



NORTHERN NIGERIA LEGISLATURE

**PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES**

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
DAILY HANSARD**

(Third Legislature)

Third Session

(Third Meeting)

21st September, 1963 ✓

Price: 3d

*Printed and Published by the Government Printer, Northern Nigeria, 1963.
To be purchased from the Printing Division, Kaduna*

Saturday, 21st September, 1963

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

P R A Y E R S

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order:

MOTIONS

Nigerian Constitution.

THE PREMIER (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. The text of the Motion reads:-

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS HOUSE consents to the Act of Parliament entitled The Constitution of the Federation having effect."

It is constitutionally necessary for this House to adopt such resolutions whenever the Federal Constitution is being amended. We have had occasion to do this in the past. But at no time has the adoption of such a resolution been more momentous. In this particular instance we are dealing with the whole question of a republican Constitution for the Federation.

Hon. Members have earlier indicated their consent that this country should give itself a republican Constitution. I refer to the adoption by this House of the White Paper to effect constitutional changes. The constitutional changes were broadly outlined in the White Paper. Both the Constitution of the Federation and our own constitution are in fact based on those broad outlines. We have therefore earlier implied consent to this Motion.

I am certain that Hon. Members realize the importance of this resolution. Similar resolutions are being considered in the Legislatures of Eastern and Western Nigeria. This is therefore an appropriate moment for me to speak of the need for unity in this country. Too often we are preoccupied with examining the differences between us rather than the factors that unite us. Among these factors I count the Rivers Niger and Benue, the road, railway and communications systems, our openings to the outside world, the ports of

Lagos and Port Harcourt, and Kano airport. Each port of the country depends on the other for one service or another, and for one type of product or another. Even the number of years we have been formally together has produced a great and wonderful unifying effect. It is no longer possible to imagine a Nigeria that is composed of anything less than its present territory. We may from this time have our problems, difficulties and differences. But what country has not?

I wish to state categorically my belief in the unity of this country for there are far more things that unite us than things that divide us. Our path to salvation lies in co-operation. Only thus can this country make the tremendous progress called for in the coming years. I have stated these views because I am convinced that on the eve of our entering into a Republican era there is need for the leaders to reappraise their stand and manifest their beliefs. I believe in the future of this country based on mutual co-operation, mutual respect and mutual understanding. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure Hon. Members will agree with this Motion, I therefore beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS (Alhaji Usman, Sarkin Maska):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed:

Alhaji Ibrahim Imam (Jemgbar): Mr. Speaker, it is a moment of anxiety and great pleasure to all those who have fought for the freedom of this country to note that in less than twelve days from today Nigeria will become a Republic and whence the Queen ceases to be a member of not only this Honourable House but indeed of all the other legislatures of the Federation. But whatever political bitterness we may have against our former colonial masters one thing is certain that this country will ever remain indebted to the British people for training us in the art of parliamentary government and leaving behind a stable and united government with efficient and incorruptible civil service with the British sense of justice and fair play. This legacy is a notable heritage which we cherish so highly. However it is rather unfortunate that in spite of this fine record of the British we always recollect the evils they have done to this country which might well have made one speak of Shakespear's maxim: "The evil that men do lives after them, The good is oft interred with their

bones." Commenting on the constitution, section 59 offers a great challenge to all nationalists in this country. The section reads that the business of Parliament shall be conducted in English. To accept this challenge we must evolve a national language which shall be used in the Federal Parliament alongside with English so that in 10 to 15 years the English will give way. Of the main languages in the country today Hausa will be the best choice because besides its being widely spoken throughout Africa it is now more or less the Lingua Franca of Nigeria if not of West Africa. To make Hausa our national and official language it is therefore imperative that it must be taught in all schools in the Federation. It is most wise and proper that in the amended constitution before the House the Prime Minister shall not be removable from office by the President unless he no longer commands the support of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives as a result of vote of no confidence in the Government secured on the floor of the House of Representatives. Thus, the Prime Minister's position is secured against whims and caprice of indiscreet Politicians who are highly unpredictable and whose feelings can easily be stirred up by mere sentiments. Judging this statement against the background of the recent incident in the Western Region, it is but most becoming and wise to adopt such constitutional measures of security to safeguard the office of the Prime Minister, and those of his counterparts in the Federation. Referring members to Section 111 (2), (a) & (b), the Judges of the Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and such number of Justices of the Supreme Court, not being less than five, as may be prescribed by Parliament, I should therefore like to suggest that the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Northern Nigeria shall be appointed one of the justices of the Supreme Court, notwithstanding the provisions under section 112 (2), & (b). This suggestion will, I hope, be welcome by the other regions in the interest of the unity of Nigeria because some of the cases coming before the Supreme Court from Northern Nigeria involve complicated legal issues of Islamic Jurisprudence. This suggestion I think will provoke some of our young lawyers but the interest of the millions of moslems must be protected.

Before taking my seat I must register my disagreement with the suggestions made by some members of the Federal Parliament that the Senate and the Houses of Chiefs in the Regions as well as the Regional Courts of Appeal be scraped off as they are mere appendages incurring an unnecessary burden over the taxpayers. As far as the North is concerned our chiefs are held in the most esteemed position and they have contributed in no lesser

degree to the political development to this country than any politician that one can imagine of. The House of Chiefs in the North can, therefore, easily be likened to the House of Lords in United Kingdom.

Finally I should like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Premier on Thursday by paying warm tributes to Sir Kashim Ibrahim who will be deemed to be the first Governor of Northern Nigeria in Republican Nigeria. In a reply to a certain chief in the House of Chiefs last Thursday that the swearing of Sir Kashim Ibrahim would take place on the 1st of October to be simultaneous with the Republican celebrations, I should like to suggest to the Hon. Premier that the swearing ceremony should take place in the open at the Race Course so that it can be seen by the public.

The House will no doubt join me in paying warm tributes to the Hon. Premier the Sardauna of Sokoto for his relentless efforts to promote the unity of this country which had it not been for his restraint and patience over certain things the country would have been disintegrated and by now be in a complete jeopardy. Sir, I beg to support.

THE PREMIER: (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I usually say silence means consent. I am sure that every member of this House has in mind the Arab saying that if a man is quite sensible he does not talk too much - that is why if you do not hear a lot of people speaking here it is because we have not been brought up in that school of love for controversy. I am sure I say this with due respect to my learned friend, the Minister of Justice, who is a lawyer. I am glad that Hon. Members have some praise for the British for their devoted service. I think I have always made my own views known about this. I always say that they have done an excellent work for us. The British have done excellent work for the people of this Country. They have put us on the right footing and led us along the right path, and I am sure that even generations to come will not forget what they have done for us. Now you have been talking on the need of having a lingua franca for Nigeria, which of course, is often talked about loosely; I think, in the Federal House. Hausa, I can assure you, is not a lingua franca in Nigeria only, but in many places I have visited outside Nigeria, I have found people who could speak it. I have toured most parts of the Middle East, and across the Sahara and wherever I went I had tried to get somebody to interpret what I was trying to say. In

the Sahara it was fortunate that everybody I met asked me to speak in Hausa as they could speak Hausa. This, Mr. Speaker, is certainly worth considering, although I know a good many people even in the North who will take many days before they are able to learn it (laughter) (Alhaji Ibrahim Imam: I don't think I am the one being referred to in this case.) The Premier. I mean Zanna Djima and M. Ahmed and Talib. (laughter). I am also glad to see that a provision has been made to secure the position of the Prime Minister. It is true to say and of course that the same thing applies to the Premier too. One can well imagine the Chief Whip organising a revolt of the Parliamentarians to vote against the Premier or the Prime Minister if he knows that an adverse vote will not entail dissolution of the House so that he himself can safely take over. (laughter). With regard to the question that the Grand ~~Khadi~~ should become a member of the Supreme Court, I think if that should happen at all we must have another Constitutional amendment. Secondly, the Sharia Court of Appeal is the final Court of Appeal in the North in respect to Sharia matters. But in any other matter, say, concerning the Fundamental Human Rights, the Supreme Court will have to deal. But the hon. Member will note that some members of the Court will be nominated by us and it is only a matter of time before we have our own men versed in Sharia law as judges of the Supreme Court.

I would like to say how glad I am with good suggestions made by the hon. Member and as I have already said all the opposition Members will eventually come to this side; it is only a question of time (laughter).

Question proposed - that this House consents to the Act of Parliament entitled - The Constitution of the Federation Act, 1963, having effect. Question put and agreed to.

NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS)

THE PREMIER (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Resolution in my name that this House consents to the Act of Parliament entitled the Constitution (Transitional Provision) Act, 1963 having effect. The purpose of this Federal Act of Parliament is twofold. In the first place the creation of the Mid-West State as a Region has meant that the Section of Federal Constitution dealing with the distribution of funds between the Regions must be altered. The

Western Region's share must be split in two so that the Mid-West gets its fair share of revenue allocation. The second purpose of the Act is to repeal those Federal Acts; these are in the Schedule to the Act and I do not think I need say more. If any member has a question to raise I am sure my hon. Colleague, the Attorney-General and I will be able to set his mind at rest. Sir, I beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF ANIMAL AND FOREST RESOURCES (Mallam Mu'azu Lamido, Magatardan Sokoto): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed. Question put and agreed to.

NORTHERN NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - MEMBERSHIP

ALHAJI ABDULLAHI MAIKANO, SARKIN DUTSE (Dutse West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name that Mallam Usman Bida be appointed a member of the Northern Nigeria Development Corporation in pursuance of section 4(1)(f) of the Northern Nigeria Development Corporation Law, No.1 of 1956, as amended by No.10 of 1958. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mallam Usman Bida is a well-known figure and is one of the most industrious sons of the North. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, he will contribute a lot to the development of this Region. Sir, I beg to move.

ALHAJI HASSAN, DALATUN ABUJA: Sir, I beg to second.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I propose the question I think there is a little point which the hon. Attorney-General would like to clear.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. I.M. Lewis, Q.C.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a correction which should be made in the form of resolution moved so that the Northern Nigeria Development Corporation Law, 1956, is amended by No.10 of 1958 should be substituted with the Development Corporation Law, 1955 and reference to this will appear in the vote of proceedings of this honourable House.

MR. SPEAKER: I think if the House agrees to what the hon. Attorney-General has said, we shall record this in our vote proceedings.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM (JEMBAR): The mover of the motion has said that Usman Bida is a wellknown person. I think he should give us his background, because to me Usman is a name and Bida is a name of

a town. I personally, do not know him.

THE PREMIER: (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I may help the hon. Member in this case, Mallam Usman Bida is a District Head of Mokwa where we have a big Northern Nigeria Development Corporation Farm. He has a lot of experience in this field and is now a Council Member of the Bida Native Authority. He has been a member of this Corporation for a long time and is only being required to be re-appointed because of his good services. (Prolonged applause).

Question proposed. Question put and agreed to.
RESOLVED: That the following be appointed a member of the Northern Nigeria Development Corporation in pursuance of section 4(1)(f) of the Development Corporation Law, 1955:- Usman Bida.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION

Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Law, 1963 - Second Reading - read.

MR. SPEAKER: Committee, when?

MINISTER OF FINANCE: Now Sir.

House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not call the Heads which are not in the Bill, but if members want an explanation on any Head they can ask for an explanation. I will only call the Heads which we are asked to give additional provision.

HEAD 223 - CABINET OFFICE

Question proposed - That the sum previously voted for Head 223 - Cabinet Office - be increased by £1,530 - agreed to.

HEAD 225 - AGENT-GENERAL FOR NORTHERN NIGERIA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Question proposed - That the sum previously voted for Head 225 - Agent-General for Northern Nigeria in the United Kingdom be increased by £3,084.

MR. J.U. UYEH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that as a result of the recent developments in the country, I think it is necessary to scrape off the Office of the Agents-General in the United Kingdom. The reason is that how many Agents-General are we going to have in the United Kingdom. In a very short time, the Mid-West will appoint their own Agent-General again in the United Kingdom. In a very short time I am sure there will be more states to be created in this country and many more Agents-General are going to be appointed in the United Kingdom. (An hon. Member: Where?) I feel it is useless keeping so many people representing different Regions in the United Kingdom. Apart from the fact that our leaders kept on describing the question of unity and so on, I see no reason why somebody representing us as our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom having sufficient people in his office to help carry out the work. By having so many Agents-General is really a heavy burden on the tax-payers. Some of our Ministers do not know how difficult it is for the tax-payers to find the money to pay their tax. These Agents-General do not have sufficient protection by the British Government. These Agents-General do not have equal opportunity of diplomatic immunity. Recently we have a case of the Eastern Nigerian Agent-General in the United Kingdom where he was not properly protected under the diplomatic immunity. (Interruptions.....)

THE COMMISSIONER FOR ZARIA PROVINCE (Alhaji the hon. Ladan Baki, Wazirin Ayyukan Katsina): Point of Order, Mr. Chairman. What is being discussed in this House has got nothing to do with Eastern or Western Region Offices in the United Kingdom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Hon. Member is just making some remarks which are rather political.

MR. J.U. UYEH (Kunav): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was just making reference to what had happened to those people in different Regions. And if those people get protection by the British Government, I don't think such a thing could happen. Mr. Chairman, with these few remarks I beg to support.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, really this point is of importance. And it is really necessary that the Agent General should have full diplomatic immunities as each of the Region's Deputy British High Commissioners as well as the High Commissioner, has been accorded diplomatic immunity in Nigeria. And I think, the something applies to other Consulars

who reside in each Region like the United Arab Republic, Consulate General and the Sudan Consular General, etc. I think the earlier the Hon. Premier takes up this matter with the Federal Government the better, because the British Government has got Deputy High Commissioners in the North and throughout the Federation. Although the Premiers of all the Regions of the Federation have been accorded diplomatic immunity, Mr. Chairman, we are very much closely connected with the United Kingdom as we derive a great deal of aspirations from there and we have many things in common. Besides, we have the greatest number of our students studying there which warrant for our retaining the various offices of the Agent Generals in the United Kingdom. I should like to appeal to the hon. Premier to take up the matter to see that our Agent General in the United Kingdom is accorded diplomatic immunity.

THE PREMIER (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E) Mr. Chairman, I have already done so and I will do so. I do not know whether this time is for debate or just for a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I am at the disposal of the House and if the House wants to delay, or if the honourable Members want to proceed with the business it is up to them - that is all.

Question proposed that the sum previously voted Head 225 - Agent General for Northern Nigeria in the United Kingdom - be increased by £3,084.

Question put and Agreed to.

HEAD 226-LEGISLATURE

Question proposed - that the sum previously voted for Head 226 - Legislature - be increased by £300.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 227 - JUDICIAL

MR. J.U. UYEH (Kunav): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask a question. What I would like to know is whether Grade A and Grade B and Alkalai Courts are appointed under this Head because of their outstanding grades.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This deals with the Judges but not with the Alkalai. There is no provision for the Ministry

of Justice where you can raise points concerning Alkalai.

Question Proposed that the sum previously voted for Head 227 - Judicial - be increased by £1,050.
Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 231 - SHARI'A COURT OF APPEAL

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no amendment on this Head and I do not normally sit down of course unless a member rises. The question I have to propose is that the sum previously voted for Head 231 - Shari'a Court of Appeal - be increased by £2,735. Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 232 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

THE PREMIER (Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to raise a point of explanation on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture. Hon. Members could see on the Order Paper that the Ministry of Agriculture is asking to make some provisions. In the first place there is the provision for a Parliamentary Secretary. I would like to assure the hon. Members that I personally feel that Agriculture plays the most important role in the development of every country, and each and everyone of us should offer whatever help we can so that we can promote it. That is why I thought it desirable to have two Parliamentary Secretaries to the Minister of Agriculture and to divide the Region into two parts for their touring so that we can have more news of agricultural extentional improvements such as the one being obtained in Samaru and other places. These Parliamentary Secretaries would be touring extensively in the North to see that research results being obtained for the farmers are being used by them properly. And we must give this priority and therefore I have suggested a Second Parliamentary Secretary. We are not going to keep one Parliamentary Secretary in one place; they would work in a shift. We are not going to say that one Parliamentary Secretary would work in Kano or Bornu; we should divide the North perpendicularly and we shift them over - so that one would not say that this is our friend and we are not going to work hard. This amendment was not the amendment of the Minister; but it was prompted on my own initiative. (Applause)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Alhaji the hon. Ahman Galadiman Pategi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have it

in command from His Excellency the Governor to move

- (a) that the establishment under Item (2) Parliamentary Secretary, of Sub-head 1 - Personal Emoluments, of Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture - be increased by 1 (from 1 - 2);
- (b) that the provision under Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture - Sub-head 11, Parliamentary Secretary, Entertainment Allowance be increased by £60 from £120 to £180;
- (c) that the provision under Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture, Sub-head 13, Parliamentary Secretary's Residence; Up-keep be increased by £50 from £100 to £150;
- (d) that the provision under Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture, Sub-head 14, Minister and Parliamentary Secretary; Electricity Allowance - be increased by £45 from £210 to £255;
- (e) that the total provision under Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture, Sub-head 1 - Personal Emoluments - be reduced by £155 from £641,260 to £641,105.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Premier has already explained the purpose of this amendment, so there is no need for me to go further, but in actual fact there is no increased financial provision under this Head and there is no need to increase the total provision. Sir, I beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Nasir): Sir, I beg to second.

MR. OBAIKE ODEH (Idoma South East) In rising to support this motion I should say that this Ministry should be praised. The Hon. Premier has already outlined the importance why this Ministry should have two more Parliamentary Secretaries. I should like to suggest that one more Parliamentary Secretary be appointed to make the total to 3 in that, as you know, the North is a great Region and that the work of two Parliamentary Secretaries in the Ministry of Agriculture cannot be under-taken. In doing this I would suggest that the three Parliamentary Secretaries be appointed in order to carry out the work assigned to them more effectively. That is, one should be responsible for the Far North, one for the North East and one for the Southern parts of the Region as to cope with the need of farmers. When this is done,

I would suggest that one Parliamentary Secretary be solely responsible for the River-rain Areas, because, Idoma Division as you all know is one of the Divisions that produces many farm crops such as Yams, Rice, Guinea Corn, Soya Beans, Groundnuts and Cotton. When this is done, I hope in the near future, we will be able to produce more crops for the need of the masses of the people of the North and be able to export more to other parts of the Federation of Nigeria. Mr. Speaker Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support the motion.

M. MEGIDA LAWANI (Igbirra North) There is no doubt the Ministry of Agriculture is doing a lot but I would suggest that the Ministry of Agriculture should try to make our people to produce more food they eat and at the same time, to advise our people to make the best use of the food they produced. In some cases, our people do not know they have sufficient food to eat, because they do not know the way and manners they should eat them, in order to make the body make a very good use of the food, that is the reason why I would suggest the Ministry of Agriculture in co-operation with the Ministry of Health to do a lot of campaign to see that our poor farmers produce the food and at the same time make the best use of the food for the best use of the body. With these few remarks, I beg to support the motion.

MR. A.A. ABOGEDE (Igalala East) Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support this Head. As you all know, Agriculture is the main stay of this country. I still appeal to the Minister of Agriculture that if the research section of his Ministry will try to see to it that our food crops such as yams, millet and maize can be protected over a year for some length of time, because immediately the yams are harvested they go rotten and the same thing applies to millet and maize. I thought if the Ministry could take some precautions and be able to do some RESEARCH on it that it could be kept for some longer period the better for this great Region. And on the second point, I have heard over the radio, that the Minister of Agriculture is going to establish Farm Training Centres in this region and I the Minister or his Ministry will bear in mind Kappa Province where we grow coffee, cocoa, colanuts and other tree crops and I hope he will bear it in mind to give us many farm centres in order to cater for the productivity of such crops and at the same time it will reduce unemployment which is mounting high daily in that Province. I appeal most strongly to the Minister to look into this with sympathy.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

ALHAJI SULE DARAZO (Bauchi North East): I would suggest that the Minister of Agriculture should devise some means by which these young men of today should take to farming by bringing some machineries from other countries overseas to help these young men who are running away from the farm. They do not know that farming is the most important thing in this country.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Head.

ALHAJI SALIHU NAKANDE (Hausa): Sir, I rise to support this Head. The provision for this Head is mostly on emoluments and there is no money set aside for buying drugs, but only for personal emoluments. If we look into this matter, Mr. Chairman the money just covers Personal Emoluments. There should be some money set aside for research. Because of this, I suggest that £30,000 should be set aside. I would suggest to the Minister to see to it that some money is set aside for obtaining drugs, and other modern farm machineries.

With these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to support.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Alhaji the hon. Ahman, Galadiman Pategi): Mr. Chairman, I rise to thank all the hon. Members who have put useful suggestions to me and I would like to assure them that their suggestions have been noted. The hon. Member for Jos said that the the provisions asked for are just only for salaries. I am very sorry that he does not read the Bill properly. It is about provincial experiment and not salaries. This concerns farm training centres. I am very sorry that you do not read it very well.

Question proposed that the sum of previously voted for Head 232 - Ministry of Agriculture be increased by £17,980 - agreed to.

HEAD 235 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MR. H.U. UYEH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to pay warm tribute to the Minister of Education. In doing so, I would also like to congratulate the hon. Premier for putting the right person in the right place. The Minister of Education was once a School Master. I know very well that he is looking after our country's education very well and encourages the development of schools in this country. But Sir, I have few observations to make. I am now calling upon the

Minister to see to it that the discrimination about schools in Benue province, particularly in Tiv Division should be stopped. We, on this side of the House once raised this matter in the House by calling upon the Minister to see to it that by having a special class in the Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Centres for Idoma boys, it is discriminating and should be stopped forthwith. If the Minister can go into this, he will certainly agree with me that there is discrimination. The Tiv Division is about three quarters of the whole population. This morning, the hon. Leader of the Opposition suggested that Hausa should be our National language, if the Tiv boys are not given the opportunity, how can they understand the language. With these few remarks, I support the Head.

MR. AFOLAYAN OLAREWAJU (Ilorin South): Mr. Chairman, I have just a point or two to say on the Ministry of Education. I need not waste the hon. Members' time. I want to pay tribute to the Minister of Education in that this work has even been realised by the Opposition Members. This is a recommendation and not a criticism. Another point is, that I would suggest very strongly to the Minister of Education that the time has come for the abolition of payments of grants to the existing Primary Boarding Schools. If we go back carefully to these existing Boarding Schools, we will see that the Primary Schools take a lot of money from the Government instead of paying more.

Instead of using this money for boarding Primary Schools they could be used for other purposes and if you do that you will see a lot of developments in Primary Day Schools.

The second point Mr. Speaker Sir, is about the Northernisation of this Provincial Inspectorate Division. Most of the Divisions in this country have got Northerners as their Inspectors of Education but some still have these people, (Expatriates). They do not understand us at all. We want the Provincial Inspectorate of our Division to be Northernised. They understand us better and they know exactly what we want.

As I have said before I know the Ministry is doing good work for us and I pray God to guide the Minister in all his ways. With these few remarks I beg to support.

MR. SPEAKER. I am rather inclined to think that normally we do not debate the general policy during

the consideration of the supplementary appropriation, but if you like that I cannot stop you. But the practice is that what is provided in the estimate is what we should talk about here. I want a guidance from the Members as to whether we should debate the general policy. I do not want to stop Members from speaking. (HON. MEMBERS: Assent.) So we shall just stick to the normal routine that is we shall only talk on the provision of the supplementary estimates.

MR. ISAAC SHAAHU. I want to ask the Minister of Education (MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to say anything on this.)

MR. SHAAHU. I just want to say one or two things.

MR. SPEAKER. I hope it won't be long.

MR. SHAAHU. No, it is very short Sir. I just want to ask the Minister of Education, now that we have Primary School Leavers, will it not be possible to make classes in our institutions such as Teacher Training Colleges and Secondary Schools double-streamed? This is just what I want to ask. If we can double-stream these institutions we shall reduce the number of Primary School Leavers who roam about in the streets looking for jobs.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (Alhaji the Hon. Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to members who have spoken on the various points concerning my Ministry. The hon. Mr. Uhe said in this hon. House that there is discrimination in schools in his Province. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I see no discrimination in admitting pupils from the Province to the institutions in their province. Children of the Province are suppose to go to the institutions which are established to serve the Province. I see no reason why a Secondary School should be built exclusively for the use of the Idomas and the Tivs alone and the Idomas should not be allowed admission in such an institution whereas the school is meant for the Province. I therefore see no discrimination in allowing pupils from Idoma to be admitted in the institutions which belong to the whole Province. If they number twenty or thirty they can all be admitted in one class.

Honourable Mr. Afolayan raised the question of grant to Boarding Primary Schools. Well, this grant is being progressively reduced and by 1965 it would stop altogether and these schools will either be turned into Teacher Training Colleges or Secondary

Schools. We have already started this.

Honourable Mr. Shaahu spoke about double-streaming of classes in Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges. This is our present policy. We are double-streaming Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges as far as we can and as far as funds are available. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Question proposed that the sum of £9,920 be appropriated for the services of Head 235 Ministry of Education - agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER. Is there anybody who wants to say something?

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister of Finance on Sub-heads 49 and 51 items one and two. What is the difference between the Senior Tax Officer and the Higher Tax Officer? I have seen in the estimates that one is designated Senior Tax Officer and the other one Higher Tax Officer. I want to know the difference between them.

MINISTER OF FINANCE: These are mere titles.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM: I think these are wrong. I would have suggested that the first be designated Principal Tax Officer and the other one be designated Senior Tax Officer.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE: If you say Principal Tax Officer that will be a group 8 post but in this case a Senior Tax Officer is just an equivalent to the post of Chief Clerk.

Question again proposed - That the sum previously voted for Head 237 - Ministry of Finance - be increased by £9,825 - agreed to.

HEAD 238 - COMMON CHARGES

Question proposed - That the sum previously voted for Head 238 - Common Charges - be increased by £23,872 - agreed to.

HEAD 243 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

M. MUHAMMED NURA ALKALI (Tudun Wada Kano): In supporting this Bill before the House, I have something to say and I hope that the hon. Minister of Health will put his eyes closely and do something helpful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the Government took over the Kano City Hospital in July this year, following the Muffett inquiry report, the people of Kano are really happy with the Government notice of 1st July 1963 that there is no more fees to be paid at the Hospital. But now there is 5/- Ambulance fees being paid, while the Kano Native Authority never collected such amount when the Hospital was under her control.

Secondly, Sir, the people are really against closing Private Wards which are used for very important personalities, District Heads, etc. On this, Sir, I will again appeal to the Minister for re-opening these Private Wards as they were before. Thirdly, Sir, I am also appealing to the hon. Minister to warn two Specialist at the same Hospital to stop Private Practice to some Lebanese and Syrians in the Hospital during duty hours, leaving the other patients in sickness up to so many hours without treatment which is really resulting in failure to treat some of the patients in time, which causes heavy trouble for them, and the Hospital itself has been established for their own benefit.

(MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a general allegation which we always hear during a general debate about private practice. I have always tried to rule such allegation on point of order. Unless you have any specific point in view, you should not make a general allegation). Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know that the Hospital has been established for the benefit of the people of Kano and I am a Member for Kano, therefore I have to say something about the Hospital. In conclusion, Sir, I hope that the hon. Minister of Health will do something on these three points, because I can remember that during the last Session when I spoke about something which was going on in that Hospital, the hon. the former Minister of Health told me that this Hospital is under Native Authority's control but now the controller is the Government. With these, Sir, I beg to take my seat. (applause).

MR. I. M. LAWANI: (Igbirra North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Bill, I wish to say something about the Okene hospital. At the moment some of the staff there are not all that qualified to meet the demand of the people who go to the hospital. On the other hand the hospital itself is under-staffed. I know that the Government is doing a lot in recruiting more qualified staff to fill the vacant post in the hospitals.

I.M. LAWANI (Igbirra) Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very critical problem. We get plenty of food in any given area but our people have not got the idea of what kind of food suits them and they don't know that kind of food they would eat. And they don't know what kind of food to mix to make up their diet which is required by the body. Though I made this remark, when I was speaking on the Ministry of Agriculture, but, I feel that both of them are concerned in this aspect of the life of the people of Northern Nigeria. I was just appealing to whichever Ministry is most appropriate to deal with this aspect of the matter to improve the diet of our people. With these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to support.

MALLAM IBRAHIM MUSA (Igala South-West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact I would be the first person to support this Supplementary estimates under the Ministry of Health. We all know that health is wealth and the most essential. We cannot do anything without health if a person is a millionaire and he has no health he cannot enjoy his richness. Mr. Chairman, my few observations under this Head are my requests to the Minister about the construction of a Health Centre in the Dekina area. During the last Budget Session in this hon. House, there was a great promise that a Health Centre would be constructed for the entire people of the Igala Division, but up till the present time, nothing has been heard from the Regional Government. As I always say in this hon. House the distance from the General Hospital at Idah and the Divisional Headquarters at Dekina is 64 miles away. There is no maternity Centre and there is no Health Centre and when pregnant women come to deliver some of them die because there is no Hospital near by. And this, you know, is a big problem. Even, we members, from Igala Division as a whole are accused by our people who use to say "We are old Parliamentarians" and they describe us as such; but say that we do not bring their complaints before the Regional Government. I am appealing to the Minister to see that our requests are carried out by the Regional Government, especially on the construction of the Health Centre. I said it in this House several times and I would like the Minister to have sympathy upon these people living in our area. Mr. Chairman, from Idah to Igala is very far, about 95 miles and it is very difficult for anyone to reach the Hospital because there is no ambulance for the sick people. So I pray that the Regional Government would provide ambulance for carrying sick people of our area and the Minister to have sympathy on our people for the construction of Health Centre. Also I want the Minister of

Health to tour Igala Division to see actually what is happening to these classes of people.

My second point is concerning Idah General Hospital. The staff there are doing their possible best.

(MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. We are dealing with the sum provided in the Estimates. There is nothing about the Idah General Hospital there, unless it is a question or you want something to be done specifically on the Idah General Hospital but not to be debated then it is alright.)

Mr. Chairman, well, with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

MR. H.U. UYEH: Mr. Chairman, I know the Minister is a new man in this Ministry, but I would draw his attention to what had happened some months ago or last year. Mr. Chairman, I can remember that last year there was a team sent out to inoculate against tuberculosis. It was started here in Kaduna and went out to provinces. In our province, they spent a week and came back. I do not know whether they were called back or whether they have reported their work to the Minister, or whether they have finished eradication of tuberculosis in the whole Region. If not so, they should have gone back to the Provinces to continue the job. I know the Minister would be able to tell us about their report or he may send them back to continue the work. Mr. Chairman, another thing is about the Kunav General Hospital (MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry that is not here in the estimates now before the House).

I am just going to make some remarks that is about the grants which were withdrawn sometime ago; but now have been returned. We are grateful to the Minister for returning the grants. But still the grant is not sufficient for Gboko and Kunav Hospitals. It is not big enough for Gboko and Kunav and I understand that the Federal Republic of Germany is going to help the Northern Region by providing funds for building ten Hospitals. I appeal to the Minister to consider Gboko being one of the Hospitals to be built. I think the Minister concerned would take note of my remarks.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Alhaji the hon. Ahman Fatika, Sarkin Fadan Zazzau):

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The Hon. Minister of Finance had already catagorically explained in his speech that one item of nearly £15,000 is for continuing the Western Sokoto mass

malaria Campaign, and represents the expenditure of the balance of a grant already received from the Federal Government. All of the remainder of the additional provision shown under this Head, arises from the transfer to Government of the former Native Authority Hospitals in Sokoto and Kano.

The Sokoto Hospital was taken over by Government on the 1st April 1963 and the Kano Hospital on the 1st of July 1963.

The money hitherto Sir, spent by these 2 vast Native Authorities on the running of the 2 Hospitals could thus be diverted to the erection of more N.A. Dispensaries in the Rural areas of their jurisdiction.

Turning to the points raised by the hon. member, Mallam Nura Alkali, about the closure of Private Wards, I can now assure him that that will be enquired into and as far as Private Practice is concerned, this is allowed after office hours. Mallam Lawan, said something about the staff, well, trained staff will be posted there but should be gradually. Now the question of health propaganda unit, this is being established. The hon. member from Dekina said something about the creation of Health Centre at Dekina. Well, this will be built as soon as funds are available and further more, I have already given him appointment to come and see me in my office on Monday. So far as I know, these are the only relevant points which need my reply. (Applause).

MR. SPEAKER: Now the question I have to put is that of Usman which was previously quoted for Head 243 - Ministry of Health being increased by £126,310.

MR. H.U. UYEH (Kunav): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise this important Motion on this Ministry. I am happy the Ministry of Information and the hon. Premier were on tour of Tiv Division and I am sure they will agree with these points that I am going to raise. There is an increased need for a Rest House. The Minister himself knows that the accommodation there is not sufficient and it is because we have not got the Rest House and as such I beg to pray to see to it that Gboko must have Rest House in a very short time. My second point is that, Sir, Now that Nigeria is becoming a Republic, it is high time that the Minister should consider establishing a broadcasting House in Benue Province so that all things that are done in that Province should be sent to that Broadcasting House. And that will enable the people to know that is going on in that Province.

MR. SPEAKER: May I draw your attention to the agreement made in this House that you should restrict your observations only on the provision being laid, If you look at the itmes 61 and 65.

MR. H. U. UYEH: Turning to another point, the Pressmen, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the Pressmen on the publication in this Region which is not sufficiently enough. The only publication now hear in Northern Nigeria is to say that the Minister is on tour by such and such is heard and it can be repeated several times but the other things that are done we never hear them over the radio.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Alhaji M. Nasir): Why are you attacking the press. This is not the subject matter. (Applause).

MR. H. U. UYEH: But it is not legal point now. You better wait until we come to legal matters (Applause). The instance I could recollect was on Thursday during the last meeting I remember so many members from Kano, Sokoto said so many important things in the House but when it came over the air nothing is said about them and it seems to me that the pressmen are not recording what is said here accurately and the Minister should see to it that things should be done to improve the situation. I will like to raise another point that the translation in this House is not done correctly and sufficiently. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have nothing so far to add.

M. KABIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to thank the Minister of Information because of the good work of the Ministry that he has done to this Region and with those that is doing, and those is planning to do. There is no doubt that with God's help and with the help of this Ministry the people of this Region have understood the good work that the Regional Government is doing for them. Because of this, Mr. Chairman, I pray the Minister that he should look more into about the adult education in this Region, because adult education is a very important thing in this Region; because if most of the people of this Region are not able to read and write, there is no doubt that up till now we should be in yesterday's predicament that is the same as we were under colonial powers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I withdraw my amendments. with this few remark,

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (Alhaji Ibrahim Biu):
I am very grateful and pleased with the points raised

by the hon. Member Mr. Uyeh that the first Rest House should be built in Gboko, a broadcasting house at Makurdi and thirdly he went on to say I should cover the proceedings of the House correctly. He should not that Rest Houses are not built for the local people only but they are made for foreign investors, visitors and Government Officials in an area where necessary. Gboko is not an important centre for such people who invest money and I am very sorry to say that this question does not arise but when the need arises, it will be considered among other Catering Rest Houses needed. If I am to comment on a broadcasting, the hon. Member does not know what is meant by the broadcasting house, and if he does, it is quite surprising why he should require another broadcasting house to be built in his Province because we have a broadcasting house in Kaduna and 250 KWT which is almost the largest in the whole of West Africa. And if I should go back to what he said about translators in this House, it a bit irresponsible and uncalled for.

The Ministry of Information of Northern Nigeria is the best throughout the Federation of Nigeria. I would like to thank the hon. M. Moh. Kabir Kano for the good remarks he made about my Ministry. I would also like to inform the House that my Ministry is doing everything possible to enlighten, to educate and keep the members of the public well informed of Government Activities.

Sir, I am very sorry to say that the hon. Member is out of the picture. He appears to be completely ignorant. ~~We sent releases which covers not only~~ Kaduna, but every part of Northern Nigeria. These Information Centres send into Kaduna informations, actions, ceremonies and any other important events. It means he does not even listen to radio, he does not even care to say anything. This is a very irresponsible statement, because I feel that hon. Members should be honest. Coming back to my friend, Mr. Uyeh, about the Public Enlightenment Centre in Tiv, I have to tell him that we have left no stone unturned in trying to enlighten the masses of Northern Nigeria. I am glad to inform hon. Members that the Northern Nigeria Information Service is the best in the Federation of Nigeria. (Loud Applause.)

Question put and agreed to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Head 250 - Ministry for Local Government.

MR. ABOGEDE(Igala East): Sir, what I have to say

is about the Instructors in the Provinces that are posted to train out Native Authority accounting staff. This section of the Ministry has been trying a lot to bring up the Native Authority accounting efficiency and their work is well appreciated. (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to remind hon Members about the ruling that we have made previously.

MR. ABOGEDE: Yes, Sir, if I am not wrong, I thought that training schemes come under the Provincial Instructors who train out Native Authority staff in the Provinces. If that is so, then it is appropriate for me to comment on the work done by these instructors. What I want to say is that these Instructors train the Native Authorities staff in accounting and other office work and those who proved well have further opportunity to be sent to a higher training institution in the Region. I thought by doing this we shall be bringing our Native Authority staff into efficiency in the line of accounting their revenues. But when some of these Instructors compare their education and training with the other staff of the Government, they some times feel like leaving the Ministry. They feel that the dignity attached to that post compared with their education and training will give them a chance for promotion if they were allowed to work in other Ministry. So I am appealing to the Minister concerned to consider the importance of this training scheme. He should try to make better the position of these staff; for we all rely more on them as Native Authority staff and Government staff work hand in hand. With these few remarks, I beg to support the Head.

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Alhaji the hon. Sule Gaya): Mr. Chairman, in replying to one point raised by the hon. Member for Igala, he has asked for better conditions of service for these Instructors. Well, I would like to explain to him that these Instructors seem to be seconded from the Native Authorities, but now there is change of policy in my Ministry whereby these Instructors will be absorbed into the part and parcel of the Ministry in the future. So this request will be met. As for giving them higher training, well as soon as opportunity arises, they will be given chance according to their merit.

Question again proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Question put and agreed to.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL ESTIMATES

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (Alhaji the hon. Aliyu, Makaman Bida): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. The amount of additional expenditure shown in the Motion is three hundred and thirty thousand and seventy two pounds. If savings quoted on some of the Heads shown, and a reimbursement of some expenditure by the American aid agency are taken into account, the net additional expenditure is only about sixty six thousand pounds as I said in my speech on the Supplementary Budget.

Sir, I beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (Alhaji the hon. Isa Kaita, O.B.E., Wazirin Katsina): Sir I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM: As there are no expenditure under the Heads 271, 273, 274 and 287 is there any reason for showing them here? Is there any legal implications?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE: The reason for showing these is that they are already shown in the Estimates. It is legal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question I have to propose is that this House authorises the expenditure from the Capital Development Fund of an amount not exceeding £330,072 for the several services required under the following Heads, details of which are set out in the First Supplementary Estimates of Northern Nigeria, 1963-64, which have been laid before this House:-

Head 271 - Roads Development	
Head 273 - Urban Water Supplies	
Head 274 - Buildings: Agriculture	
Head 276 - Buildings: Education	45,793
Head 277 - Buildings: Health	2,996
Head 278 - Buildings: Social Wel. & Co-ops	96,300
Head 280 - Buildings: Administration	2,832
Head 282 - Buildings: Internal Affairs	3,974
Head 284 - Buildings: Forestry	650
Head 287 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Agriculture	110,680

Head 287 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Animal and Forest Resources (Livestock Branch)	-
Head 289 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Trade and Industry	50,000
Head 291 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Health.	<u>16,847</u>
	£ 330,072

Total	

Resolved. That this House authorises the expenditure from the Capital Development Fund of an amount not exceeding £330,072 for the several services required under the following Heads, details of which are set out in the First Supplementary Estimates of Northern Nigeria, 1963-64, which have been laid before this House:-

Head 271 - Roads Development	
Head 273 - Urban Water Supplies	
Head 274 - Buildings: Agriculture	
Head 276 - Buildings: Education	45,793
Head 277 - Buildings: Health	2,996
Head 278 - Buildings: Social Welfare and Co-operatives	96,300
Head 280 - Buildings: Administration	2,832
Head 282 - Buildings: Internal Affairs	3,974
Head 284 - Buildings: Forestry	650
Head 286 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Agriculture	110,680
Head 287 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Animal and Forest Resources (Livestock Branch)	
Head 289 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Trade and Industry	50,000
Head 291 - Other Capital Expenditure:	
Ministry of Health	<u>16,847</u>
Total	£330,072

PERSONAL TAX

MINISTER OF FINANCE: (Alhaji the hon. Aliyu, C.M.G., Makaman Bida) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Bill entitled the Personal Tax (Amendment No.2) Law, 1963, be read a second time. This Bill is designed to make some minor amendments to the sections of last year's main Personal Tax Law which deal with

personal income tax appeals. The need to make these changes became apparent when we draw up detailed procedural rules for use by the Central Tax Appeals Board and the various provincial Tax Appeals Committees. Before I outline the main provisions of this Bill, Sir, Members may wish to hear something more about the appeals bodies. In each Province, and also in Kaduna itself, provincial tax appeals committees are about to be set up. Members will appreciate that these Committees are precisely what their title states that they bear no relation to the old N.A. assessment Committees. The Chairmen and members of these committees will be nominated by me, as provided in the Law, and then notified in the Gazette. The Chairmen will in each case be the Provincial Commissioner concerned. The Members up to ten per Committee, will be drawn from citizens of the Province outside Government or N.A. service, chosen for their personal qualities and abilities alone without reference to race, colour or creed or political affinities. The lists of member will be published later this month. The committees will probably hold their first meetings in the second half of November. I am grateful to the gentlemen in all walks of life who have agreed to serve their country in this way.

Turning to the Bill itself, Sir, the various clauses are intended: Firstly to make it clear that Chairmen of provincial Tax Appeals committees and the Central Tax Appeals Board are themselves members of the respective Committees or Board; secondly, to provide quorum and voting requirements for provincial tax appeals Committee and the Central Tax Appeal Board; thirdly, to provide for the withdrawal of any pending appeals if the Commissioner and tax-payer reach agreement before the hearing as to the amount of tax chargeable; fourthly to assure that the burden of proving excessiveness of any assessment shall be on the taxpayer in an appeal before the central tax appeals Board, just as before the provincial tax appeals bodies committees; also to require the various tax appeals bodies to specify the amount of any additional assessment they may order; and finally, to eliminate reservation of questions of law by the High Court for the Federal Supreme Court, without however affecting the rights of appeal to the Federal Supreme Court conferred by the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE: (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Nasir)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ALHAJI SALIHU NAKANDE: (Jos Central) (Hausa) Mr. Speaker Sir, in supporting the motion brought before the House by the hon. Minister of Finance, I would like to comment on the Personal Tax Law. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is something the Government wants to gain more money for the development of the country. But Mr. Speaker, what is happening in the Northern Region now, the tax being assessed on people is beyond their own income. Every person in the North is thinking for the way in which he gets his money for the tax assessed on him. He struggled through the resources in his farm so that he gets, say, at least £200 or £300 to buy a lorry. Later on he tries his best to pay for the insurance, which also costs about £100 or so. He then goes to the Licensing office to licence his lorry. If he gets this money by way of a loan and pay for the licence and insurance when people would say he is rich. That is the way in which tax is assessed at the moment. The people are being assessed heavily and they are being looked upon as rich people if they have up to £200 or £300 to be able to purchase anything reasonable. Those that are rich people who really have sufficient money to pay are not being assessed heavily. In Kano province, for instance, taxes being heavily imposed on people who have not got the means to pay, whereas rich people are left out. The illiterate people are being assessed heavily. I suggest that a Committee will be able to declare what they have rather than been left to suffer heavy and inaccurate assessment. The Assessment Committee does not take into consideration whether a petitioner is the creditor or the hire purchase company is the creditor or whether what the Bank owes the person or what the person owed the Bank before assessing the person. If the person has money elsewhere he will be assessed. But people here are struggling for their daily bread, and they are the people who are being assessed heavily. If you have a child outside Nigeria you will be required to pay heavy tax also (interruption)

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members are requested to keep their observation to the amendment inserted in this Bill and not to make general observation on the policy of the principal Law at this moment.

ALHAJI SALIHU NAKANDE: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am talking on what is in front of me and therefore this is something to be remedied.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not abide to my ruling.

ALHAJI SALIHU NAKANDE: Thank you very much Mr. Deputy

ker. I am talking on the Committee that has to be formed. For example, if a man has a capital of £3,000 and if he gets a loan of £3,000 then he will go to the Hire Purchase Company to buy his Lorry, the Bank will get a lot of interest on this money from him as commission, but the committee of assessment would only assess him of this £3,000. This is something irregular and must be remedied. I hope the Minister will look into this complaint and investigate into the matter. With these few points, I beg to support the motion.

MR. J. U. UYEH: Mr. Speaker Sir, on several occasions I have said from this side of the House that the question of personal Tax is beyond Party Politics and it is earnest desire to see that Taxes are paid. In my Division, where I came from, the question of assessment is worrying the people as the hon. member, the last speaker, has just rightly said. I wish to draw the attention of this House to the fact that when the people come to ask you about assessment they will put the following questions - 'How many wives have you?' 'How many animals have you?' I know, Mr. Speaker Sir, that majority of the people have more than five wives and they are so heavily assessed (Interruption) Because I have five wives, if that is the case, I think majority of the hon. Ministers and Members of this House have more or less than five wives. I think that hon. Members in this House should be assessed heavily.

I would like to associate myself with the points moved by my other friend that a Tax Committee should be appointed and which should be a non-political body. These people should also be very intelligent who should know the people to be taxed heavily. Mr. Chairman, presently, those people assessing people are political manoeuvrers and they are always out to see that one's property is sold for them to buy. It is my earnest desire that this Committee should be non-political and now that the post of the Provincial Commissioners has been established, they should help to see that the way of assessing tax on people are accurate. With these few remarks I beg to support.

MR. ISAAC SHAAHU (G.S. Tiev): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill. We are all aware that no Government can do without money and we must get the money from the tax-payers. Nobody can work without finance and as such, likewise the Government, the Government cannot work without money. But there is something that is worrying us in various places and that is in connection with the assessment being done to taxpayers. I

know we need taxpayers to be properly assessed and to bring revenue to the Government. So what should be done is that a Committee should be set up to know who should be assessed heavily and these people on the Committee should be very intelligent people and not politicians. Mr. Chairman, already what is happening is that you will see that a farmer is being assessed about £6 and his actual income is not up to that amount. Therefore, I would like the Minister to establish this Committee and the people who are really very intelligent and who know what is worrying the common man in the street and who know how difficult it is for them to get money. Some of these poor people have no means of livelihood but still yet they are being taxed and if they fail to pay, they are imprisoned. Twenty years ago a poor man would only be taxed less 10/- but if he has been taxed heavily, he could not pay the tax and such the government is losing. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope the hon. Minister would take this into consideration.

ALHAJI YUSUFU BAYERO (Sumaila): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise in order to express my gratitude to the Minister. Because this new way of assessing tax will bring a helpful way of living and it would be easier to collect the taxes and it would wipe out the difficulty of paying tax. But I would like to draw the attention of the Minister about the staff working in his Ministry who are on the revenue side; especially those stationed in Kano. These people do not know their work. They do not think at all when they are assessing tax. They do not investigate what is right. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister to order investigation to be made about those people who have been assessed wrongly because his staff do not know the incomes of these people. I am sure that those members of his staff are not working as they should, the forms they issue to a person to fill, they do not work on them, and if at all they do, they would have not assessed the tax on some people who would not have been assessed at all. Mr. Speaker, I can give one example of some people who were rich and everyone knew that they were rich and have everything, but now they have got nothing. However, they are still being assessed. I have known a person who has been assessed £40 and the only things he has in his shop are not worth £50. This type of thing Mr. Speaker, happens almost always. Formally, there was nothing that those people have not got, but now they cannot even afford their daily bread. Therefore, I pray that the Minister will investigate into this, so that this type of people should be known and also devise a means where by things may be put in order. I would also suggest to the Minister to draw

The bill also seeks to correct a reference in the First Schedule to the Wild Animals Preservation Ordinance which hon. Members will recall has been replaced and superseded by the Wild Animals Law, 1963 enacted earlier this year, so that that Law will now be substituted in the First Schedule for the Ordinance.

Members will agree that this bill is non-controversial, being mainly a legalistic measure to facilitate the work of the Law Revision Commissioner. Sir, I beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND CO-OPERATIVES (Alhaji the hon. Umaru Babura, Sarkin Fulani Ja'idanawa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

MR. SHANTUMA LAJE (Jos North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now high time that nobody should be left behind in this our Northern Nigeria and I would therefore like to give some suggestions to the Minister for Local Government, which I believe will be of great help to us.

House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole House.

House in Committee.

Clauses 1-3. Agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

House Resumed.

Bill reported without amendment read the Third time and passed.

Newspaper (Amendment) Law, 1963 - Order for Second Reading. - Read.

THE AG. MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS: (Alhaji Othman Ladan Baki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the "Newspapers (Amendment) Bill, 1963" be read a second time.

Barely one year ago, this honourable House was called upon to amend the Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 148 of the 1948 Laws). Those amendments have done some good.

The present amendments are aimed at two things. First is to increase the penalties in Sections 9, 13 and 14 of the Ordinance. These sections impose fines not exceeding fifty pounds, five pounds and fifty pounds respectively. These fines are certainly inadequate. Fines of two hundred pounds, one hundred pounds and five hundred pounds have been substituted. Secondly, the Ordinance as it applied in this Region does not oblige the printer or publisher of a newspaper to appoint an editor in charge of each edition, to print the name and address of such editor on every copy of the newspaper or for such Editor to sign a copy of such a newspaper and deposit it in my Office. This, the honourable House will agree with me, is an unsatisfactory situation. These defects are put right by Clause 4 of the amending Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH: (Alhaji the hon. Ahmadu Fatika, Sarkin Fadan Zazzau): Sir I beg to second.

ALHAJI RABIU: (Babura-Garki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome this Bill. The Newspapers are very important in this country, but I would like to give a suggestion that will help us. About the newspaper Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo, I want that they should be printed daily. Sir, we have got a Chairman in this Corporation.....(MR. SPEAKER: I am to remind the hon. Member that we are discussing about the penalty and not about the membership of the Board of the Newspapers) Sir, this fine is something to be welcomed, because in this country we have got some irresponsible type of people. I am drawing the attention of the Minister to increase the fine. With these few remarks, I beg to sit down.

MALLAM ISA ABUBAKAR DABAI: (Zuru): Sir, I rise to say that the Government has taken a wise step in introducing this Bill, to ask the honourable House to pass it. It is the duty of the newspaper to play its own proper role in the public day to day activities of the Government of the Federation.

MALLAM ISA ABUBAKAR (Member for Zuru): This Bill shows that the Government is trying to keep an eye to ensure that the newspapers perform their duties to the public whom they are supposed to entertain and educate. Mr. Speaker Sir, the penalty imposed on newspapers for failing to comply with the obligations as imposed on them by this Bill is too small. This is of course judging from what the Government is expected to do to the public. The newspapers fail in their duties sometimes and even more recently very often to discharge

their responsibilities to the public and to the entire country. We have seen for some time how some newspapers do try to disunite the forces in the country instead of promoting them.... (MR. SPEAKER: It seems as if you are dictating. Are you giving dictation? What we want is a speech. That is the whole idea behind simultaneous translation) Some newspapers try to neglect their duties to the public whom they serve. Some newspapers make it a habit or hobby to criticise our leaders in this country who are trying to help masses of this country and particularly who are responsible for the unity of African countries and the world at large. It is a bad reflection on the part of every individual in this country who are trying to do this. Nigeria is regarded as a great country through-out the world. This has not been possible but for the good efforts of our good leaders. If our leaders are to be encouraged in what they do, these people who are supposed to educate the public must do everything possible to encourage our leaders and not to discourage them. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is appalling to read in our newspapers what some editors or columnists do to discourage the efforts made by our leaders. We do not hold an opinion or we do not regard our leaders as being in a low position. Our leaders have been known throughout the world, as sincere, hardworking and God fearing (Applause) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not appealing to the newspapers but I am warning them. This is a time when our leaders are trying to build a very mighty continent of Africa and we must do everything possible to encourage rather than to discourage them in what they are doing. What is good in condemning the action of one leader and praising that of another. I am an Hausa you cannot change me to Ibo or if I am Yoruba you cannot change me to Fulani (laughter). Our leaders are intellectually brilliant and strong. They are capable of doing anything that any person can do. Mr. Speaker Sir, I think time has come for everybody to do everything he can to encourage our leaders so as to enable them to put their best in the development of our country and to put it forward so that the world will know what we are doing. It is unfair that our leaders should be mistreated in what they do. Mr. Speaker Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

MALLAM MAUDE SIDI AHMADU GYANI (Member for Jaba): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very glad about this Bill which is entitled The newspapers ordinance amendment law. I am sure Mr. Speaker Sir, anybody who is a human being will welcome this Bill on what the newspapers are doing like our own newspaper in Northern Nigeria - Gaskiya Corporation.... (MR. SPEAKER: you mean Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo or Gaskiya Corporation.) Thank you Mr. Speaker,

I mean Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo. That Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo is doing its work in the best possible manner. I am not only praising it but I am suggesting to it to do its best about anything that affects our leaders and legislators. We are reasonable people and we know all that have been happening. A little fowl learns how to get its food from its mother. I want to put a suggestion to those newspapers whom I know very well. I don't want to say anything that would bring trouble because I understand everything. I want to tell this House whether you be Hausa, Yoruba, Fulani or Bature (laughter). Everybody knows the behaviour of these newspapers to this region. I am referring to the Eastern newspapers. Those newspapers Mr. Speaker try their best to bring disunity between our leaders. I want to draw the attention of these newspapers who try to publish lies in their newspapers about Northern Nigeria. Anybody who is educated and who reads these newspapers especially their commentary columns would find that all they do is to try and discourage our leaders in their efforts especially the efforts made by the hon. Premier of Northern Nigeria who is trying very hard to bring happiness to the people of the North. I think, Mr. Speaker that these newspapers are even discriminating in their publicity. This I am afraid will not bring anything good to this country and this type of discrimination should be stopped. The reason why I say so Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why these newspapers from the East in their editorials say all sorts of things, lies of course, that never occurred in the region. I want to say today Mr. Speaker, that it must be realised that the leaders of this region are not selfish. This is not because we are left behind. But this is because the Premier of Northern Region in his untiring efforts is trying to bring unity in the country. In the Federal House we are in the majority. I see no reason why we shall allow the post of Presidency to go to somebody who is in the other region. I am a reasonable man. And everything that has been done good should be recorded. Why did we do that and did not give the President to somebody from the North is because we want a united Nigeria. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

To run our own business and that we are very proud of doing so. They will praise our own Premier because of his good character, his impartiality and fear of God. These very small elements are always against our decision. That is the reason why I say this is only a political issue.

Mr. Speaker, what I know, I fully understand this because when I was in the opposition I used to

say that I am also from Sokoto. We will not like the southern people to be making false criticism of our leaders in this Region. We in the North are trying to unite both the North and the South, but the Southern people are trying to disunite everybody by their adverse comments. Everybody knows the good character of our hon. Premier and they only want to cause confusion by adversely criticising us. We do not want to go Magistrate Court because we are not used to settling our differences in the courts. Because of this (Interruption an honourable Member: Fire!) Because of this I should like to warn the people of the South. The people of the South think that we are so lazy and they are better than us. This only causes disunity in this country. The hon. Premier in the North is doing everything possible to see to the unity of the country. The Southern newspapers should be very careful in what they say and write about the Premier of this Region. There are very few people in the world like the Premier. But these elements who are responsible for publishing this newspapers should stop writing nonsense which causes damages to the interest of this country. With these few remarks I beg to support.

MR. HANAFI IDIARO: (Ilorin North): I have been looking forward to the time when I shall be able to say something on such a Bill introduced in this House. As I do not want to prolong my speech as most of what I had wanted to say had already been said by the previous speakers, I would like to say something about the Southern newspapers. Well these newspapers no doubt are only try to disunite this country. The leaders of this country are doing everything possible for the progress of this country, but the Southern newspapers always try to cause something to the disunity of the country. We are going to tell them that we in the North are not lazy and we would not tolerate any nonsense which they publish about us and our leaders. We are in North, we do not talk much but we have more efficient leaders than they do. I would like to stop there because my hon. friend the last speaker, has covered the grounds I had wanted to speak on.

MR. H. U. UYEH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I intend not to speak so much on this Bill. But it seems to me that there is a motive behind this amendment. (The motive is that there is trouble - it is true, it is about the newspapermen. (An hon. Member: Where is the trouble?) What is the main reason for having every article to be published to be signed by the Minister concerned? I see no need for this whatso-

ever. Another thing I would like to say is that there is motive behind this. (An hon. Member: What motive?) Another point I would like to raise is that copies of these newspapers are to be sent to the Minister. All these newspapers are for sale, and who would be responsible for the payment of these papers? (An hon. Member: You). So far as I know there have been no articles sent to the Minister before they are published, and now that articles are to go to the Minister, I am sure there are bound to be some trouble. The newspapers always safeguard the rights of the people. If what the newspapers say do not affect you, then you need not worry about its contents, but if you know you have done something wrong and the newspapers try to point that out then you should not blame the Paper for doing so. I feel personally that this amendment now before the House should be dropped entirely, because this does not give the freedom of the Press and it is just to provoke the Newspapermen. I feel that this is not very good.

House resolved itself into Committee of the whole House.

House in Committee

Clauses 1 - 4.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM: Clause 4(2), Mr. Chairman, I would like to know who must be held responsible in case a publication is against the interest of the public.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE: (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Nasir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to the speech of the last speaker, I wish to make a point of clarification. All that this clause means is that a responsible paper, printed by a responsible person and read by responsible people.

ALHAJI IBRAHIM IMAM: The answer is not as simple as the Minister of Justice has said. It is not only to print the name, it is the signature which has got to be signed on every news paper to be sent to the Minister that matters. The position of the publishers also, of course, must be considered. Printers and the publishers may live in different places; they may be living miles away, and when the newspaper is run by a company, the director or the Secretary and the company may live in different country from where the papers are printed and published. It can be possible that the company running the newspapers may be incorporated in the United Kingdom where the directors and the Secretary live and the printing and publications

APPENDIX
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

0.353. ALHAJI TIJJANI YARI (Karaye) asked the Minister of Trade and Industry, Northern Nigeria what steps is the Ministry taking to improve our local dye Industry in Northern Nigeria?

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (Mallam Michael Audu Buba, Wazirin Shendam): The local dyeing industry is, by its nature, a village traditional craft, the methods of which are often kept within family circles or guilds.

I am aware that this local industry can be developed, and as soon as the Industrial Development Centre in Zaria starts to function, I shall examine the possibility of including in its activities the development of the local dyeing industry.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

0.360. ALHAJI RABIU (Babura-Garki) asked the Minister of Health whether he can tell the House when his Ministry will consider building children's hospitals throughout Northern Nigeria, in view of the fact that during the recent overseas recruitment tour of the former Minister, he visited a number of such hospitals and was highly impressed by them.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Alhaji the hon. Ahman Fatika, Sarkin Fadan Zazzau): At the moment a proportion of beds in all General Hospitals throughout the Region is set aside for children.

The construction of hospitals entirely for children will no doubt receive consideration in due course when both the staff and financial position of the Region improves.

CATERING REST HOUSE FOR IDAH

0.367. M. IBRAHIM MUSA (Igala North West) asked the Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria to remind him of his previous request for a Catering Rest House at Idah. How soon will the construction work start?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Biu): There is no provision in the 1963-68 Development Plan for the building of a Catering Rest House at Idah.

NUMBER OF KADUNA PERSONS CONVICTED

0.368. ALHAJI ABDU BIDA (Kaduna) asked the Minister of Justice, Northern Nigeria the number of people that have been convicted in Kaduna from October, 1960 to date, for criminal and civil offences respectively.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Nasir): Number of persons convicted in Kaduna Capital Territory from October 1960 to date are:-

- (i) for criminal offences 10,363
- (ii) convicted on civil matters 11

Made up as follows:-

- (a) in High Court
 - (i) 28 for criminal offence
 - (ii) - no persons committed in respect of civil matters.
- (b) in Magistrates and District Courts
 - (i) 1088 for criminal offences
 - (ii) 1 Debtor committed in civil matter
- (c) Sharia Court of Appeal
 - Nil
- (d) Native Courts
 - (i) 9,247 for criminal offences
 - (ii) 10 committed in civil matters.

KADUNA LAND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

0.369. ALHAJI ABDU BIDA (Kaduna) asked the Minister of Land and Survey, Northern Nigeria whether he has reserved any land for Government Future Developments in the Kaduna Capital Territory.

- (a) If not, would the Minister consider doing so in time?

THE MINISTER OF LAND AND SURVEY (Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Musa Gashash): The Cadastral and Town Planning Section of my Ministry, which is responsible for planning, always takes into consideration the need for setting aside land for Government Institutions and other projects. I am alive to the need for reserving land in Kaduna Capital Territory for Government purposes. The hon. Member will be pleased to here that because of the importance I attach to this need

Ministry has been negotiating for a team of three expert planners from abroad, to prepare a comprehensive physical development plan for Kaduna Capital Territory. I am certain that the team will not overlook the need for reserving land for Government purposes.

(a) Does not arise.

GOMBE GENERAL HOSPITAL

372. M. PELA ALI DEBA (Nafda) asked the Minister of Health, Northern Nigeria when the building of the Gombe General Hospital will be completed, in view of the fact that many patients are now lying down on the floor in and out the wards.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Alhaji the hon. Ahmadu Bello, Sarkin Fadan Zazzau): The completion of this Hospital is scheduled to be done this financial year depending on the availability of funds.

DEKINA HEALTH CENTRE

373. M. IBRAHIM MUSA (Igalaland North West) asked the Minister of Health, Northern Nigeria what the Government is doing about the proposed Health Centre at Dekina.

(a) If the plan is at hand, how soon will it be started?

(b) If not, why?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Alhaji the hon. Ahmadu Bello, Sarkin Zazzau): I regret to say that nothing has been done about the proposed Health Centre at Dekina since the announcement during the sitting of the House last March that one would be built there this year.

The plan is still in hand and I assure the hon. member that it will be implemented as soon as funds are available.

