



MIDWESTERN NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

---

JOINT SITTING  
OF THE  
HOUSES OF CHIEFS  
AND ASSEMBLY

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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OMNIBUS ISSUE No. 1  
(11th March, 1964)



Joint Sitting of the Houses of

CHIEFS AND ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

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*Joint Sitting of the Houses of Chiefs and Assembly*

11 MARCH, 1964

**JOINT SITTING OF THE MID-WESTERN HOUSES OF CHIEFS AND ASSEMBLY  
BENIN CITY**

His Excellency the Governor—Chief S. J. Mariere.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Premier—The Honourable Chief D. C. Osadebay, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs—The Honourable Chief H. Omo-Osagie, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General—The Honourable W. G. Egbe, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Works and Transport—The Honourable Dr Xto. G. Okojie, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Education—The Honourable F. H. Utomi, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Information—The Honourable Rev. I. Edeki, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Health—The Honourable J. Igbrude, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Trade and Industry—The Honourable J. A. Ororho, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources—The Honourable V. I. Amadasun, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Finance—The Honourable Chief O. I. Dafe, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Establishments—The Honourable J. Umolu, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Internal Affairs—The Honourable Shaka Momodu, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Lands and Housing—The Honourable E. S. Ukonga, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Economic Development—The Honourable Chief O. Oweh, M.H.A.  
The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare—The Honourable E. O. Imafidon, M.H.A.  
The Minister of State (Agriculture)—The Honourable F. O. Osunbor, M.H.A.  
The Minister of State (Finance)—The Honourable G. I. Oviusu, M.H.A.  
The Minister of State (without Portfolio)—The Honourable L. S. Fufeyin, M.H.A.  
The Minister of State (without Portfolio)—His Highness The Honourable S. U. Enosegbe II, the Onogie of Ewohimi, M.H.C.  
The Minister of State (without Portfolio) — His Highness The Honourable Obika Gbenoba II, the Obi of Agbor, M.H.C.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Premier's Office .. .. .	(1) The Honourable Chief G. E. Odiasa, M.H.C.
	(2) (Vacant)
Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs	(3) The Honourable Chief J. M. A. Uwawah, M.H.A.
Works and Transport .. . . .	(4) The Honourable A. A. Osunbor, M.H.A.
Justice .. . . .	(5) The Honourable A. E. Atohengbe, M.H.A.
Agriculture and Natural Resources .. . . .	(6) The Honourable A. O. Braimah, M.H.A.
Trade and Industry .. . . .	(7) The Honourable B. U. Ellama, M.H.A.
Lands and Housing .. . . .	(8) (Vacant)
Economic Development .. . . .	(9) The Honourable S. O. Uwuechir, M.H.A.
Education .. . . .	(10) The Honourable T. B. Igugu, M.H.A.
Labour and Social Welfare .. . . .	(11) The Honourable P. D. Lawanson, M.H.A.
Information .. . . .	(12) The Honourable Palmer Odudu, M.H.A.
Internal Affairs .. . . .	(13) The Honourable J. K. Jenakumo, M.H.A.
Health .. . . .	(14) The Honourable S. E. Akpenyi, M.H.A.
Establishments .. . . .	(15) The Honourable P. V. Okweba, M.H.A.

(1)



Joint Sitting of the Houses of Chiefs and Assembly

11 MARCH, 1964

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS

1. His Highness Akenzua II—Oba of Benin—(*Benin*)
2. His Highness Erejuwa II—Olu of Warri—(*Warri*)
3. His Highness Obika Gbenoba II—Obi of Agbor—(*Asaba*)
4. His Highness S. U. Enosegbe II—Onogie of Ewohimi—(*Ishan*)
5. His Highness Oharisi II—Ovie of Ughelli—(*Urhobo*)
6. His Highness Kadiri Omogbai—Ogieneni of Uzairue—(*Afenmai*)
7. His Highness Oputa II—Obi of Aboh—(*Aboh*)
8. Chief R. P. Onwetenu—Special Member—(*Asaba*)
9. Chief O. Oweh—Special Member—(*Urhobo*)
10. Chief G. E. Odiase—Special Member—(*Ishan*)
11. Chief Peter Ezeli—Special Member—(*Warri*)
12. Chief R. M. Onyegba—Special Member—(*Western Ijaw*)
13. Chief J. A. Akiri—Special Member—(*Isoko*)
14. Chief J. O. Ogunnubi—Special Member—(*Akoko-Edo*)

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

- |                           |         |                         |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. Adonri, Mr P.          | .. .. . | Benin West III          |
| 2. Aghahowa, Mr W. E.     | .. .. . | Benin South East II     |
| 3. Alabi, Mr L. J.        | .. .. . | Akoko-Edo II            |
| 4. Akpenyi, Mr S. E.      | .. .. . | Asaba North West        |
| 5. Amadasun, Mr V. I.     | .. .. . | Benin West I            |
| 6. Atie, Mr A. F.         | .. .. . | Western Ijaw North East |
| 7. Ategha, Mr D. C.       | .. .. . | Benin North East III    |
| 8. Atohengbe, Mr A. E.    | .. .. . | Benin North East I      |
| 9. Bakpa, Mr B. B.        | .. .. . | Urhobo Central I        |
| 10. Braimah, Chief A. O.  | .. .. . | Afenmai North East I    |
| 11. Dafe, Chief O. I.     | .. .. . | Aboh West II            |
| 12. Edeki, Rev. I.        | .. .. . | Afenmai North West I    |
| 13. Edodo, Mr O. P.       | .. .. . | Warri North West        |
| 14. Edukugho, Chief R. D. | .. .. . | Warri South West        |
| 15. Egbe, Mr W. G.        | .. .. . | Warri Urban             |
| 16. Elayelagha, Mr G.     | .. .. . | Western Ijaw North West |
| 17. Ellams, Mr B. U.      | .. .. . | Afenmai South East II   |
| 18. Enahoro, Chief A. U.  | .. .. . | Ishan Central East      |
| 19. Fole, Mr A. A.        | .. .. . | Urhobo Central IV       |
| 20. Fufeyin, Mr L. S. T.  | .. .. . | Western Ijaw South East |
| 21. Gblinje, Mr P. A.     | .. .. . | Urhobo West IV          |
| 22. Gblinju, Mr W. O.     | .. .. . | Benin North East II     |
| 23. Idigbe, Mr B. B. E.   | .. .. . | Urhobo Central V        |
| 24. Igbrude, Mr J. O.     | .. .. . | Isoko III               |
| 25. Igugu, Mr T. E.       | .. .. . | Urhobo Central III      |
| 26. Ikioda, Mr J. J.      | .. .. . | Afenmai North East II   |
| 27. Imafidon, Mr E. O.    | .. .. . | Benin Central IV        |
| 28. Isibor, Mr J. O.      | .. .. . | Benin South East I      |
| 29. Iyasele, Chief B. E.  | .. .. . | Ishan South             |

*Joint Sitting of the Houses of Chiefs and Assembly*

11 MARCH, 1964

Members of the House of Assembly—*continued*

30. Jenakumo, Mr J. L.	.. .. .	Western Ijaw South West
31. Lawanson, Mr F. D.	.. .. .	Akoko-Edo III
32. Maidoh, Mr A. N.	.. .. .	Asaba North East II
33. Mokwenye, Mr O. U. C.	.. .. .	Asaba North East I
34. Momodu, Mr S.	.. .. .	Ishan Central North
35. Nwajei, Mr C. A. J.	.. .. .	Asaba South East II
36. Oboh, Mr P. A.	.. .. .	Ishan Central South
37. Odudu, Mr Palmer	.. .. .	Urhobo West II
38. Ogwu, Mr C.	.. .. .	Aboh East II
39. Ohiwerei, Mr J. W. A.	.. .. .	Afenmai North West II
40. Okojie, Mr A. I.	.. .. .	Ishan Central West
41. Okojie, Dr Xto?G.	.. .. .	Ishan East
42. Okotie, Chief A. U.	.. .. .	Urhobo West V
43. Okwean, Mr P. V.	.. .. .	Aboh East I
44. Okubor, Mr P. N.	.. .. .	Asaba South West II
45. Onu-Osagie, Chief H.	.. .. .	Benin Central I
46. Opla, Mr A.	.. .. .	Aboh West I
47. Oadja, Mr P. I.	.. .. .	Ishan South West
48. Ororho, Mr J. A.	.. .. .	Urhobo West III
49. Orumwense, Mr S. O.	.. .. .	Benin West II
50. Osadebay, Chief D. C.	.. .. .	Asaba Urban
51. Oseha, Mr M. U.	.. .. .	Isoko IV
52. Osifo, Mr O.	.. .. .	Benin Central II
53. Osuhor, Mr F. O.	.. .. .	Asaba South West I
54. Osunbor, Mr A. A.	.. .. .	Ishan North West
55. Otoho, Mr J. E.	.. .. .	Isoko I
56. Oviasu, Mr G. I.	.. .. .	Benin Central III
57. Oye, Mr J. O.	.. .. .	Akoko-Edo IV
58. Pela, Mr S. O.	.. .. .	Urhobo Central II
59. Salubi, Chief T. E. A.	.. .. .	Urhobo West I
60. Ukonga, Mr E. S.	.. .. .	Akoko-Edo I
61. Umolu, Mr J. O.	.. .. .	Afenmai South East I
62. Utomi, Chief F. H.	.. .. .	Asaba South East I
63. Uwagboe, Mr B. I.	.. .. .	Benin West IV
64. Uwawah, Chief J. M.	.. .. .	Warri West II
65. Uwuseba, Mr S. O.	.. .. .	Isoko II

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF BOTH HOUSES

President of the Joint Sitting.. .. .	His Highness Akenzua II, the Oba of Benin
Deputy President of the Joint Sitting .. .. .	P. K. Ebiowo, Esq.
Clerk to the Regional Legislature .. .. .	Mr L. M. Okonjo
Clerk-Assistant .. .. .	Mr A. O. Abinifun
Hansard Editor .. .. .	Mr M. O. Maduemezia
Serjeant-at-Arms .. .. .	Mr J. A. Darlington



JOINT MEETING OF THE MID-  
WESTERN HOUSES OF CHIEFS AND  
ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 11th March, 1964

The Houses met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President of the House of Chiefs in  
the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

DISSOLUTION OF JOINT SITTING

**The Minister of Economic Development**  
(Chief O. Oweh) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to  
move that at its closing this day this Joint  
Meeting of both Houses shall be dissolved.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**  
(Mr J. A. Ororho) : I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

ORDER OF THE DAY

SELECTION OF SENATORS

**The Premier** (Chief D. C. Osadebay) : Mr  
President, Sir, I rise to move that Mrs Eunice  
Kerry be appointed a Senator.

**The Minister of Local Government and  
Chieftaincy Affairs** (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) :  
I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : I beg to move that  
Chief F. Oputa-Otutu be nominated a Senator.

**The Minister of Information** (Rev. I.  
Edeki) : I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief R. D. Edulugbo** (Warri South-  
West) : Mr President, Sir, point of explanation.  
We would like to know more about these  
gentlemen who are being appointed as Senators.  
We just hear only names, but we do not know  
anything about them.

**The Government Chief Whip** (Mr A.  
Opia) : The hon. Gentleman does not know  
what he is talking about.

**The Minister of Agriculture and Natural  
Resources** (Mr V. I. Amadasun) : Mr  
President, Sir, I think it is right for anybody to  
ask about what he does not know. I think the  
Opposition is correct and, as I am sitting on the  
opposition side of the House, I would like to  
speak for this side of the House because I know  
Chief Oputa-Otutu very well and I therefore  
say that we support the nomination of Chief  
Oputa-Otutu. (*Laughter*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Works and Transport**  
(Dr C. G. Okojie) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to  
propose the appointment of Mr F. T.  
Ojehonmon as a Senator.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Mr  
H. Momodu) : I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. I. Okolle** (Ishah Central West) :  
Mr President, Sir, we would like to know  
something about the people they are nominating.  
We do not know whether these people are  
living or dead. We want to know whether they  
are living or whether they are dead—(*Laughter*).

**Chief Osadebay** : Although we are  
not compelled to give the biography of the  
people we are nominating, I wish to say that we  
are not nominating dead people ; they are all  
living. Chief Ojehonmon is a native of Ora.  
He is a retired Registrar of the High Court.  
Quite apart from party politics, he is a good  
person to be a Senator.—(*Applause*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Information** (Rev. I.  
Edeki) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that  
Mr E. A. Asemar of Akoko-Edo be made a  
Senator.

**Mr S. O. Uwusebu** (Parliamentary Secre-  
tary, Ministry of Economic Development) : I  
beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**  
(Mr J. A. Ororho) : Mr President, Sir, I beg to  
move that Chief J. I. G. Onyia be nominated a  
Senator.



**The Minister of Education** (Chief P. H. Utomi): I must remind the House that Chief Onyia is the generalissimo of the Mid-Western State and, therefore, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Chief Utomi:** Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that Mr J. I. Idchen be made a Senator.

**Chief Omo-Osagie:** I beg to second this nomination. As requested by the hon. Members opposite, I would like to add that Mr Idchen is a worthy son of Benin, a financier, a clean character and a good fighter.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister without Portfolio** (The Obi of Agbor): Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that Mr A. O. Airewele be appointed a Senator.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Transport** (Mr A. A. Osunbor): Mr President, Sir, Mr Airewele is well-known. He is a School Proprietor and a man of clean character. I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister without Portfolio** (The Onogie of Ewohimi): Mr President, Sir, I rise to nominate Mr Edmund I. Onwokac as a Senator.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier** (Chief G. E. Odiase): We on this side of the House representing the Chiefs would like to support the nomination.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare** (Mr E. O. Imafidon): I rise to nominate Mr M. G. Ejaiife as a Senator.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Chief O. Oweh): I rise, Mr President, to second the nomination of Mr M. G. Ejaiife. I would like to say, Mr President, that Mr Ejaiife, before now, has been a Senator; so he needs no other qualification to be appointed a Senator.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Chief Oweh:** I rise to nominate Chief Edmund Boyo as a Senator. Chief Boyo is an old-time politician. He is a leader in Itsekiri Division and a great businessman. For these reasons, Sir, I beg to nominate Chief Boyo as a Senator.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief O. I. Dafe): I rise to second the nomination of Chief Edmund Boyo as a Senator.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief Edukugho:** Mr President, Sir, this Senator is from my Division and I must say that we, or I personally, do not oppose Chief Boyo's nomination as a Senator. He is a worthy man and fit to be a Senator. As a matter of fact, he has rendered very useful services, for the improvement of education generally, to the youths of this country. He has two children, one a doctor and the other a lawyer-lecturer. But I am surprised and ashamed that not one of the Itsekiri people who are on the Government Benches has got up to tell us exactly the qualifications of Chief Boyo. However, I rise to support Chief Boyo's nomination as a fit and proper person to be a Senator—  
(Cheers).

**Chief Oweh:** I thank the hon. Member for supporting our nomination, but I should like to inform him that having a lawyer and a doctor as children is no qualification to be a Senator. Chief Boyo has been nominated because he is an excellent gentleman to be a Senator.

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Chief Dafe:** I rise to propose the nomination of Mr J. M. Egbuson as a Senator. Mr Egbuson is a foremost Nigerian nationalist of no mean order. He is a retired Police officer—a Senior Superintendent of Police—and somebody who is an embodiment of the creation of the Mid-Western Region. In these circumstances, Mr President, Sir, it is my privilege to nominate Mr J. M. Egbuson as a Senator.

**The Minister without Portfolio** (Mr L. S. T. Fufeyin): I rise to second the nomination of Mr J. M. Egbuson as a Senator.

*Question proposed.*



**Mr J. E. Otobo (Isoko I)** : Mr President, Sir, the selection of Senators (and, in particular, the one just nominated) to represent this Region, which this Joint Sitting is now undertaking, is a most significant event in the context of the present and future political circumstances in this country. More importantly and precisely, the future prosperity, welfare, wealth, stability and peace of this new Region depends in a large measure on the individual and collective role which our Senators will play in the Federal Senate. By this selection, therefore, Mr President, Sir, the Mid-Western Region is going to enter the arena of national politics for the first time. The impact of this new Region on the Federal Parliament is going to be felt and noted for the first time. This is therefore the appropriate moment to emphasise that this Region, as well as other Regions, but more especially this Region, must pursue two basic policies on the national level. The policies which I think will be incumbent on each of the persons we are now nominating—in particular, the one recently nominated—to fulfil are, first, the policy of intensive participation and share in the governmental machinery and wealth, including riches, at the Federal level.—(Interruptions.)

Mr President, I hope I shall be allowed to continue.

**The President** : The hon. Member can continue.

**Mr Otobo** : It is unnecessary to dwell on the implications of failure to pursue these same policies, especially having regard to the revenue resources open to this new Region.

The second policy, and one which each of the new Senators is being called upon to endorse, is one which ensures the stability and security of the Government and people of this new Region.

Unfortunately, in pursuance of this basic policy, the Government seems, according to public opinion, to have started off badly. Furthermore, Members of the Government, or Members of the Government Benches in the Lower House, are at present so excited over the exercise of power, even if only for the time being.....

**Government Benches** : Are you already planning an Emergency ?

**Mr Otobo** : ..... that they are likely to be blind to what is good ultimately for this Region and the Government itself. It therefore devolves on the Senators, and in particular the one just being nominated, to see to it that the two basic policies which I have already mentioned will be pursued. This is an important task. If therefore our Senators regard themselves, first and last, as N.C.N.C. nominees and fanatics, and thus behave in the Federal Senate as though this Region were an arm of another Region, then individually and collectively they have betrayed this Region.—(Interruptions.)

May I continue, Mr President, now that this hullabaloo has died down ?

As one of the first issues likely to come before our new Senators in the Senate is the question of Census, this is, I believe, a rare occasion to indicate in very clear terms the views of enlightened public opinion in the Mid-West. It is sufficient only to spotlight the key-notes as follows. We hope the Senators now proposed and those already selected will take adequate note.

**Government Benches** : Sit down ; you are making no point.

**Mr Otobo** : Mr President, Sir, I hope to spotlight the following key-notes, if Members of the other Side will allow me to continue.

First the Census; and for the purpose for which it is sought, it is of necessity to state that this is a matter for the Federal Parliament, by which we mean the Federal Senate. The question of Census is a very delicate issue but the second question is certainly not a delicate issue.

**The Government Chief Whip (Mr A. Opla)** : Mr President, Sir. On point of order. The Census has nothing to do with the selection of Senators.

**The President** : Will the hon. Gentleman please leave off the Census issue and keep strictly to relevant matters ? The Census is out of the issue.

**Mr Otobo** : Very well, Mr President. Let us hope that the issue of the Census is therefore a matter for the Federal Parliament.

We on this side of the House hope, therefore, that our Senators will act wisely. We pray that they will represent this Region creditably in the



[Mr. OTOBO]

Senate. Indeed, we implore them to do this. It is not that this Region could not redeem and retrieve any situation into which it may have been plunged temporarily by any failure on the part of our Senators. Of course, this Region will be saved in any case (I repeat, in any case) or in the very immediate future. . . . (Interruptions).

**Chief Omodebayi** : If you think that you can declare any Emergency in this Region, you are fooling yourself. Our Senators will vote against it there.

**Mr OTOBO** : Mr President, Sir, I thought that the Region would be saved by the Premier himself. . . . (Laughter and interruptions).

These two basic policies, Mr President, Sir, represent the charge of the M.D.P. and of the progressive elements among the Mid-Western people to the Senators. We wish them well even if we do not necessarily support the candidature of all of them.

Mr President, Sir, I thank you.

**The Minister of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs** (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : I wish to reply to some of the effusions of the hon. James OTOBO.—(Cheers from Government Benches). He simply wanted to speak and talk jargon. (Fire, fire!) What did he want to do? He wanted to rub in something. He brought census here! Are we discussing census?

**Government Benches** : No.

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : The duties of Senators are not regulated here : they are regulated in the Federal Parliament. I want to tell this honourable House that the hon. James OTOBO did not have the courage to mention the name of the man concerned. The gentleman he has in mind is James Egbuson. He has not the courage to say who the man was.—(Cheers from Government Benches.) I want to tell him here that we of the N.C.N.C., both Ministers and Parliamentarians here, do not engage in taking Government cars for ourselves; we do not. I am going to tell him that we do not revel in taking £60,000 to our pockets! (Applause by Government Benches). If I were in his position, I would never talk in this Legislature because that hon. Gentleman is a crook of the first order. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches.)

**Opposition Benches** : The hon. Minister has described hon. OTOBO as a crook. That language is unparliamentary and should be withdrawn.

**The President** : I do not think the hon. Minister refers to the hon. Member, Mr OTOBO, as a crook. He did not mention his name.

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : I thank you, Mr President. What I was trying to tell the hon. Gentleman was that this House has implicit confidence in James Egbuson. (Hear, hear.)

And the Opposition were fighting about my calling somebody a crook! If it is a question of parliamentary language, I can say that I have been longer in Parliament than any of them there.—(Cheers from Government Benches.)

**Mr A. I. Okojie** : That is why you must now retire. You are old enough. You should now retire and leave the chair to the youths.

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : I have been in the Parliament before hon. James OTOBO was born. (Laughter.)

**Mr Okojie** : That is why I say you are overdue to retire or resign.

**Mr S. O. Pela** : Point of order, Sir: Order 27, sections (5) and (6) : using offending words and imputing improper motives.

**The President** : No insulting language has been used so far.

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : Thank you so much, Mr President. As much as I would like to give it back to this feeble Opposition, I will take the advice of the President to shorten the debate.

What I wanted to say was this, that I am a politician who is steadfast, persistent and consistent—and not aameleon politician. Therefore, Sir, the gentleman, Mr James Egbuson, as I said, enjoys the full confidence of the people of the whole Mid-West Region. He is not a thief; he is a gentleman of the first order. He is very handsome, very stately, very outspoken. He is a man we can send to the Senate, and he will shake the whole section of the Senate.—(Cheers from the Government Benches).

**Chief T. E. A. Salubi** (Urhobo West I) : Mr President, Sir, I rise to say a few words on this subject.



As a retired civil servant, I am happy to know that, from the list so far given by the Government of the names of the Senators, there are a few retired civil servants. I think this is a great credit to the mature experience of civil servants who have served the country in the civil service, as they can now make use of their past experiences. Such men always talk sense. We have an example of useful civil servants in this House to-day. The hon. Premier of our new Region is a retired civil servant, and he is a pensioner. (Cheers.) The Minister of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs is a retired civil servant and is a pensioner.—(Applause.) Because of my long contact with these gentlemen and many others, I have known them to be good men. But I cannot understand why the hon. Minister of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs should get hot this morning over a matter which, in my humble view, is non-controversial. When the Leader of the Opposition did speak.....

**Government Benches:** No, no; there is no Leader of Opposition. We have got four of them there vying for leadership!

**Chief Salubi:** Whatever you may like to call him, whether Jakes Otobo or Member for Isoko I, or Leader of the Opposition, as far as I am concerned, he is the latter. He made general remarks and gave general advice, and I do not think that he said anything to justify such unfair criticisms as were made by the Minister of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs this morning. And so, Mr President, Sir, I like to warn that.....

**The Premier (Chief D. C. Osadebay):** Hold yourselves, you microscopic minority! (Cries of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches.)

**Chief Salubi:** I should like to warn.....

**Government Benches:** You can not warn anybody.

**Chief Salubi:** If I may say so, those who boast of being elderly, of being very much experienced in Parliament, should set a better example in this honourable House. If anyone has a personal grievance, a personal disagreement, with any particular person, I would

suggest, Mr President, Sir, that the matter be taken outside this House. We do not want irrelevancies. So far, Sir, the Member for Isoko I did not say anything against Mr J. M. Egbuson. And with that, Sir, I support.

**Mr A. Opia rose in his place and claimed to move that the question be now put.**

*Question "that the question be now put" put and agreed to.*

*Question, that Mr J. M. Egbuson be appointed a Senator, put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr Shaka Momodu):** Mr President, Sir, I beg to nominate Mr Ekpomoriri Lamai as a Senator of this Region.

**The Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr E. S. Ukonga):** I beg to second, Mr President.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**The Premier (Chief D. C. Osadebay):** Mr President, Sir, in view of one or two things said by my friend, the Member for Isoko, about taking orders from other places, I want to make it categorically clear that I am the Premier of this Region. (Hear, hear). In the Constitution, I am equal to any other Premier in Nigeria, irrespective of the area he governs. (Hear, hear.) Following this, I want to say solemnly and deliberately that I will take no instructions from anybody outside this Region in so far as the governance of this Region is concerned. I should say this at this early beginning of this Legislature. It is true that I am a member of a national political party. My political party's constitution, which I as the National Legal Adviser drafted, did not say that the Premier of one Region should take orders from the Premier of another Region.—(Cheers from Government Benches.) The party to which I belong has the right to lay out a broad basis of policy; it stops there. Now, I happen also to be a National Vice-President of this national Party, but my friends on the other side have not been regarded as good enough to be vice-presidents in the party nine hundred miles away from where they take their orders. (Shame, shame.)



[CHIEF OSADEBAY]

Finally, I want to assure the microscopic Opposition that, even though Enugu is nearer to Benin than Kaduna, I will not take any orders from outside this Region. *(Applause from Government Benches.)*

### DISSOLUTION

*Motion made and Question proposed:* 'That this Joint Sitting of both Houses of the Mid-Western Nigeria Legislature be now dissolved.—*(Dr C. G. Okojie).*

*Mr Albert Okojie rose*

**Chief R. D. Edukugho:** May I say, Mr President, Sir, that, two days ago, something appeared on the pages of a newspaper which was rather very disturbing.—*(Interruptions).*

**Chief Edukugho:** I thought the President allowed me to speak.—*(Interruptions from Government Benches).*

With your permission, Sir.....*(Further Interruptions).*

**Mr A. Opia:** Point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member is not properly dressed. He is wearing a hat.—*(Interruptions).*

**Mr President:** He has now removed his hat.—*(Laughter and interruptions).*

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CLERK AND THE HANSARD EDITOR OF THE WESTERN NIGERIA LEGISLATURE

**The Leader of the House (Dr C. G. Okojie):** In the last three days, Mr President, Sir, history has been made in this Region; and what is history? History is a chronicle of the events of actors. We whom God has led to initiate this self-freedom in this Region have played well our part; I can say that for sure. How do we come to become actors in the House? It is because behind the stage has been an expert and a self-effacing teacher. I am speaking of Mr J. M. Akinola, the Clerk of the Western House of Assembly.—*(Cheers.)*

**Mr President, Sir,** the Premier said a few days ago that when we were sent in here, we came with very many problems. The one that gave us the greatest insomnia was the mass transfer of civil servants of Mid-Western origin from Western Nigeria. It caused a lot of bitterness and friction, but, in the last few days, by the work of one worthy ambassador, that bitterness

has been wiped out. As our big brother, and we being the offspring, it is the duty of the Western Region to see that we are well born and well nurtured. I think that what Mr Akinola has done here in the last few days is the ideal thing we want here in the Mid-West. Now, through this teaching, we all have benefited immensely, both by the presence of Mr Akinola and by that of the Hansard Editor of the Western House of Assembly, Mr E. O. A. Soyegbe. *(Hear, hear).*

I speak on the instruction of my Premier, and I am speaking on behalf of all Members of the House, in saying that we are very grateful to the Premier, the Hon. Speaker and Members of the Western Region House of Assembly; and we want both Mr Akinola and Mr Soyegbe, on going back, to convey to them the gratitude of the people of the Mid-West. With this kind of thing, we hope that these two Regions, which God has made closest, will continue to co-operate closely.

**Chief R. D. Edukugho:** I have been mandated by the Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition to associate the views of this side of the House to what this man has just said.—*(Interruptions).*

**Government Benches:** Is the Minister not a gentleman?

**Chief Edukugho:** We are very grateful to Mr Akinola and to the Western Region Government for making him available, and also to the other staff who have come to help us, too. As I said in the House of Chiefs before we left Ibadan, we are all participants in this game; we were no pupils at any time. We started together, we learned together, and we have come back home and we will both run the Government. But, today, we have had the very good use of assistants from the Western Region. We are very, very much obliged to them. We thank them very much, and the Opposition also associate themselves with what has been said.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr J. A. Ororho):** Mr President, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by the last two speakers. I just want to say one or two words.



Mr President, Sir, a few months ago we were wondering where we were going to meet, but we are very happy that the Benin Divisional Council has been kind enough to give us this fine structure. Few know it is an embodiment of pride to meet in Benin City, and something that we should be really proud of. In fact, we thought we were going to meet under a tree, and I am happy that the Benin Divisional Council, the Oba of Benin, and so on and so forth, have been kind enough to provide beautiful accommodation for us. The Opposition

could have been in the rain now (or under the sun), heckling the Government in opposition.—(Hear, hear).

So I am thanking you, Mr President, all members of the House, the workers, and all those who have helped us so much by giving us this fine accommodation. I thank the Benin Divisional Council and all those who have helped us so much in this respect. Thank you very much.

Question put and agreed to.  
Dissolved accordingly at 11.00 a.m.



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