that land called Ani Ogwu has been declared Ossomari Forest Reserve?

(b) If so, under what circumstances was this declaration made?

(c) Were the people concerned informed and what was their reaction?

*Answer—*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces:**

(a) The Ossomari Forest Reserve, which was constituted by Order No. 21 of 1928, includes part of the land sometimes called Ani Ogwu.

(b) The Reserve was constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Ordinance.

(c) In accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Ordinance an enquiry was held by the Reserve Settlement Officer, who published his findings on 20th June, 1927. No appeal was lodged against the findings of the Reserve Settlement Officer.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

165. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Is it a fact that formerly all probationary civil servants took their entrance examination, but when this examination was cancelled, those people who failed to pass it were merged with qualified clerks and were given appointment in lieu of their past experiences?

(b) If so, why is this practice not applicable to Government ungraded teachers, who, owing to the closing down of their existing normal classes for the recruitment of teachers, have now found chances of passing the Teachers' Certificate Examination narrowed?

(c) Is it not misleading to stipulate that a teacher is entitled to the award of honorary certificate, after five years of satisfactory work, whereas there are teachers with twenty years' experience not granted this award?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Director of Education:**

(a) I am not quite sure that I understand the question, but assume that the term "probationary civil servants" is intended to mean

"clerks appointed to the civil service on probation" and that "entrance examination" refers to the Junior Clerical Service Examination which was discontinued in 1932. No clerks appointed as civil servants who failed to pass the Junior Clerical Service Examination were absorbed into the permanent establishment until they had passed a departmental test as laid down in Circular No. 23 of 1932, issued by the Chief Secretary to the Government, qualifying them for confirmation in their appointments.

(b) Ungraded teachers are eligible, when vacancies occur, for promotion to Teachers Grade IV, which are pensionable posts. They may take the Teachers' Higher Elementary Certificate Examination as non-institutional candidates and they are eligible for the award of the Teachers' Honorary Higher Elementary Certificate.

(c) Rules governing the award of Honorary Certificates are laid down in Regulation 24 (1) and Regulation 24 (2), made under the Education Ordinance No. 39 of 1948, which state—

(1) Honorary Teachers' Certificates may be granted by the Director to teachers, other than probationary teachers, who have been engaged in teaching for a period of not less than ten years, and who can give evidence of ability and good character to the satisfaction of the Director. Such certificates shall contain an endorsement indicating the standard to which the holder is entitled to teach, or, if the holder is a vocational teacher, the subjects in which he is entitled to teach, and may contain a further endorsement indicating the class of certificate under those regulations to which the honorary certificate shall be deemed equivalent.

(2) Any such honorary certificate may be cancelled by the Director at any time.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

166. To ask the Honourable the Director of Education:—

(a) Is there any branch of the civil service where any person is expected to serve as an apprentice for twenty years or more?

(b) Is there any necessity to retain such undeserving servants?

(c) Is it reasonable that within an hour or so with a teacher in the whole school year, an Education Officer can judge the efficiency and classification of that teacher accurately?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Director of Education:**

(a) Not to my knowledge.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This question appears to ask for an expression of opinion and is therefore, I think out of order, but I nevertheless record the opinion that an Education Officer should be able to form a good impression of a teacher's efficiency after seeing him for an hour at work in his school.

[Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe]

[Question]

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

168. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government Printer in the Gambia is a full-blooded Negro of Nigerian descent?

(b) How many Nigerians are holding Senior Service appointments in the Printing Department in Nigeria?

(c) Whether it is intended to appoint the two printers who had just returned from the United Kingdom on a Government Scholarship to a Senior Service post?

(d) Whether he is aware that lead is responsible for industrial disease in certain branches of the printing industry?

(e) What is being done by way of special grant or allowance to protect those printers who manipulate on molten lead from this type of industrial disease?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) There is no record here to enable me to answer this question.

(b) Three, one of whom is acting in a Senior Service post.

(c) They will be considered with other applicants for Senior Service posts, some of whom have greater experience.

(d) I understand that the molten metal in linotype and monotype pots is not high enough to give off lead fumes and that there is consequently no risk involved in working near these metal pots. Lead dust does rarely cause disease but if care is taken the risk is very small.

(e) No special grant or allowance is paid.

*Supplementary Questions to No. 168 (a) by the Second Lagos Member (Dr the Honourable N. Azikiwe):*

Is your Office not in possession of a Staff List or other official document containing this information?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Not to my knowledge, Sir.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

Can this information be acquired?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

I have no reason to doubt that the information in question (a) is incorrect, but certainly we can obtain by reference to the Gambia the information required.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

169. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) What is the difference between the work of European and African Monotype and Linotype operators and casters?

[Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe]

[Question]

(b) What is the salary of (i) the European, and (ii) the African, operators?

(c) Is it a fact that the wife of a European Operator is engaged on a part-time work as an operator in the Printing Department?

(d) What is her wage (i) *per diem* (ii) *per mensem*?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

(a) The Printing Department does not normally employ Europeans as Monotype and Linotype operators or casters. European operators were, however, specially engaged for the type-setting for the revised edition of the Laws of Nigeria, a task which required unusual skill, accuracy and speed.

(b) These specially-engaged operators were paid at the rate of £660 per annum on a purely temporary appointment. Operators on the permanent establishment are on various salary scales, namely, Scale G 3 £270-£370; Scale G 2 £180-£250; Scale G 1 £96-£170.

(c) Not at present. The wife of a European operator was engaged as a part-time operator for about three months ending in March, 1949, as it had proved impossible to recruit the second operator required to complete the work on the printing of the revised edition of the Laws. The original time schedule for this work had been drawn up on the assumption that two expatriate officers would be recruited at the same time, but the Crown Agents had difficulty in recruiting temporary operators at the salary offered, and a second operator was not recruited until the 19th of March, 1949, when the wife of the first operator ceased work.

(d) She was not on a monthly wage but was paid 7s 6d per hour.

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

172. To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

(a) Will a full statement be made in respect of the Anglo-American arrangement for the development of the resources of the African colonial territories?

(b) Is the arrangement a sort of Marshall Plan for Africa?

(c) How will the indigenous Nigerian benefit from such an arrangement?

(d) Why was publication of news of this arrangement officially denied *ab initio*?

Answer—

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

I have nothing at present to add to the reply which I made last November to question No. 494 asked by the Honourable the First Member for the Eastern Provinces.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

175. To ask the Honourable the Financial Secretary:—

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

[Question]

May the yearly revenue of the Customs and Excise Department since 1923 be given?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

The Honourable Member is referred to page 164 of Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1950, which contains details of the Customs and Excise revenue up to the end of 1948. Figures for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 are printed on page 10 of the Draft Estimates of Nigeria, 1950-51.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

177. To ask His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces:—

Why are there no fire-fighting services throughout the whole of the Western Provinces?

*Answer—*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :**

Such services are essentially a local function. If Native Authorities in the Western Provinces are anxious to establish fire-fighting services Government would certainly agree in principle but such services would have to be paid for by rating for which all persons in the area concerned would be liable.

Meanwhile wherever possible, Native Authority Police deal with fires when they occur.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

178. To ask the Honourable the Director of Medical Services:—

How many Doctors in the Government Service are entitled to Private Practice before 1934? How many of them have left the Service, and how many have been promoted to the Administrative posts? Can details be given?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

Of eighty-nine Doctors on the establishment who are entitled to Private Practice in 1934, twenty-eight are still in the Service and of these twenty-one occupy posts to which the right of Private Practice is attached, including twelve Medical Officers, three Specialists and six Senior Medical Officers.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

180. To ask the Honourable the Commissioner of Labour:—

How many unemployed Nigerians are there, and what is the Department doing to see them employed?

*Answer—*

**The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour :**

I have no means of estimating the total number of Nigerians who are unemployed. Unemployed persons of all classes, men, women,

[Com. of Labour]

[Answer]

boys and girls are registered only at the employment exchanges at Lagos, Jos and Sapele. Unemployed secondary school leavers are registered also at Enugu and Ibadan. The numbers registered at each exchange are published quarterly in the Department of Labour *Quarterly Review*. The five exchanges mentioned receive notifications of vacancies from Government departments, commercial firms and other employers, and endeavour, with a considerable degree of success, to fill these vacancies from persons registered as unemployed.

### BILLS

#### (Committee Stage and Third Readings)

#### THE 1950-51 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill for the 1950-51 Appropriation Ordinance from the Select Committee as amended in the Report of the Select Committee tabled today, and to move that the Bill be re-committed to a Committee of the whole House.

With Your Excellency's permission I would like at this juncture to make a statement on behalf of the Government :

Since the Harragin scales of salaries and wages were introduced with effect from the 1st January, 1946, the Government has maintained the general policy that no substantial overall increase in salaries and wages can be justified. It has also repeatedly been made clear in public statements that any such overall increase in basic salaries and wages could only be achieved by increasing taxation or limiting development work. The main reason for this stand has been the vital importance to avoid imposing on Nigeria in a period of inflation following the war a swollen salaries and wages bill which the economy of the country would be unable to bear in future years when the cost of living is reduced. The Government adheres to that policy and remains firmly opposed to any overall increase in basic salaries and wages. (It should, however, be added that with regard to daily paid staff adjustments have been and can be made from time to time within the framework of the Miller Scales).

On the other hand there has, since the Harragin Scales were introduced, been a substantial increase in the cost of living. It has not been possible to establish a cost of living index figure for the country as a whole and no reliable statistics exist to indicate the exact increase in the cost of living which has taken place. There is no doubt, however, that the actual increase in the cost of living since 1946 has been substantial. Moreover, although it is now known that prices of most export crops will soon start to drop and that this will tend to bring the cost of living down the increase in the cost of living continues for the present.

Over the past year the Government has given anxious consideration to the question whether this substantial increase in the cost of living justifies the payment of a temporary cost of living allowance

to Government employees of all grades. Until recently the Government was of the opinion that the arguments against the granting of such an allowance were overriding but the whole position has recently been reviewed by the Governor in Executive Council and by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. It has been necessary to take into account the continued increase in the cost of living and the claims made by many categories of Government employees for increases in emoluments. The recent action of the Sierra Leone Government and the Gold Coast Government in granting substantial increases in Government emoluments in the form of allowances has also been noted.

During the consideration of this matter very close attention has been given to the possibility of reducing the cost of living by Government action. It is the Government's firm view that no effective action could be taken merely by attempting to fix prices. The main cause of the cost of living increase has been the increase in prices of local foodstuffs and Government is convinced that any attempt to peg the prices of local foodstuffs by price fixing would not achieve its purpose but would in fact merely result in the creation of a black market with a consequent further increase in prices.

A reduction in the cost of living could be achieved over a period by very drastically reducing the prices now paid to producers of export crops and by cancelling or postponing capital work in the Development Plan, and by increasing local production of foodstuffs. The Government is convinced that there is no other effective way in which a substantial decrease in the cost of living could be achieved. It is, however, not the Government's policy to endeavour to force down the prices paid to producers of export crops to the very great extent which would be necessary to achieve any marked result (and in any event the Government has no power to do so since the fixing of prices for export crops, the marketing of which is controlled, is in the hands of the Marketing Boards) nor is it Government's policy to cancel or postpone the greater part of the Development programme. As regards production of local foodstuffs many schemes, including those financed by the Production Development Boards, are in hand and the Government will continue by every means at its disposal to encourage greater production of food for Nigerian markets but a considerable period must elapse before the full results of these schemes are felt. It is certain that the prices of export crops will drop in coming years and that this will in time have the result of stabilising and reducing the cost of living. The problem before Government has been the problem of what should be done in the interval.

In considering this question it has been necessary to take into special consideration the grave staff situation which was referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his Address to the Legislative Council on the 2nd of March when His Excellency said

"We are energetically pushing ahead with the implementation of the recommendations of the Nigerianisation Commission for training schemes and appointment and promotion of Nigerians to higher Government posts. (Since the report was published in August, 1948, 192 Nigerians have been appointed to the Senior Service and 243 scholarships and training awards have been made). At the same time anyone who has any responsibility for carrying out the vast range of tasks with which the Government is faced must be very deeply disturbed at our failure to recruit and retain sufficient officers to enable progress to be made with these tasks. We do not now lack material and equipment to nearly the same extent as in the years immediately following the war, but the staff position so far from improving has deteriorated, and in the professional and technical departments, particularly the engineering services, we are—and I am choosing my words with care and a full sense of responsibility—very near to a disastrous breakdown. We must face this problem and find a solution for it if our plans are not to fail."

There has been a steady and persistent weakening of the Service by resignation and retirement which, if not arrested, would disrupt the development schemes on which we are engaged and delay the economic and social progress which must accompany political advance. This dangerous tendency is largely due to the fact that in the face of the increased cost of living the existing terms of service are insufficient to attract and retain the staff which must be secured if progress is to be maintained, and the hardship has been specially severe on those who must maintain two homes.

Taking all these factors into account the Governor in Executive Council referred proposals to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council and with the advice of that Committee the following proposals have been worked out and unanimously approved by the Committee:—

- (a) A temporary cost of living allowance to all members of the Junior Service and daily-paid labour at the rate of 12½ per cent on basic salaries, and a similar allowance at the rate of 10 per cent to all members of the Senior Service. (Assistance will be given to Native Authorities and to approved Education Voluntary Agencies towards the payment of a similar cost of living allowance).
- (b) Passages for two children to and from the United Kingdom for Senior Service officers working outside their country of domicile, or an alternative allowance;
- (c) An allowance, the details of which have still to be worked out, for Nigeria members of the Senior Service with children who by the nature of their duties have to maintain two homes.

A detailed circular about these new allowances will be issued shortly. It is estimated that the annual amount required to meet the cost of living allowance will be £1,500,000 and that the cost of the other proposals will be about £200,000 a year.

The cost of these allowances has been found in the first instance by reducing the 1950-51 contribution to the Revenue Equalisation Fund. It is the Government's intention however to restore the contribution to the Fund as far as possible to its previously proposed level by reducing Government expenditure. A careful appraisal will be made of all departmental expenditure and proposals for reductions will be referred to the Council as soon as possible. It will not be easy to find so large an amount by reductions in Government expenditure but it is essential to build up the Revenue Equalisation Fund to meet more difficult times ahead and it is also most desirable to avoid increasing taxation at this time.

The amount which has to be found represents the maximum which the country can afford and indeed the effects of the cost of living allowance would be lost if higher wages and salaries were paid, leading to higher prices and further inflation. In endeavouring to meet the just claims of the Service the Government has gone to the limit which its finances can justify. There can be no prospect of increasing the allowance and Government is determined to hold the line against pressure for increases in basic wages and salaries. The Government trusts that private employers of labour will follow the same policy.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has given to these matters its earnest and anxious consideration. Its advice has been of the greatest assistance to the Government and the responsible and constructive approach which it has brought to this difficult problem has made it possible for a solution to be found which the Government considers to be fair and just.

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clause 1.*

*Clause 2.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I move that the words in the fourth and fifth lines ' thirty million, one hundred and thirty-six thousand, three hundred and fifty pounds ' should be deleted and replaced by the words ' thirty million one hundred and sixty-eight thousand and forty pounds ', with a consequential amendment in the marginal note to read £30,168,040.

*Clause 2 as amended.*

*Clause 3.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I move that the words in the first line " Manager of the Nigerian Government Collieries " should be deleted and replaced by the words " Enugu Colliery Board ".

*Clause 3 as amended.*

*Clause 4.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I move that the words in the fifth and sixth lines " Ten million, three hundred and ninety-five thousand and twenty pounds " should be deleted and replaced by the words " Ten million, four hundred and fifty-eight thousand, nine hundred and twenty pounds " with a consequential amendment in the marginal note to read in figures " £10,458,920 ".

*Clause 4 as amended.*

*Clause 5.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I move that the words in the first and second lines " Forty-one million four hundred and fifty thousand and forty-seven pounds " should be deleted and replaced by the words " Forty-one million, five hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and thirty-seven pounds " with a consequential amendment in the marginal note to read in figures " £41,545,637 ".

*Clause 5 as amended.*

*Clause 6.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces :**

Shouldn't the marginal note to Clause 3 not be amended?

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

No, Sir, I do not think that it is necessary to amend the marginal note to Clause 3. They are still the Nigerian Government Collieries, and this expenditure is authorised out of the revenue of those Nigerian Government Collieries. In Clause 3 this change is a change of nomenclature which describes better the management which will in point of fact pay out the expenditure authorized by the Nigerian Collieries.

*First Schedule.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I beg to move that the First Schedule be deleted and replaced by the First Schedule set out in the reprint of the Bill annexed as Appendix B, to the Report of the Select Committee.

*First Schedule as amended.*

*Second Schedule.*

*Third Schedule.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I beg to move that the Third Schedule be deleted and replaced by the Third Schedule set out in the reprint of the Bill annexed as Appendix B, to the Report of the Select Committee.

*Third Schedule as amended.  
Title.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

I beg to move that the words in the second line " Four hundred and fifty thousand and forty-seven pounds " be deleted and replaced by the words " Five hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and thirty-seven pounds ".

*Title as amended.  
Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Financial Secretary :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with various amendments. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed into law.

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

**THE EASTERN REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE, 1950****His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill for the provision of Local Government in the Eastern Provinces from Select Committee as amended in the Report of the Select Committee tabled today, and to move that the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House.

**His Excellency :**

I hope that Honourable Members will agree with me that in a Bill of this length it will be convenient if we take the Clauses in groups of ten. That would not, of course, preclude any Honourable Member from speaking on any particular clause which may fall in any group of ten. Council will resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clauses 1-10.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 1-10 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 1-10 as amended,  
Clauses 11-20,*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 11-20 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 11-20 as amended.  
Clauses 21-30.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 21-30 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 21-30 as amended.  
Clauses 31-40.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 31-40 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 31-40 as amended.  
Clauses 41-50.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 41-50 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 41-50 as amended.  
Clauses 51-60.  
Clauses 61-70.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 61-70 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 61-70 as amended.  
Clauses 71-80.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 71-80 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 71-80 as amended.  
Clauses 81-90.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 81-90 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 81-90 as amended.  
Clauses 91-100.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 91-100 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 91-100 as amended.  
Clauses 101-110.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 101-110 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 101-110 as amended.*

*Clauses 111-120.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 111-120 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 111-120 as amended.*

*Clauses 121-130.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 121-130 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 121-130 as amended.*

*Clauses 131-140.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 131-140 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 131-140 as amended.*

*Clauses 141-150.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 141-150 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 141-150 as amended.*

*Clauses 151-160.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 151-160 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 151-160 as amended.*

*Clauses 161-170.*

*Clauses 171-180.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 171-180 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 171-180 as amended.*

*Clauses 181-190.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 181-190 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 181-190 as amended.*

*Clauses 191-200.*

*Clauses 201-210.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 201-210 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 201-210 as amended.*

*Clauses 211-220.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 211-220 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 211-220 as amended.*

*Clauses 221-230.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 221-230 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 221-230 as amended.*

*Clauses 231-240.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that Clauses 231-240 be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Clauses 231-240 as amended.*

*Clauses 241-244.*

*First Schedule.*

*Second Schedule.*

*Third Schedule.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that the Third Schedule be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Third Schedule as amended.*

*Fourth Schedule.*

*Fifth Schedule.*

*Sixth Schedule.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that the Sixth Schedule be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Sixth Schedule as amended.*

*Title.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I rise to move that the Title be amended as recommended in Select Committee.

*Title as amended.*

*Council resumed.*

**His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with various amendments. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Secretary, Eastern Provinces :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

THE ELECTRICITY CORPORATION OF NIGERIA ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill "to provide for the Establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, for the transfer to the Corporation of the Electricity Undertakings owned by Government, for the functions of the Corporation, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid" from the Select Committee as amended in the Report of the Select Committee tabled today, and to move that the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House.

**His Excellency :**

As the number of clauses in this Bill is 56, I think it might be convenient if we follow the procedure adopted in the previous Bill and take the clauses in groups of ten.

Council will resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clauses 1-10.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 1-10 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 1-10 as amended.*

*Clauses 11-20.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 11-20 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 11-20 as amended.*

*Clauses 21-30.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 21-30 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 21-30 as amended.*

*Clauses 31-40.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 31-40 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 31-40 as amended.*

*Clauses 41-50.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 41-50 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 41-50 as amended.*

*Clauses 51-56.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that Clauses 51-56 be amended as recommended in the report of the Select Committee.

*Clauses 51-56 as amended.*

*Title.*

*Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Your Excellency, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with various amendments. Sir, I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Director of Public Works :**

Sir, I beg to second it.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

(Second and Third Readings)

THE MINERAL OILS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to amend the Mineral Oils Ordinance".

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clause 1.*

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, for the expression "1949" at the end thereof, I move that the expression "1950" be substituted.

*Clause 1 as amended.*

*Clause 2.*

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

I move that the expression "Paragraph 3" in the sixth line of that clause be deleted and the expression "Paragraph (c)" be substituted therefor; that is an amendment consequential upon the



revision of the Laws. In the marginal note the chapter should now be "Chapter 135" instead of "Chapter 94".

Clause 2 as amended.

Title.

Council resumed.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with amendments. I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE NATIVE CHILDREN (CUSTODY AND REFORMATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

Your Excellency, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to further amend the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Chapter 82)".

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clause 1.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

Sir, for the expression "1949" at the end thereof, I move that the expression "1950" be substituted.

Clause 1 as amended.

Clause 2.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

The marginal note reference should be to Chapter 141 and not to Chapter 82 as printed.

Clause 2 as amended.

Title.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

Sir, I beg to move that the words in brackets "Cap. 82" be deleted.

Title as amended.

Council resumed.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General:**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with amendments. I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE WEST AFRICAN COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
(NIGERIA STATUS) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Development Secretary:**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to provide for the Status and the Functions, including the Powers and Duties, within Nigeria of the West African Cocoa Research Institute and the West African Cocoa Research Institute Managing Committee which were established in the Gold Coast by the West African Cocoa Research Institute Ordinance, 1947, of the Gold Coast, and for purposes connected therewith."

**The Hon. the Senior Resident, Oyo Province:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

Enactment.

Clause

**The Hon. the Development Secretary:**

I move that the figures "1949" be deleted and the figures "1950" be substituted therefor.

Clause 1 as amended.

Clauses 2-4.

Preamble.

Title.

Council resumed.

**The Hon. the Development Secretary:**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with one amendment.

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Senior Resident, Oyo Province:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Director of Education:**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

"An Ordinance to amend the Cinematograph Ordinance, 1933."

**The Hon. the Senior Resident, Kano Province:**

Sir, I beg to second.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clauses 1-2.*

*Title.*

*Title as amended.*

*Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

THE NON-EUROPEAN OFFICERS' PENSIONS (1949 STATION  
STAFF STRIKE) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled :—

“ An Ordinance to provide that the break in service in the case of certain Railway Servants of the Station Staff arising out of a strike which occurred in the month of July in the year one thousand, nine hundred and forty nine, may be disregarded and that such period may be counted for continuity of service under the provisions of the Pensions Law ”.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I rise to second.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.) :**

I rise to support this Bill only because the Government had already committed itself. When this Bill was first read to the Legislative Council meeting in November 1949. Unofficial Members raised objection and asked that it be deferred in order that it might be considered in the Regional Houses. This Bill has since been considered Sir. I would like to take this opportunity Your Excellency, to draw the attention of Government that it should not be so ready to commit itself in matters which seem very urgent. We have heard of strikes, Sir, and the number of strikes that have taken place in Nigeria during the last two years has caused the country grievous harm financially. During the speech of the Honourable Financial Secretary when he was introducing the Appropriation Bill he did mention that the country has lost a lot of money and has suffered thereby, and I would like to draw attention to all people that it is dangerous for this country, for us to go

on strike without duly taking all steps constitutionally and otherwise to have all grievances attended to. The Government has been lenient in this case, and although I did say we should reconsider in Regional Houses, I have no intention of opposing the Bill in toto but I only want to take this opportunity to say that we are all very concerned in this country about strikes and both the Government and the peoples should take precaution and take the trouble of satisfying both parties before the country is thrown into financial difficulties.

Sir, I support the Bill.

**His Excellency :**

Does any other Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

I think it is unnecessary to reply, except to say that I agree with the comments of the Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces. It is no light matter to bring to this Council a motion of this kind even in respect of a strike for such a short period. It may be difficult after this interval of time—the events took place in July of last year—for Honourable Members to recall the exact circumstances of what took place, and even more difficult, may be, for Honourable Members to put themselves into the position of those who had the responsibility of decision at that time. The decision was of course not whether pension rights should be restored, but decision whether the men should be called upon to return to work on the assurance that Government would put forward this proposal for the consideration of the Legislative Council. We are not here to discuss the merits of this decision for which I myself as Acting Governor had to take the responsibility at that time in Your Excellency's absence. I suggest however that it was in the interests of the country that the men, having gone on strike wrongly and foolishly, should be given an opportunity to return quickly to work. All our endeavours were made in that direction, and within the stipulated date, three days from the time when the strike took place, the men returned. I regarded that as a satisfactory conclusion from the point of view of the country. It was made absolutely clear to the men that no one could restore their rights except this Council. It was also made quite clear that if they did not return within three days the Government would not support the restoration of their rights.

I do not want the Honourable Member to feel that the Government treated this matter lightly in any way. Pensionable status carries obligations as well as rights and one of the obligations is that a pensionable officer cannot leave his work without just cause. I am grateful to the Honourable Member for the comments which he has made, and I agree with the purposes which he has in mind.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*  
*Clause 1.*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

I propose the substitution of " 1950 " for " 1949 " and in the margin " Chapter 160 " should replace " Chapter 27 "

*Clause 1 as amended.*

*Clause 2.*

*Clause 3.*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

One minor change Sir, owing to the new edition of the Laws, " Chapter 27 " should be replaced by " Chapter 160 ".

*Clause 3 as amended.*

*Clause 4.*

*Preamble.*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

There is a similar change " Chapter 160 " replacing " Chapter 27 ".

*Preamble as amended.*

*Title.*

*Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government :**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with amendments. I beg to move that the Bill as amended by now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

THE INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Your Excellency, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

" An Ordinance to amend the Interpretation Ordinance."

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clauses 1-3.*

*Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

THE NIGERIA TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a Bill entitled:—

" An Ordinance to amend the Nigeria Town and Country Planning Ordinance (Cap. 155) ".

**The Hon. the Director of Public Works :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clauses 1-4.*

*Title.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I move that the words " Chapter 155 " be deleted.

**The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiam, O.B.E.):**

I move that there should be a full stop after the word " Ordinance ".

*Title as amended.*

*Council resumed.*

**The Hon. the Development Secretary :**

Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee with one amendment.

I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. the Director of Public Works :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a third time and passed.*

THE CIVIL AVIATION (BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MISSING PERSONS) ORDINANCE, 1950

**The Hon. the Director of Medical Services :**

Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled:—

" An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Births and Deaths in Civil Aircraft Registered in Nigeria."

**The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Bill read a second time.*

*Council in Committee.*

*Enactment.*

*Clause 1.*

*Clause 2.*

[Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe] [Report of Select Committee on the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference]

The Ijebu Provincial Conference supports this view by adding that vested interests "are usually bodies organised for the advantage of non-Nigerians and to whom the welfare of our people is an extraneous consideration rarely embodied in their primary purpose."

In the circumstances, one cannot endorse the "appointment" of three members "by the Governor to represent interests which in his opinion are not otherwise adequately represented", for the following reasons:

- (1) This country should not allow those who are energetically concerned in the exploitation of its agricultural, forest and mineral resources to exercise legislative power as a matter of privilege.
- (2) This country should not allow those who have established monopoly in its commercial, banking, shipping and mining activities to exercise political power as a special privilege.
- (3) This country should not condone the stultification of its indigenous political philosophy by giving special representation to a particular stratum of any section of its community.
- (4) This country should not allow the interests of immigrant races to be paramount over those of the indigenous races, in the light of the expositions of the idea of British trusteeship in Africa, by the Duke of Devonshire, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in 1923.

If those who represent these "special interests" desire to participate in the politics of the country, they should exercise their rights, provided they satisfy the requirements of our electoral laws, just as any other inhabitants of the country.

"We support the recommendation of the Northern Regional Conference regarding the House of Chiefs and of the Western Regional Conference regarding a House of Obas, subject to the modifications noted in the statement attached to the Report". Consistent with its assumed role of inquisitor over the wishes of the people as expressed at the Provincial level, the Drafting Committee exceeded its terms of reference by supporting or rejecting any suggestion. Its task was to prepare a statement setting out draft recommendations for constitutional changes based on views ascertained at the Regional level and to submit same for consideration at the General Conference. It is patent that the *ultra vires* act of the Drafting Committee must have influenced the Central Conference in many respects, of which the issue of House of Chiefs is one.

The trend of general opinion, particularly in the Southern Provinces, is that Chiefs should be encouraged to perform their traditional roles, *i.e.*, ceremonial and religious. That when they

[Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe] [Report of Select Committee on the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference]

exercise political power it shall not be based on privilege but that it should be democratically exercised. Both Lord Lugard and Sir Donald Cameron were careful to warn against the concentration of extraordinary powers on Chiefs who, although they "form an integral part of the machinery of Government" yet "if the authority has not the true spirit of the people behind it and is no more than a foreign and artificial intrusion imposed by ourselves almost certainly in such circumstances the people will be kept in subjection and ignorance; indeed, they must be kept in subjection and ignorance if such an authority is to endure. But with the advance of education a people thus becoming enlightened cannot be expected to continue faithful to a Native Administration which is reactionary and oppressive in its tendencies . . . . The Native Authority that is not acceptable to the people and is maintained only because we impose it on them is therefore almost certainly bound to fail and it would be better to endeavour in the first instance to administer the people directly".

Lord Lugard, who laid the foundations of "indirect rule" and who inspired Sir Donald and other subsequent British administrators in Nigeria, made it clear that the Chief derived his power from the Suzerain and that Chiefs are constituted "as an integral part of the machinery of the administration". In his Lordship's opinion "There are not two sets or rulers—British and native—working either separately or in co-operation but a single Government in which the native Chiefs have well-defined duties and an acknowledged status equally with British officials. Their duties should never conflict, and should overlap as little as possible". Elsewhere he added that Chiefs "are no longer demi-gods or parasites preying on the community. They must work for the stipends and position they enjoy. They are the trusted delegates of the Governor . . . . and recognising the King's representative as their acknowledged Suzerain".

The creation of a House of Chiefs in the Richards Constitution gave cause for speculation, especially with respect to the vesting of Chiefs with legislative powers in addition to their executive functions. Lord Milverton had proposed that "The House of Chiefs in the Northern Provinces should equally have the right to originate motions and resolutions other than money resolutions".

In its commentary on the Richards Constitution the N.C.N.C. welcomed the innovation "provided that the House of Chiefs will be purely a consultative body and not have any legislative power".

In their proposals for reforms of the Richards Constitution the Nigerian Youth Movement agreed with the above and suggested that a House of Chiefs be created in the Western Region which "must be purely consultative and advisory to the House of Assembly in each of the regions". It added that "under no circumstances must they possess legislative or delaying powers".

[Dr the Hon. N. Asikiwe]

[Report of Select Committee on the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference]

But the Egbe Omo Oduduwa preferred that "The House of Assembly should have exclusive legislative powers over any legislation dealing with finance; providing that the House of Chiefs should have the right to debate such legislation and present its views for consideration of the House of Assembly whose ultimate decision should, nevertheless, be final . . . . On all other matters the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly should have concurrent legislative powers".

The Western Provinces, which are in favour of the establishment of a House of Chiefs nevertheless prefer in the main that it should exist as an *ad hoc* consultative and advisory body. Abeokuta Province resolved that the House should have "the right to debate any legislation and to present its views for the consideration of the Regional Legislative Council whose decision shall be final", but is emphatic that "No Chiefs holding the rank of Oba should be eligible to sit in the Regional Legislative Council". The Benin Provincial Conference registered their views on all fours with Abeokuta.

The Ijebu Provincial Conference recommended a separate House of Chiefs in the Western Region as in the North, but "this should be purely consultative and advisory in function. The Chiefs are the heads of the Native Administrations or local governments and discharge onerous administrative duties in their areas. An assembly of Chiefs would be valuable in the process of regularising the Native Administrations and their views at the House of Chiefs would be an authoritative index of the reaction of Native Administrations to the legislative provisions of both the central and regional legislatures. The House of Chiefs should have no legislative powers. Delaying powers may be exercised for a maximum period of three months after which time the decision of the House of Assembly shall become law if the disagreement has not been resolved".

Ogoja Province felt that "it looked rather inconsistent that Chiefs should leave their place of dignity to mingle with commoners in Regional and Legislative Council meetings". Ondo Province held that since "The Institution of the House of Chiefs has also become a cog in the wheel of our political and administrative progress . . . any Constitution for Nigeria which does not aim at giving Nigeria within a very short period of time self-government is unacceptable". Oyo Province suggests that the function of the House of Chiefs or Obas "shall be purely consultative and advisory . . . . The present practice of making Obas or Head Chiefs members of the Regional House and the central Legislature is subversive to the principle of native law and custom and should therefore be discontinued".

The Warri Provincial Conference recognised that Chiefs "being a respected part of the traditions of Nigerians, the institution of natural rulers shall be allowed to stand. Natural rulers shall

[Dr the Hon. N. Asikiwe]

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receive emoluments adequate for the maintenance of their dignity; and shall be required to preside at certain ceremonies and to perform such public functions as the opening and closing of Assembly sessions. They shall, however, be shorn of direct legislative and executive powers unless able and willing to bid on equal terms with other members of the State or Local Government unit, for such powers".

Naturally, the Northern Region, which is heavily weighted with what Sir Donald had described as "feudal autocracies" favoured by an overwhelming majority the continued existence of the House of Chiefs. In this connection it is refreshing to recount Sir Donald's observation on the tendency to make the North a reclusé for reactionary and obsolete institutions under the pretext of religious tradition. "The policy accepted for some considerable time" he asserted "that the Moslem administrations should be sheltered as far as possible from contact with the world was due, no doubt, to a feeling, however unformulated, that an unreformed feudal autocracy could not be expected to stand up against the natural forces of a western civilisation that was gradually but quite perceptibly creeping further and further north in Nigeria; a curtain being drawn between the Native Administrations of the North and the outer world, so far as it was possible to maintain the integrity of that curtain. But we have advanced now to the stage that the curtain is being gradually withdrawn and, I hope, will be fully withdrawn within a comparatively brief period".

In view of the fact that the North has always been isolated as a sort of museum specimen, and in spite of the efforts of certain high officials to lull its rulers and inhabitants into a false sense of security, an imperceptible urge for change is gradually becoming manifest. Although the Sokoto delegates to the Northern Regional Conference suggested that the Sultan should preside over the House of Chiefs instead of the Chief Commissioner, the Ilorin Provincial delegates have the distinction to be the only Northern Group to join the Western Provinces in demanding that the function of the House of Chiefs should be advisory and not legislative. Zaria and Bauchi Provinces suggested modification along the lines of relationship between the House of Commons and House of Lords. Bornu and Bauchi advocated ultimate election of an African President. Plateau Province, which is a "Pagan" area, decided that House of Chiefs should not exist. The North is not unanimous in the effort to vest House of Chiefs with legislative powers concurrent with the Regional Legislature.

I cannot, therefore, agree that a case has been established for vesting Houses of Chiefs with concurrent legislative powers. The Eastern Provinces as a whole have been aloof in expressing opinion for obvious reasons. But the Western Provinces have been articulate

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and sounded timely warning against creating confusion in the relationship of the two houses. For historical reasons, the Northern Provinces cannot but welcome the gesture. The Drafting Committee could not have studied the recommendations of the Western Regional Conference critically, otherwise I fail to appreciate their reason for supporting what to all intents and purposes appears to be ephemeral, because whilst majority were in favour of the creation of a House of Obas, yet not one of the Provinces in the Western Region voted for vesting legislative power in such a House.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

There are three points I would like to make. It is certainly not my intention, at this time, to go over all the ground covered by the constitutional review but I should like to make one comment, first of all, about the date of this review which has been referred to by the Honourable the Second Lagos Member. I should like to emphasise the reason for carrying out the review of the constitution at an earlier date than had previously been contemplated. That was the reason given by Your Excellency in the speech made to this Council in 1948. The reason was the good progress that has been made in working the present constitution. In saying that I should like to pay my tribute to members of this House who, in the period since the present constitution was introduced, have made such a valuable contribution and have thus enabled this new constitutional advance to be made.

The second point I should like to refer to is the question of the system of review of the constitution, which was decided upon in this Council a year ago. Honourable Members well remember that a select committee was appointed and submitted to this Council a unanimous report and that that unanimous report was unanimously accepted by this Council. During the past year we have carried out the recommendations of that select committee approved by this Council. We cannot therefore allow such a phrase as "attempts to stultify public opinion" to pass unchallenged and uncontravened. I believe all Honourable Members will agree that the experiment in political education and in seeking and ascertaining public opinion, which has been carried out in the past year is one of the most memorable constitutional achievements which has ever been undertaken in this country or in any part of Africa.

The third point I should like to make concerns representation in the Central Legislature. There is still that major question to which we have to direct our minds. I do not under-estimate the difficulty of that question and I am sure that every member of this Council will leave Enugu determined to give the whole matter of representation in the Central Legislature earnest thought, with one object only—the object of finding a solution which is the best solution for Nigeria. We have that task still before us. We should not wish

[C.S.G.] [Report of Select Committee on the recommendations of the General Constitutional Conference]

to hurry it. We should not wish to come back again to reconsider the matter until we have thoroughly reviewed it in the Regions.

I would finally like to emphasise the very great measure of agreement which has been achieved as a result of a year's work. There are differences which still remain but the select committee which is now reporting has emphasised the great measure of agreement on fundamental principles. As I have not had an opportunity of reading the report to the Council I would like merely to quote that particular paragraph:—

"The Committee has duly considered the recommendations of the Ibadan General Conference together with the comments of the Regional Houses and, subject to the important reservations and proposals which are set out in this report, endorses the recommendations of the General Conference. In particular the Committee warmly welcomes the proposals

- (a) for greatly increased Regional autonomy within a United Nigeria;
- (b) for giving Nigerians a full share in the shaping of Government policy and direction of executive Government action in a Central Council of Ministers and Regional Executive Councils; and
- (c) for the creation of larger and more representative Regional Legislatures with increased powers."

Those are the fundamentals of a new constitution which have been worked out in the course of the year's review, and I am glad that, in forwarding this Report to the Secretary of State, that great measure of agreement can be emphasised. I am sure that the fact that we can emphasise that agreement will help us, all of us, to find a just solution of the remaining major matter which still has to be considered.

**His Excellency:**

The question is in terms of the motion.

*Resolved in the affirmative.*

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

Your Excellency, with the permission of the House I should like to alter the wording of the motion before the House to read as follows:—

"That this House request His Excellency the Governor to appoint a Commission of Enquiry to investigate and report on the administrative machinery and the financial stability of the Lagos Town Council before the people of Lagos are asked to take over the said Lagos Town Council."

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

[Motion]

**His Excellency :**

Is it acceptable to the Council that the terms of the motion be so amended?

Agreed.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe) :**

Sir, the motion before the House is a simple and a straightforward one, and there are many reasons for the introduction of such a motion before this Honourable Assembly.

(1) Under the bill which has just been passed into an Ordinance the present Council shall commit suicide on the 14th October next. It shall be replaced by a more democratic one on October the 16th. If that were so, Sir, then I repeat what I have repeated elsewhere that we must have a handing-over note; and that, Sir, can only be satisfactorily dealt with by an independent commission of enquiry.

(2) For some considerable number of years the electorate of Lagos have, from time to time, demanded a commission of enquiry into what they alleged to be mal-administration on the part of the present Lagos Town Council. In support of these allegations, Sir, I shall, with your permission, quote from the various clippings in the Lagos daily papers—clippings which have direct relevance to the motion before the House. There are many of them, Sir, since 1944 but I shall confine myself to the most recent ones. The first one, Sir, was from the publication in the *Daily Times* of 9th July, 1948—the first leader of the *Daily Times*, which reads as follows:—

“ L.T.C. Constitution.

The affairs of the Lagos Town Council have been made a target for criticism by the rate-payers and others interested in the well-being of the people, and there is not the slightest doubt that the position is such that calls for immediate enquiry. For this reason the decision at the last meeting of the Council to appoint a special committee to probe the affairs of the Council and make recommendations in the light of their findings must have been hailed with great joy.

An important source of gratification to us is that the Committee is composed of all African members of the Council with the Chairman and the Town Clerk only to serve on the Committee as *ex-officio* members. It is an index to Government's awakening to the people's urge for greater participation in the running of their administration, and of the Government's implicit confidence in their ability to take greater responsibility if they are given the opportunity.

All the African members of the Council are fully conversant with its problems and they should be able to devise a way out of the Council's present predicament, taking full cognisance of the people's needs and aspirations.

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

[Motion]

We give the Town Council's decision our whole-hearted support and we believe that with the goodwill and co-operation of those who are expected to help during the course of the Committee's enquiry, a solution will be found."

The second one, Sir, was from the publication of the *Daily Service* of Thursday, 16th December, 1948. It was the second leader in *The Daily Service* and reads as follows:—

“ Lagos Town Council.

At a recent meeting of the Lagos Town Council some of the African members 'claimed corruption' in a department of the Council and would like an enquiry to be instituted into the working of the department. We have in a previous article in this column supported the idea but today we wish to stress the necessity of instituting an enquiry not only into the working of the building department but also the marketing section; nay, the whole working of the Council.

Some time ago the rate-payers in different wards through some of the councillors passed resolutions calling on the Government to institute a commission of enquiry into the working of the Council and as it was, nothing was heard from the Government. Now the idea came up again within the Council itself and we wonder what the Government is proposing to do.

Since our last publication on the specific allegation of corruption we have received so many complaints about some market masters and the oppressive measures meted out to the poor ignorant market women. In this connection we would only like to know how market stalls are allocated to the women, how many wives and relations of the officials own stalls and also if any of them hold more than one stall in one or more markets. We would refrain from further comments until the Town Council could erase from the minds of the public the unsatisfactory position of things by satisfying our curiosity. In the meantime we will advise the Government to institute an enquiry, unless of course it wishes to give the impression that it condones the alleged corruption thrown at the doors of the Lagos Town Council.

It is our opinion, and we have public support for this, that a whole lot of things need to be thoroughly gone into in the working of the Lagos Town Council. The time is overdue when a body of experts should be set up to enquire into every detail of the working of the machinery and bring out all the skeletons in the cupboard."

The third one, Sir, was a publication in the *Daily Times* of the 29th December, 1948. Second leader in the *Daily Times*.

“ Market Stalls. The allocation of market stalls in Lagos and the suburbs by the Town Council Authorities would appear

to be, like the proverbial peace of God, passing all understanding. Complaints are rife and all in the main touch on what appears to be favouritism or something of a kindred nature in the stall allocation business.

We see no reason, for our own part, why the Council itself cannot delegate this duty to a Committee of Councillors thus obviating to some extent these oft-repeated accusations against some of those who now have the business on hand. We would not, however, take in, hook, line and sinker all the tall stories about favouritism. It is too often the fashion in this country to ascribe motives to certain things once such things get beyond the individual's desires.

However, to co-opt a number of market women and others doing petty trading in the markets on a Stalls Allocation Board whose duty would be to consider applications of new traders would not be an improper course.

Then the people will really be in the know about the annoying matter of allocation. It will not be regarded as it is at present as a stilted form of official red-tapeism in which perhaps there are some back-hand strokes.

We commend this to the city fathers, of whom, it must be placed on record that matters of this nature have never been allowed to pass by unheaded."

The fourth one, Sir, is a publication in the *Daily Service* of 11th April, 1949, headed "Wanted! An Inquiry."

"If indeed the Lagos Town Council has taken a decision not to institute a thorough enquiry into the activities of some of its officers, we must say that such a decision is a most unfortunate one. If there are any public offices in this country today which deserve top priority for an immediate and thorough overhauling, the Lagos Town Council and the Posts and Telegraphs Department must vie for order of precedence and it is a toss up which will win."

The malady ailing the two departments are of different characters. The Posts and Telegraphs has earned a bad name for its inefficient and annoyingly tardy attendance to the public. In official circles, this is put down to lack of materials whilst among the African workers and their friends, it has been blamed on what is now popularly known as "spiritual depression" among the African employees.

The Lagos Town Council has a more serious disease brought about by some woefully inefficient and lousy workers and an amazing propensity for bribery and corruption among some of its officials. This, at least, is the general impression in town and that public opinion has been expressed at meetings of the Council.

How is it that one officer of the Council permits the erection of a building and later, another orders its demolition, both interpreting the same township regulations? Why is it that some building plans take such an inordinately long time in the office of the Council whilst others have very easy passage? Why is it that market women have such disgusting stories to tell of some officials and their ways? The Town Council can very well do with an enquiry and the sooner one is instituted, the better it will be for all concerned."

The last one, Sir, was a publication in the *Daily Times* of Friday, 9th September, 1949. The first leader in the *Daily Times*.

"Value for Money. The Lagos Town Council has a sense of humour, but we doubt whether the residents of Suru Lere, a growing community on the mainland after Yaba, quite appreciate it.

Suru Lere is notorious for the lack of almost every amenity that makes for decent comfortable living. The residents almost shout themselves hoarse, praying and pleading for the provision or improvements of those blessings of modern life, like drainage, light and water.

The Council while not being altogether evasive, was thinking hard. Why should the people have what they have not paid for? That seems to be the Council's trend of thought. If really they want these things, they should be ready to pay for them—in advance.

Presumably, by way of a test, the Town Council issued assessment notices calling upon all and sundry to pay so much for improvements contemplated.

Not appreciating the reasoning, perhaps, the Suru Lere people took the measure hardly and protested in a body to the Town Clerk. They took the view that it should be value for money. They would gladly pay for services they actually enjoy, and not otherwise, they argued.

Suru Lere folks rightly suspect the thin edge of the rate wedge.

Perhaps, it might be some consolation to Suru Lere to know that in the municipality the improvement rate is a meaningless term.

A large majority of people pay the rate without seeing any form of improvement in their surroundings for years. One district helps to pay for another.

The start of improvements is the prerogative of Lagos Town Council; it can exact payment for services not rendered! And it is just!"



Your Excellency, it is apparent, Sir, from the publications I have just referred to, that the council by a majority vote, demanded a commission of enquiry into the various complaints laid at the door of the Council at its meeting in July, 1948, namely that an enquiry should be held into alleged corruption concerning the alleged practices in the Council and (2) to enquire into the whole administrative machinery of the Lagos Town Council. The Press, Sir, were adequately represented on that occasion, hence the leader to which I have referred. Already, Sir, we have in an imaginary or a real sanctioning or confirming authority, a replica or reincarnation of Adolf Hitler in or out of the present Lagos Town Council, hence the enquiry demanded by the Council itself was not held. That was why we were opposed to having another sanctioning or confirming authority in the democratically elected Council of the future. (3) "Considerable assets will be transferred to the new Council and the new local Government Bill offers a challenge to the people of Lagos" said the Honourable the Commissioner for the Colony, during the first reading of the Local Government Bill some weeks ago in the House. I would take this opportunity of accepting that help on the part of the people of Lagos but then it is not unreasonable to request that before we take over the Ship of State in Lagos next year a commission of enquiry should be held. (4) Clause 150 of the Bill which has just been passed in an Ordinance this morning reads as follows:—

*Marginal Note:*

" Powers of Governor-in-Council if town council fails properly to discharge its functions.

The clause reads:—

" Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance and without prejudice to any other remedy available, if at any time the Governor-in-Council is of opinion that the Council is no longer discharging its functions under this Ordinance in a manner conducive to the welfare of the town, he may by order:

- (a) dissolve the council, and direct that a general election be held and appoint the day for holding thereof; or
- (b) appoint a committee of management which shall, during the continuance of such appointment, discharge the functions of the council under this Ordinance."

The Government must agree, Sir, that for some considerable number of years it has been directly responsible for administering the Lagos Town Council, for and on behalf of the people of Lagos; direct, Sir, in the sense that there is a great preponderance of Government nominees over that of the peoples' representatives in the Council, although Government erroneously believe that the

Council has an African majority. We refuse to endorse such a statement, having regard to what is contained in Halsbury's Laws of England Volume II page 159. Section 285:—

" *Marginal Note:* Position of nominated members of legislatures.

285. In all cases when legislatures contain nominated members the votes of officials are controlled by the Governor when he thinks fit or is directed to do so by the Secretary of State, but it does not appear that this rule applies to non-official nominees. It must, however, be remembered that it is always possible for the Crown to remove such persons, and this fact induces them to accept the guidance of the Governor in cases of special importance."

The number of Government nominees in the Lagos Town Council is nine. Lagos township directly elected five candidates into the Council. Sir, I submit, that if the Government will have the unquestionable privilege to close down the new Council or replace it by a caretaker one in cases of mal-administration, then we have every legitimate right to ensure that Government has not committed in the past errors for which we will be penalised in the future!

I have been dealing, Sir, with the administrative machinery of the Council. I now come to the Fifth reason for bringing this motion before the House, namely that of finance. In Lagos, Sir, we have often asked ourselves what is the financial stability of the Council, having regard to the frequent losses of money, and we cannot understand why we must have an accountant and a treasurer both doing identical work. There is a belief among the people of Lagos that what is generally known as "over-expenditure of money" are, in fact, monies lost or stolen by some members of the staff which cannot be reported to the Council under normal circumstances. If this allegation is true, then it would be well to investigate.

Reason No. 6. My submission would be incomplete if I failed to refer specifically to staff matters in the Lagos Town Council. I have indicated earlier, that we have accepted the challenge the new Bill offers; but realising as we do that we must set up a very high standard for our Councillors of the future, we are equally not unmindful of the fact that our staff too, must be first class men—men who possess the necessary qualifications, the ability, the integrity, and the experience that would do credit to any Borough Council anywhere in the world. While we would be prepared to recruit qualified and competent pensioners in especial cases, we shall certainly have no room for pathological specimens!!! Therefore, we are curious to know the real position of the Staff in the Lagos Town Council.

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

[Motion]

7. The Electorate of Lagos over 5,000 strong met at Glover Hall, Lagos, on the 11th February, 1950, under the auspices of the Democratic Party and unanimously passed the following resolution:—

“ The Lagos Local Government Bill is accepted in principle subject to the wholesale abolition of the post of sanctioning and confirming authority to which reference has already been made; that an independent commission of enquiry be instituted and a report published before we take over. Wherefore have I brought this Motion before the House in obedience to their unanimous will. The advantages, Sir, to be gained from an independent commission of enquiry of this nature would be incalculable as it will undoubtedly serve as a guide to the Council of the future. While I do not anticipate the official reply at this stage, I can foresee one difficulty, namely that since many of the officials of the Council have retired, or some of them, no useful purpose would be served by the institution of an enquiry. That difficulty is easily met when one remembers what William Shakespeare said: He said: “ Superfluity comes sooner by white hairs but competency lives longer.”

Or if the House would prefer an alternative quotation, it is this!

“ The evil that men do lives after them.”

In appealing to the Honourable Members of this House, both official and non-official to support the Motion I would remind them that in our new council our success will be your success and our failure will be your failure.

Thank you.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Third Lagos Member (The Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin):

Sir, I rise to second.

The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony:

Your Excellency, I do not wish to weary Honourable Members at this stage of the session with a lengthy reply to the various statements made by the mover, who himself is a member of the Town Council; and, as most Honourable Members know, I am the President of that body. I would prefer to keep to the terms of the motion which call for a commission of enquiry into the administrative machinery and the financial stability of the Council. At this stage I do not propose to dilate about the cost, etc., of any Commission of Enquiry. I agree that such an enquiry might expose shortcomings in the present organisation, but with what avail? In view of the fact that in six months time the present Council will, I hope, not commit suicide, but gracefully retire. The Honourable Mover, however, has made a few statements which I cannot leave unchallenged. He has talked at some length about corruption,

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[Motion]

favouritism and nepotism. May I say that evidence of mal-administration is not confined to the Town Council? There have been certain allegations made about the corruption, which is rife amongst the Building Inspectorate and the Health Department of the Council. The present Council is fully alive, Sir, to that, and for that purpose, many months ago, selected a committee to deal with certain allegations which were made. Unfortunately, that sub-committee was unable to carry out its work for lack of evidence; but though the charge has been made the allegations could not be established. That, Your Excellency, is a fact. It is easy to make allegations of a general nature such as those read from the newspapers by the mover: it is a different matter for any commission or committee to investigate actual cases of corruption, simply because the evidence is not forthcoming.

I do not claim perfection for the present machinery; but I claim as high a standard of efficiency as any Government Department. Now the present machinery has been assembled over several decades and it has reached its present state as a result of experience and constant attention by the Council to the needs of the town in the interests of efficiency. When re-organisation has been found necessary reform has been instituted. May I quote some recent examples in support of that statement of fact: Recently the mechanical side of the Town Engineer's department has been re-organised into a separate Mechanical Department. An Establishment Officer has been appointed with the object of relieving the technical Heads of Departments of the work connected with staff and labour matters, which hitherto necessitated the expenditure of much time by technical Heads of Departments to the detriment of the technical work for which they were appointed. There is no doubt that the Council has suffered grievous losses during the last year, namely the invaliding of the Town Clerk, Mr Martins, who served the Council faithfully for twenty years and whose health broke down mainly as a result of his service and work for the Council. The retirement of the Town Engineer, Mr Rycroft and two expatriate engineers, which took place recently. The appointment of Dr Ajose, the Medical Officer of Health, to a post in Ibadan University necessitated the recall of Dr Oluwole from a well-earned retirement. The Council has experienced similar difficulties to Government over the question of recruiting staff with the necessary qualifications and experience. The possibility of breakdown in the Council is just as likely in the case of the Town Council as it is in the case of Government at this moment, but the necessity for building for the future has never escaped the attention of the Council. It may be fairly said, Sir, that the Council set the example to Government in regard to Nigerianisation. Over five years ago two Nigerian students were sent to England at the Council's expense, to train and qualify for responsible positions in the Town Clerk's and the Municipal Treasurer's office. These

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[Motion]

young men are due back this year, fully academically qualified for these posts. Furthermore, an African Engineer has just been appointed to the post of Assistant Engineer. I learnt yesterday or the day before, with regret, Sir, that he has resigned for domestic reasons. But I learnt that applications have been received for the vacant post of Town Engineer, so perhaps the staff position may improve in the near future. The affairs of the Council are well known to the public. The public has access to the Council's meetings and minutes. Before this new Council can be made a reality, a heavy programme of work has got to be carried out and completed by the Council's staff. It will require all the available time and energy to accomplish this task and it would, therefore, seem inadvisable to divert the efforts of the Council at a time when energy should be expended on getting the new Council machinery into motion. If I were a member of the new Council I would not welcome any body or person submitting a report, telling me how to run the Council. No doubt the new Council, after they have settled down, will wish to make changes, but if they are to run their own affairs, then I say, let them do so as they think fit and in the manner which they desire without any outside interference or suggestions from external agents.

I do not wish to worry the Honourable Members any further by replying in detail to some of the allegations or statements made by the Honourable Mover, but I would merely suggest that if there are any cases of mal-administration which are capable of proof that they be brought to the notice of the Council, and then let the Council first deal with them before a commission of enquiry (if one is then found necessary). At this late stage of the present session I realise that the mention of figures to Honourable Members is somewhat abhorrent, but since the financial stability of the Council has been doubted the repetition of a few figures is necessary to enable Honourable Members to appraise the position. The estimates of the Council, subject to public scrutiny, are statutorily approved by the Government. As a matter of interest, Your Excellency has recently approved, without question or comment, the estimates for 1950-51. The accounts are continuously audited by the Director of Audit and so far no major comment or surcharge has ever been made. These facts surely indicate a high degree of efficiency and stability. Regarding financial stability I regret I must quote a few figures. The estimated revenue for 1950-51 is £318,000 and without any increase in the rates the expenditure has been contained in the figure of £317,000. The General Revenue account stands at about £95,000 and Renewal Funds, Pensions Funds, Reserve Funds amount to the satisfactory figure of £218,000. Outstanding interest bearing loans total £38,000. There are no other major liabilities. Further material and physical assets of the Council include such things as markets, cemeteries, houses and buildings, clinics, vehicles, plant and stores, public lavatories and dustbins and streets

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[Motion]

and drains; although I am not particularly optimistic that the Lagos drain would command as an asset a very high price at the moment. At, Sir, those are the facts, facts which plainly establish that the Council is financially stable. If you wish for any further proof, I am sure that my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary, if I may use his own biblical reference, has adopted an attitude similar to that of David towards Naboth's Vineyard.

Sir, the Government will oppose this motion.

His Excellency:

If no other members wish to address the Council I will call on the mover to reply.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Sir, if in replying I were to refer to the views put forward by the Commissioner of the Colony I am sure it would take me another half hour at least, and I would not like to do that because everybody is getting fatigued mentally; but I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to reason No. 1 for introducing such a motion before the House. The old Council shall cease to exist and the new one will take its place, and it is a matter of formality to have a handing-over note and we, the people of Lagos, say it should be done by an independent commission of enquiry. If the Government will hand over the Council to us then it is as well to know precisely where we stand before we take over, otherwise we might refuse to take over. I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

His Excellency:

The question is in terms of the motion.

I think the Noes have it.

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

I press for a division.

Council in Division.

For				Against	
3				23	
The Hon. the Third Lagos Member.	the	Third	Lagos	The Hon. the Second Nominated Member.	
The Hon. the Second Lagos Member.	the	Second	Lagos	The Hon. the First Nominated Member.	
The Hon. the First Lagos Member.	the	First	Lagos	The Hon. the Fourth Member for the Northern Provinces.	
				The Hon. the Third Member for the Northern Provinces.	

[Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe]

[Motion]

The Hon. the Second Member for the Northern Provinces.  
 The Hon. the First Member for the Northern Provinces.  
 The Hon. the Atta of Igbirra.  
 The Hon. the Emir of Katsina.  
 The Hon. the Member for the Colony.  
 The Hon. the Secretary, Eastern Provinces.  
 The Hon. the Commissioner of the Colony.  
 The Hon. the Commissioner of Labour.  
 The Hon. the Director of Public Works.  
 The Hon. the Director of Agriculture.  
 The Hon. the Director of Education.  
 The Hon. the Development Secretary.  
 The Hon. the Director of Medical Services.  
 The Hon. the Financial Secretary.  
 The Hon. the Acting Attorney-General.  
 His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces.  
 His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces.  
 His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Western Provinces.  
 The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government.

*Abstentions*

The Honourable the Fourth Member for the Western Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Fifth Member for the Eastern Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Fifth Member for the Northern Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Third Member for the Eastern Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Second Member for the Eastern Provinces.  
 The Honourable the Emir of Abuja.  
 The Honourable the Oni of Ife.  
 The Honourable the Emir of Gwandu.  
 The Honourable the Second Member for the Western Provinces.  
 The Honourable the First Member for the Western Provinces.

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**His Excellency :**

The "Noes" have it.

[Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām]

[Motion]

The Fourth Member for the Eastern Provinces (Dr the Hon. F. A. Ibiām, O.B.):

Your Excellency, I beg leave to withdraw the motion standing in my name as follows:—

"Be it resolved:

"That the privilege previously enjoyed by the  
 "Missionary Voluntary Agencies of exemption  
 "from Income Tax on profits made from Book-  
 "shops sales be restored until such time as the  
 "proposed scheme for Grants-in-Aid to the  
 "Voluntary Agencies' Medical Work is actually  
 "in operation."

When I proposed to move this resolution I did not know then that the grants-in-aid for the medical missions for the year 1949-50 would be paid in arrears. During the course of the debate on the statement of policy moved by the Honourable the Director of Medical Services on the grants to these missions that assurance was given to me. I, therefore, move, Sir, to have the motion withdrawn.

**His Excellency :**

The question is that the motion is by leave withdrawn.

*Agreed.*

The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):

Your Excellency, I would like to ask the permission of the House to alter the wording of this motion to read as follows:—

"Be it resolved:

"That Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1949 laid on the table  
 "of the Legislative Council last year entitled  
 "'Statement of the Conclusion of the Government  
 "on the Report of the Commission on the Private  
 "Practice of Medicine and Surgery by Officers of  
 "the Department of Medical Services, Nigeria",  
 "be referred to this House for debate."

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:

I suggest the Honourable Member suggests this alteration for a debate at a subsequent meeting.

**His Excellency :**

Would it be the pleasure of the Council if the motion were amended in the terms proposed; that is, instead of moving the rejection, the contents of the paper be referred to this House for debate at some subsequent date.

*Agreed.*

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

Your Excellency, I rise to move the motion standing in my name. In doing so I beg leave of the House to make a minor amendment, and that is: instead of the words "documents presented to" please read "official reports presented to and public documents received from". So that the motion will read:

"Be it resolved:

"That official reports presented to, and public documents received from, the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations in respect of the administration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship be laid on the table of this Honourable House from time to time."

Before speaking to this motion . . . . .

**His Excellency:**

I think it would be useful if we got the view of the House on the amendment.

The question is the terms of the motion be amended as described.

*Agreed.*

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

I would say, before speaking to the motion, that after I had given notice of same I received an official report of the administering authority to the United Nations in connection with the Cameroons under the United Kingdom Trusteeship, and I was also informed that the documents would be available from time to time. I should have asked for the permission of this House to withdraw this motion but there are one or two points I wish to emphasise so that Government should give me the information I require.

It will be noticed that there have been very few references to the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship in the course of our deliberations this session. This may be due to the nature of our constitution, where the Cameroons, unfortunately, is represented in the Regional Houses but has no direct representation here. There have been references, of course, in Your Excellency's speech on the general conditions of the country but I have in mind major discussions affecting the Cameroons. Therefore, I feel that this motion presents an opportunity to let the outside world know that the Cameroons is still alive and not dead.

Reports are presented regularly to the United Nations from the administering authority and public documents are also sent to the

administering authority from the United Nations from time to time. As a member of this House, I am interested in knowing what goes on in the Cameroons and I would like to know what is contained in these reports of the United Nations and the public documents issued. In view of recent events in this territory I should be most obliged if Government would give the information in order to let this House know how the administering authority is discharging its obligations in view of the conclusions reached, and the recommendations made, by the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations during its fourth and fifth sessions in 1948. I would like the Government to answer the following questions:

- (1) Has the administering authority taken steps towards budgetary autonomy for the territory?
- (2) Has the administering authority considered the possibility of giving distinct representation to the territory in the executive and Legislative Councils?
- (3) Has the administering authority considered the possibility of establishing, as soon as possible, such democratic reforms as will eventually give the indigenous inhabitants of the territory the right of suffrage and an increasing degree of participation in the executive, legislature and judicial organs of government preparatory to self-government or independence?
- (4) Has the administering authority taken effective steps to ensure that the Cameroons Development Corporation is working for the benefit of the indigenous population?
- (5) Has the administering authority taken appropriate measures to establish wages at a level which would not only enable workers to meet the expenses of every-day life but would also raise progressively their standard of living?
- (6) Has the administering authority abolished:
  - (1) corporal punishment;
  - (2) deportation of indigenous inhabitants from the territory;
  - (3) increased the number of medical practitioners and other trained personnel, to provide for the health needs of the indigenous population;
  - (4) increased the budgetary allocations for educational requirements and other cultural needs?
- (7) Has the administering authority made earnest effort:
  - (1) to develop through educational channels the various indigenous cultures of the population;
  - (2) to develop and increase educational facilities and to devise ways and means to make education as

[Dr the Hon. N. Asikwe]

[Motion]

inexpensive as possible as to make primary education eventually free?

I submit, Sir, that this House should be well informed also about the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council to the Cameroons to study conditions in that country. As may be known, the Mission arrived in Nigeria last November, and was directed to observe the political, economic, social and educational conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons and its progress towards self-government or independence. It was also charged to ascertain the efforts of the Administering Authority to achieve these and other basic objectives of the Trusteeship system. The Mission was instructed to give attention to issues raised in connection with the annual report on the territory and in particular to the petition relating to the question of the Bakweri Land Committee's prayer regarding the alienation of native lands in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship. The Mission was further authorized to accept, receive and investigate on the spot any petitions which it considers of sufficient importance to warrant a special investigation. After all, the Cameroons form an integral portion of our territory—Bornu, Adamawa, and Benue Provinces are interested for obvious reasons. I am of the opinion, therefore, that the affairs of the Cameroons are of interest to the Honourable Members of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The First Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. I. Olorun-Nimbe):**

Sir, I beg to second.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

I doubt my ability to answer in full the many questions which the Honourable Member has put without notice, but I would like to endeavour to reply, if I may, on one or two points as well as I can without reference to figures or to documents.

First of all, we welcome the motion, although I would prefer that if an amendment were made it should be put somewhat differently.

It would not be possible to give any promise that all documents received from Lake Success will be referred to this Council. If all such documents received in a year were placed in this room no Honourable Member would be able to enter the room. But I understand the sense of the Honourable Member and such documents as the report of the Visiting Mission I can give an assurance, will be provided.

I must refer to some of the other questions put by the Honourable Member quickly. The first point to make is, as all Honourable Members know, that the Cameroons under British Trusteeship are administered as a part of Nigeria. It is therefore not possible to

[C.S.G.]

[Motion]

show exact figures for the Cameroons alone, but every effort is being made year by year to provide separate figures in order to give as clear a picture as possible of progress in the Cameroons.

The main two questions put were constitutional questions, regarding the position of the Cameroons in relation to constitutional advance in Nigeria. The Honourable Member is, of course, aware of the recommendation made by the Ibadan Conference that at least two representatives of the Cameroons should sit in the Central Legislature in future and that there should be at least one member from the Cameroons in the Central Executive.

Next, with regard to the Cameroons Development Corporation, Nigerian representation on that Corporation has been increased and will be still further increased. The Honourable Member may know that the profits of the Cameroons Development Corporation enabled a grant to be made, something like £50,000, last year for the general benefit of the people of Cameroons. The Cameroons Development Corporation, after taking over the properties from the Custodian of Enemy Property, had a difficult task of agricultural rehabilitation on which it had to concentrate most of its effort, but that first stage is now mainly over. Excellent preliminary work has been done and now it is possible for the Corporation to direct more and more of its attention to the welfare of the people for which it was established. The Corporation was created to ensure that the whole enterprise was undertaken for the people of the Cameroons and that any profits should go back to the people of the area. A good start has been made and increasing benefits will be apparent.

With regard to wages, a recent increase has been made and, even more important, improved arrangements have been for distribution of the consumer goods.

I am not able to speak offhand on the question asked about corporal punishment but I feel sure that inquiry will show that there are no abuses which can be regarded as serious.

On the other matters raised it would not be possible to reply usefully without reference to the figures. The object is to increase the medical and educational facilities in the Trusteeship Territory just as we are making a major effort with regard to medical facilities and educational facilities in Nigeria, and I am sure when the Honourable Member sees the next annual report he will recognise that very considerable progress is being made in all parts of the territory. I shall gladly arrange for the annual reports of His Majesty's Government on the Trust Territory to be laid on the table of this House. I will also see, as soon as it is available, that the report of the Visiting Mission is laid on the table of this House and all other important documents received from the Trusteeship Council.

**His Excellency:**

Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

**The Second Lagos Member (Dr the Hon. N. Azikiwe):**

I am grateful to the Honourable the Chief Secretary for the information supplied to the questionnaire which I made when I moved the motion and I also appreciate his assurance that these documents will be laid on the table of this House from time to time; and I look forward to seeing the reports.

**His Excellency:**

The question is in terms of the motion as amended.

*Motion adopted.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**His Excellency:**

That concludes the business on our Order Paper. I am not certain whether there were one or two motions of which notice has only recently been given, but if such matters remain it might be advisable to take them at our next meeting. May I consult Honourable Members on that point—matters of which notice has only recently been given—would it be agreeable to Council if we debated them at the next meeting.

*Agreed.*

One last word. Would Honourable Members stay for five minutes or not more than ten minutes, in their capacity as members of the Nigerian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, to complete the business outstanding.

**The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:**

We are anxious to have a short meeting of the Finance Committee before we separate and it is for Honourable Members to say whether they prefer to hold it this afternoon at 4.30 or possibly tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. The only matter we wish to raise is the question of the building of a new Legislative Chamber in Lagos and I do not think that it need take us very long to reach a final decision on that. I would like to know whether members would prefer it today or tomorrow morning?

**The Member for the Colony (The Rev. & Hon. T. A. J. Ogunbiyi, O.B.E.):**

I think we are closing the Session and because I think that Your Excellency will not be attending our Finance meeting tomorrow morning, I therefore rise to seize this opportunity to thank His Honour the Chief Commissioner, Eastern Provinces and Mrs Pyke-Knott, as also Commander Johnson, for the reception they have given us. We have really enjoyed our time here. The climate is better certainly than we felt elsewhere.

I should like to extend our appreciation and thanks to those who have made it comfortable for us, especially the amenities we enjoyed while staying in the Eastern Provinces, as also to the lady stenographers and to the Manageress of the Catering Rest House for her efficiency. We all appreciated it and everybody is quite satisfied with the food and the arrangements for all, and I would also thank the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary, the Attorney-General and last but not least the Clerk of the Council and his Assistant and all official members. We thank them all.

**His Excellency:**

The question is whether we sit tomorrow. The Finance Committee or such members as are able to meet will sit tomorrow morning.

The Council now adjourns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Council adjourned sine die at 1.15 p.m.*

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FOURTH SESSION

2nd March to 3rd April, 1950

VOLUME II

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Bills : Read first, second or third time = 1R. 2R. 3R.

Com. S. = Committee Stage

Comm. = Committee, Commissioner

LegCo. = Legislative Council

S. Com. = Select Committee

W.A. = West African

F. Committee = Finance Committee

U.A.C. = United Africa Company

P.W.D. = Public Works Department

P.R.O. = Public Relations Office

Dept. = Department

C.D. & W. = Colonial Development and Welfare

L.T.C. = Lagos Town Council

C.S.G. = Chief Secretary to the Government

C.O.L.A. = Cost of Living Allowance

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