

Volume 6
No. 10



Monday
18th May, 1959



NORTHERN REGIONAL LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Second Legislature)

Third Session

Second Meeting

KADUNA

GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTHERN REGION OF NIGERIA

1959

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(Returned at the General Election, October-November, 1956)

ELECTED MEMBERS

A

Abdulkadiri, Alhaji, District Head, Dekina
Abdulkadiri, Alhaji, Sarkin Giade
Abdullahi, Alhaji Maje, Turakin Kano
Abdullahi, Mallam, Danburam, District Head, Jada
Abdulumuni, Mallam
Abubakar, Alhaji, Alkalin Alkalai, Sokoto
Abubakar, Alhaji, Dokaji
Adamu, Mallam, District Head, Duguri
Ahamadu, Alhaji Shehu, O.B.E., Madakin Kano
Ahamadu, Mallam Ardo Malabu
Ahamañ, Alhaji, Galadiman Pategi
Ahmed, Mallam Sama'ila, Sarkin Tsabta Zaria
Ajayi, Mr S. A.
Alkali, Abba Dan
Allam, Mr Joseph D.
Aliyu, Alhaji, O.B.E., Makaman Bida
Aliyu, Mallam Magajin Garin Sokoto
Aminu, Mallam Dan Iya
Anache, Alhaji Abdu

B

Baki, Alhaji Othman Ladan
Bashar, Mallam Muhammadu, Wambai, Daura
Basharu, Mallam, Maiduguri
Bello, Sir Alhaji Ahmadu, K.B.E., C.B.E., Sardaunan Sokoto
Bello, Mallam Muhammadu, Sarkin Gandu
Bello, Mallam Marafan Asara
Boyi, Mallam Muhammadu, District Head, Gwoza
Buba, Mr Michael Audu

C

Cigari, Mallam Shehu

D

Dalhatu, Alhaji Bida
Dankantoma, Mallam Baba
Danmalam, Alhaji Muhammadu, Wambai Katsina
Dantata, Alhaji Ahmadu
Dasuki, Mallam Ibrahim, Marafan Gada
Davies, Mr J. B.
Demsu, Mallam Ibrahim, Dan Iya, Adamawa
Didam, Mallam, Kagoro
Dingyadi, Mallam Muhammadu Sani, Makaman Sokoto
Dodo, Mallam Muhammadu, Karamin Alkali, Katsina
Diso, Alhaji Mamudu
Dzungwe, Mr Ako

E

Ekurin, Mr J. G.

F

Fakai, Mallam Muhammadu, Sarkin Gobir, Bayawa
Farouk, Mallam Ndagi
Fatika, Mallam Ahamadu, Sarkin Malamai

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

G

Gashash, Mallam Ibrahim Musa
Gda, Mr Buge
Greenfield, Mr K. G.
Gwamna, Alhaji Isyaku

H

Habib, Mallam Abba
Hashim, Alhaji Tijjani
Hassan, Alhaji Makaman Abuja
Hinton, Mr Donald
Hindi, Mallam Muhammadu

I

Ibrahim, Alhaji, Wazirin Gumel
Ibrahim, Mallam, Supervisor of Works, Biu
Idrisa, Mallam Maina
Idrisu, Mallam, Tafidan Adamawa
Imam, Mallam Baba Kura
Imam, Mallam Ibrahim
Indiorhwer, Mr Jacob Mbaakar
Inuwa, Alhaji Muhammadu, Galadiman Kano
Isa, Alhaji Kaita, Madakin Katsina
Iyorker, Mr Macdonald Dzungwenen

J

Ja'afar, Mallam Abdullahi
Jarfata, Mallam Audu
Jatau, Mallam Gwani
Jibir, Mallam Daura

K

Kabir, Mallam Muhammadu, Ciroman Katagum
Kassim, Alhaji Haruna
Keffi, Mallam Bala
Kwairanga, Mallam Muhammadu, Ciroman Gombe
Kyari, Mallam Maina Abba

L

La'aro, Mallam Ibrahim
Lawal, Alhaji Muhammadu, District Head, Yandaka
Liman, Alhaji Usman, Sarkin Musawa
Lot, Pastor David

M

Maccido, Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Kudu
Mahiru, Mallam Shehu
Mahmud, Mallam Ibrahim
Maihaja, Mallam Yunusa
Maikano, Mallam Abdullahi, Dutse, W/Daji
Mariga, Mallam Jibirin
Maito, Alhaji Sulaimanu
Maiwada, Alhaji
Malabu, Mallam Bello, Madawakin Adamawa
Mamiso, Mr Edimond B.
Masta, Mallam Abba
Mu'azu, Alhaji, District Head, Ruma
Mu'azu, Mallam, Lamido
Muhammad, Alhaji, Musa, Magajin Gari
Muhammadu, Alhaji, Magajin Gari Kazaure
Muhammadu, Mallam, Yarima Gombe
Muhammadu, Sarkin Ayyuka, Sokoto
Musa, Alhaji, Sarkin Danko
Mustafa, Alhaji Munguno

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

N

Nabegu, Alhaji Ali
Nadada, Alhaji Muhammadu Sada, District Head Kankiya
Nadanko, Mallam Usman
Nahannun Dama, Mallam Baba
Nayaya, Mallam Jibir
Nunku, Alhaji Mu'azu Gambo

O

Obekpa, Mr Abutu
Ogbadu, Mr Daniel
Ohikere, Mr G. U.
Ojeba, Mr R. B.
Olawoyin, Mr J. S.
Orjime, Mr Vincent Igbarumun

S

Sanusi, Alhaji Ado
Shatambaya, Mallam Adamu
Shehu, Mallam, Marafan Bunza
Shettima, Alhaji Yakubu
Shua, Mallam Abba Kyari
Sidi, Mallam Maude Ahamadu, Gyani
Sikkam, Mallam Abubakar, Ma'ajin Tangale-Waja
Soba, Mallam Ango
Sule, Mallam, Gaya
Sulaiman, Mallam Usman

T

Tela, Mallam Haruna
Tijjani, Mallam Ahamadu, Kurawa
Tureta, Mallam Muhammadu, Turakin Sokoto

U

Uba, Alhaji Ringim
Ubandoma, Mallam Muhammadu
Ukpabi, Mr Ajene
Umaru, Alhaji, Sarkin Fulani, Ja'idanawa
Umaru, Mallam Yola
Usman, Mukaddam, District Head Yerwa
Usman, Mallam, District Head Dange
Usman, Mallam Galadiman Maska
Usman, Mallam Shehu, Sarkin Daji

W

Wuyep, Mr Gabriel

Y

Yakubu, Mallam, Lame, Magajin Garin Bauchi
Yusufu, Alhaji, Galadiman Hadejia
Yusufu, Mallam Tanko

Official Member

Marshall, Q.C., H. H. (Attorney-General)

Absent

Baki, Alhaji Othman Ladan (Katsina Town)
Boyi, Mallam Muhammadu, District Head Gwoza (Dikwa South)
Mahiru, Mallam Shehu (Zaria Urban)
Tela, Mallam Haruna (Kaura Namoda)

OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Speaker House of Assembly: C. R. Niven Esq., C.M.G., M.C.

Deputy Speaker House of Assembly: Honourable Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, C.B.E., M.H.A.

THE GOVERNMENT

(Formed by the Honourable Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto in December, 1956)

Premier, The Honourable Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, K.B.E., M.H.A.

Attorney-General, The Honourable H. H. Marshall, Q.C., M.H.A.

The Minister of Finance, Honourable Alhaji Aliyu, O.B.E., Makaman Bida, M.H.A.

The Minister of Education, Honourable Alhaji Isa Kaita, O.B.E., Madakin Katsina, M.H.A.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Abba Habib, M.H.A.

The Minister of Works, Honourable G. U. Ohikere, M.H.A.

The Minister of Land and Survey, Honourable I. M. Gashash, M.H.A.

The Minister for Local Government, Honourable Abdullahi Maikano Dutse, M.H.A.

The Minister of Health, Honourable Alhaji Ahman Pategi, Galadiman Pategi, M.H.A.

The Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Alhaji Mustafa Mongono, M.H.A.

The Minister of Animal Health and Forestry, and for Northern Cameroons Affairs, Honourable Abdullahi Dan Buram Jada, M.H.A.

The Minister of Social Welfare and Co-operatives, Honourable Michael A. Buba, M.H.A.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Honourable Shehu Usman, M.H.A.

The Minister of State, Honourable Mu'azu Lamido, M.H.A.

The Minister of State, Honourable Muhammadu Kabir, M.H.A.

The Minister of State, Honourable D. Ogbadu, M.H.A.

The Minister of State, Honourable A. Obekpa, M.H.A.

Parliamentary Secretaries

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier—Honourable S. A. Ajayi, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health—Honourable Ndagi Faruk, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Social Welfare and Co-operatives—Honourable Edmond Mamiso, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Land and Survey—Honourable Sule Gaya, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance—Honourable Ahmadu Fatika, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Local Government—Honourable Muhammadu Bashar, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Industry—Honourable Tanko Yusufu, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs—Honourable Alhaji Tijjani Hashim, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Animal Health, Forestry and Northern Cameroons Affairs—Honourable Mu'azu Gambo Nunku, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works—Honourable Ibrahim Blu, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture—Honourable Usman Sulaimanu, M.H.A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education—Honourable Dalhatu Bida, M.H.A.

Government Chief Whip

Alhaji Usman Liman, M.H.A., Sarkin Musawa

Government Whips

Alhaji Maje Abdullahi, M.H.A., Turakin Kano

Alhaji Hassan Abuja, M.H.A., Makaman Abuja

COMMITTEES OF THE NORTHERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
APPOINTED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE

(Second Legislature : Third Session, 1959-1960)

A. Committee of Selection

Speaker—Chairman
Attorney-General
Minister of Finance
Minister of Education
Mallam Aliyu, Magajin Garin Sokoto
Mallam Maude Gyani

Standing Orders Committee

Attorney-General
Mallam Ibrahim Imam
Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, O.B.E., Madakin Kano
R. B. Ojeba, Esquire

Public Petitions Committee

Speaker—Chairman
Attorney-General
Alhaji Usuman Mukaddam
Mallam Suma'ila Ahmed
Alhaji Yakubu Shetima
Alhaji Muhammadu Dodo
Alhaji Sulemanu Maito
Mallam Maude Gyani
Alhaji Abubakar, Alkalin Alkalan Sokoto
Mallam Adamau, Sarkin Duguri
Alhaji Jibir Daura, Magatakardan Kano
Pastor David Lot

House Committee

The Chairman—The Honourable Alhaji Isa
Kaita, O.B.E., Madawakin Katsina
Mallam Abdullahi Ja'afar
Mallam Ibrahim Demsa Dan Iya
Mallam Ibrahim Mahmud
Mallam Aliyu, Magajin Garin Sokoto
Mr J. B. Davies, O.B.E.
Mallam Usuman Nadanko, Magajin Garin
Zuru

Public Accounts Joint Committee

Mr Vincent I. Orjime
Mallam Idrisu, Tafidan Adamawa
Mallam Yakubu Lame, Magajin Garin Bauchi
Alhaji Abdu Anace, Magajin Garin Kontagora
Alhaji Sada Nadada, Kankiya
Alhaji Muhammadu, Magajin Garin Kazaure

Standing Committee 'A'

Alhaji Abdulkadiri, Sarkin Dekina
Alhaji Abdulkadiri, Sarkin Giade
Alhaji Maje Abdullahi, Turakin Kano
Alhaji Abubakar, Alkalin Alkalan Sokoto
Alhaji Abubakar, Dokaji
Alhaji Abubakar, M.B.E., Madawakin Sokoto
Mallam Adamu, Sarkin Duguri
Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, O.B.E., Madawakin Kano

Mallam Ahmadu Ardo Malabu
Mallam Abba Alkali
Mr Joseph D. Allam
Mallam Aliyu, Magajin Garin Sokoto
Mallam Aminu, Dan Iya
Alhaji Abdu Anace, Magajin Garin Kontagora
Alhaji Othman Ladan Baki
Mallam Basharu Maiduguri
Alhaji Mahmud Diso
Mallam Bello, Marafan Asara
Mallam Muhammadu Boyi, M.B.E., Galadiman
Gwoza
Mallam Shehu Cigari
Mallam Baba Dankantoma
Alhaji Muhammadu Danmallam, Wamban
Katsina
Mallam Muhammadu Bello, Sarkin Gandu
Alhaji Ahmadu Dantata
Mallam Ibrahim Dasuki, Marafan Gada
Mr J. B. Davies, O.B.E.
Mallam Ibrahim Demsa, Dan Iya
Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, Makaman
Sokoto
Alhaji Muhammadu Dodo
Mallam Muhammadu Fakkai, Sarkin Gobir
Mallam Ibrahim Imam
Mallam Shehu Mahiru
Mallam Bala Keffi
Mallam Abdulmumini
Mallam Ango Soba
Alhaji Ishaku Gwamna

Standing Committee 'B'

Alhaji Hassan, Makaman Abuja
Alhaji Ibrahim, Wozirin Gumel
Mallam Maina Idrisa
Mallam Idrisu, Tafidan Adamawa
Mallam Baba Kura Imam
Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa, M.B.E., Galadiman
Kano
Mallam Abdullahi Ja'afar
Mallam Abdu Jarfata
Mallam Gwani Jatau
Alhaji Jibir Daura, Magatakardan Kano
Mr K. G. Greenfield
Alhaji Haruna Kassim
Mallam Muhammadu Kwairanga, Chiroman
Gombe
Mallam Maina Abba Kyari
Alhaji Muhammadu Lawal, District Head,
Yandaka
Alhaji Usuman Liman, Sarkin Musawa
Pastor David Lot
Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, Sarkin Kudu
Mallam Yunusa Maihaja
Mallam jibirin Mairiga

Alhaji Maiwada Kano
 Mallam Bello Malabu, Madawakin Adamawa
 Mallam Abba Masta
 Alhaji Mu'azu, Sarkin Ruma
 Alhaji Musa Muhammadu, Magajin Garin
 Bussa
 Alhaji Muhammadu, Magajin Garin Kazaure
 Mallam Muhammadu, Yerima Gombe
 Alhaji Musa, Sarkin Danko
 Mr Didam Kagoro
 Mallam Buge Gda
 Mr Macdonald D. Iyorkar
 Mr Vincent I. Orjime
 Mr Ako Dzungwe

Standing Committee 'C'

Alhaji Ali Nabegu
 Alhaji Muhammadu Sada Nadada, Kankiya
 Mallam Usuman Nadanko, Magajin Garin
 Zuru
 Mallam Aliyu Baba Nahannun Dama
 Mallam Jibir Nayaya
 Mr R. B. Ojeba
 Mallam Muhammadu Hurdi
 Mallam Suma'ila Ahmed, Sarkin Tsafta
 Mallam Adamu Shatambaya
 Mallam Shehu, Marafan Bunza

Alhaji Yakubu Shettima
 Mallam Abba Kyari Shua
 Mallam Abubakar Sikkam, Ma'ajin Tangale
 Waja
 Mallam Muhammadu Sokoto, Wakilin Ayyuka
 Mallam Ahmadu Tijjani Kurawa
 Mallam Muhammadu Tureta, Turakin Sokoto
 Alhaji Uba Ringim
 Mallam Muhammadu Ubandoman Muri
 Mr Ajeme Ukpabi.
 Alhaji Umaru, Sarkin Fulani Ja'idanawa
 Mallam Umaru Yola
 Alhaji Usman, Mukaddam
 Mallam Usuman, Sarkin Gabas
 Mallam Shehu Usuman, Sarkin Dajin Lafia
 Mr Donald Hinton
 Mallam Yakubu Lame, Magajin Garin Bauchi
 Alhaji Yusufu, Galadiman Hadejia
 Mr Gabriel Wuyep
 Mallam Ibrahim Mahmud
 Mr J. G. Ekunrin
 Mr J. S. Olawoyin
 Mallam Gwani Jatau
 Mallam Maude Gyani
 Mallam Ibrahim La'aro
 Alhaji Sulemanu Maito
 Mr Joseph D. Allam

LIST OF STAFF OF THE HOUSE

Clerk to the Legislature:

Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, M.B.E.

Clerk Assistant I:

Vacant

Clerk Assistant II:

Mallam Abdullahi K. Muhammadu

Editor (Hansard):

Mallam Mukhtar A. Tahir

Executive Officers (Acting)

General Duties—Mallam M. O. Shu'aibu

Finance—Mallam Dahiru Yelwa

Sergeant-At-Arms:

Abdullahi Mongu, R.S.M., B.E.M.

Interpreter/Translators:

Mallam Ibrahim Fari

Mallam Sani Bala

Mallam Sulaiman Adamu Wase

English Reporters:

Mallam Sabo Usman

Mallam Gidado Idris

• **Hausa Reporters:**

Lawal Rafin Dadi
Mallam Isa Doko
Sani Rafin Dadi

Librarian:

Yahaya Mohammed

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE SECOND MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF NIGERIA APPOINTED TO MEET IN THE MONTH OF MAY, 1959, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LUGARD HALL

FOURTH SERIES

VOLUME VI

SIXTH VOLUME OF SERIES 1959

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NORTHERN NIGERIA

Monday, 18th May, 1959

The House met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: I welcome hon. Members back to Kaduna from their homes once more.

I have been informed that a delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association awaits outside this Chamber. This delegation, which consists of the Earl De La Warr, Mr Deedes (a Conservative Member), and Mr Elwyn Jones (a Labour Member), have been asked to come to us here, to this House. Is it the pleasure of the House that I instruct the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them hither? (*Assent*).

PRESENTATION OF ERSKINE MAY'S PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

(*Earl de la Warr, Mr Deedes, and Mr Elwyn Jones entered the Chamber in procession led by the Sergeant-at-Arms*).

Rt. Hon. Earl De la Warr, G.B.E.: Mr Speaker, Sir; hon. Members, not one of us who are privileged to be present at this historic ceremony can fail to be moved by its deep symbolism and significance. In this volume are enshrined the customs, traditions, and rules of what has been called the Mother of Parliaments. Certainly whatever faults or virtues may be ascribed to that august lady, none can accuse her of lack of fertility (*laughter*), for there is not a corner of the world where you will not find one of her children. But just as in life children are never the exact replica of their parents, so in every case the Parliaments of our Commonwealth of Free Nations have assumed the form and complexion suitable to each area and people. Above all, to be alive they must be flexible. Even with us at home, after centuries of growth, we still grow and change.

Thus, Mr Speaker, I was happily able to reply to one of you who claimed that you already possessed an Erskine May: "Ah, but this is the very late edition, and although doubtless you have read every word of your older edition, you must now start afresh if you wish to be completely up to date!" (*Laughter*) Also, the rules and regulations are, of course not the same for the two Houses. The House of Lords, as will doubtless be equally true of the House of Chiefs here, with its natural feelings of hereditary dignity and sense of order, has rather less need of strict rules and regulations than what we, in our pride and arrogance, like to speak of as the Lower House. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, when we hand over this symbolic gift from the British Houses of Parliament, we shall do so inspired by the knowledge that between the covers of this seemingly dry-as-dust volume lies one of the secrets, not merely of the maintenance, but of the growth of the British Commonwealth, the only Empire in the long history of the world that has quite deliberately transformed itself into a Commonwealth of Free Nations, each with its own Parliament.

Economic interest, trade, commerce, external security, the common heritage of the Common Law, and above all, the Crown, all play their part in building up our sense of unity. But high up in that honourable list must come the growth of an organic entity that can express the will and the traditions of the people. That entity is Parliament. And so, to your Parliament, composed as it is, like ours, of two great Chambers, we shall hand this Bible of our own British Parliament, signed the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker, the Prime Minister, and by the Leader of the Opposition. We do so with our good wishes and our earnest prayers for the continued growth of that sense of responsibility, dignity, and tolerance of which we have been made so conscious since coming to your great territory, and which we have learned through centuries of experience are essential foundations of all true liberty and all true independence.

Mr Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P.: Mr Speaker, and hon. Members, it must be a unique experience for a Member of the House of Commons like myself, on a parliamentary occasion, to follow a noble Lord who comes from a place which we, in the House of Commons, are content to refer to as "another place". (*Laughter*). It is perhaps equally unique for a Labour Member of Parliament to find himself in complete agreement with a Conservative Peer. (*Loud Laughter and Applause*). Mr Speaker, I can only describe this phenomenon as another manifestation of the many-sidedness of truth.

I have only this to add to what the noble Lord has said. We as Parliamentarians have to recognise that in these turbulent times a number of countries have forsaken Parliamentary Government and the rule of law. I believe that this defection is only temporary. But it has brought home to us as Parliamentarians the simple fact that we shall be judged by the extent to which we are able to improve the conditions of our people. There will, of course, be differences of opinion as to how this is to be done. That is why for the time being, Mr Speaker, I am a member of Her Majesty's Opposition. (*Laughter*). It also explains why my distinguished colleague, Mr Deedes, sits on the Government Benches. (*Laughter*). That is why, in what I suppose, I may describe as "our House of Chiefs", the noble Lords sit on the Government Benches, and why noble Lords of equal integrity sit on the other side. I hope, Mr Speaker, that as a result of the next General Election this order will be reversed! (*Loud laughter and Applause*).

But, Mr Speaker, whether it is or not, we three are all united in this belief, that the parliamentary system of Government is the most sensible, the most practical, and the most just way for civilised and free men to conduct their political affairs. We are delighted that in this ancient land you too have decided to embark upon the road of parliamentary democracy, whose basic principles were, if I may say so, so nobly expressed by the Premier this morning.

On behalf of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, we pray for God's blessings upon your endeavours. We wish you success in your work for your great Region and for the great contribution you will make to the future of the great Federation of Nigeria. I assure you, Mr Speaker, that we in Westminster will watch your progress with understanding and with sympathy

and we will return there with most vivid and happy memories of your great friendliness and of your wonderful hospitality.

The Minister of Finance (Hon. Alhaji Aliyu, C.B.E. Makama of Bida): Mr Speaker, Sir, It is with great pleasure that I rise to move:

That this House, expresses on behalf of the Legislature of the Northern Region of Nigeria its sincere thanks and appreciation to the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the friendly gift of a specially bound and inscribed copy of Erskine May's "Parliamentary Practice" on the occasion of the attainment of Self-Government by this Region.

Sir, as Minister responsible for the finances of this Region, I have on many occasions had cause to thank the United Kingdom for the assistance given to us through the agency of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, totalling over the years many millions of pounds. But, Sir, great though these gifts are, I think that no one here today will argue with me if I say that the greatest gift which the people of the United Kingdom have conferred on us is the gift of the modern democratic way of thinking and its embodiment in the parliamentary form of Government.

Now, Sir, it would not be true to say that no such form of government has ever existed in Northern Nigeria. For centuries before the destinies of this Region were linked with those of Great Britain, Chiefs and Emirs ruled, not as isolated monarchs, but with the advice and sometimes under the restraint of their councils and traditional advisers. These advisers were not elected but since they occupied traditional places on the Chief's Council they were usually trusted by the people and regarded to some extent by them as their representatives. The change when it came was not a change from autocracy to democracy but from an old traditional type of democracy, working largely by instinct, to modern democracy working through the elective principle and embodied in the forms of parliamentary government.

Thus, the new has grown out of the old, the modern from the traditional, and to those who hold the view that the democratic form of government is a foreign form, imposed willy-nilly on us by Great Britain, I would say: "study the form of government which obtained before the arrival of the British and you will find reason to revise your views."

In this year of Self-Government, therefore, we should make up our minds to do our utmost

to foster this democratic way of thought, to do all we can to adapt it to the needs of our country and to ensure that its institutions do not become mere empty forms from behind which the forces of tyranny can mislead the people with meaningless slogans.

It was to assist us in this task that in 1952 we formed in Northern Nigeria a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and here today we give a warm welcome to the delegates of the United Kingdom Branch of that Association. We value their presence with us while we are celebrating the achievement of Self-Government and we greatly esteem the gift that they have brought with them. To me, this book is symbolic of a pledge that from the outset of our life as a Self-governing Region the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association stands beside us to encourage and assist us in every way it can. Mr Speaker, Sir, we welcome that pledge and we appreciate and value the gift which has been chosen to express it. This famous book, written in the middle of the last century, contains the accumulated wisdom of 700 years of parliamentary government—it is the essential guide book to the practice of the "Mother of Parliaments" and thus, to the practice of our own Legislature of the Northern Region of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, only the foolish will refuse to learn from the wisdom of the past and I trust that all our young men who wish to advance in the art of parliamentary government and especially those who are called to positions of responsibility within the precincts of this Hon. House will not hesitate to learn from these pages and to ponder deeply upon their meaning. In doing so they will, I know, be fulfilling the noble intentions of the givers of this book: they will at the same time be ensuring that in years to come the Legislature of the Northern Region will maintain an honoured place among the free Parliaments of those diverse countries which go to make up the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam (Yerwa Town South): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very unusual for a Member from the Opposition Bench to second a motion moved from the Government Bench but, however, I feel very much honoured to second the Motion so ably moved by the Hon. Member opposite. Much as I agree with the Mover of the Motion that the gift is of great honour I stress the importance of the fact that it is a token of goodwill and friendly relation

that exists between this country and Great Britain. We are greatly indebted not only to the Parliamentary Delegation who are now with us but also to the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the body they have the honour to represent today. This famous book the Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice is often talked of as the Bible of Parliament and is referred to as the Holy Book by some Parliaments.

Mr Speaker, the Hon. Members of this House are quite aware of the Standing Order 75 of this House—that in cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this House shall be interpreted in like manner as any equivalent Standing Orders of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. And as such it is therefore essential that the members of this House should acquaint themselves with the British Parliamentary Procedure which is the embodiment of the book just presented to this House.

But let us ask ourselves what constitutes the British Parliamentary Procedure, the ideals of which this House is required to acquire. According to Lord Campion who was responsible to 14th and 15th editions of Erskine May and Introduction to the Procedure of House of Commons, that British Parliamentary Procedure is a combination of three elements, firstly, the *Traditional*, secondly, the *Democratic* and thirdly, the *Rulings of the Speaker*. The *Traditional Procedure* is the practice of the House, that is, a body of rules and precedents which grew up during the early and middle periods of Parliament. The *Democratic procedure* is the growth of the last century and is embodied in the Standing Orders. And the *Rulings of the Speaker* are preserved for future reference as precedents and the more important of these rulings are incorporated into the successive editions of Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice.

Mr Speaker, it is true that successive Clerks of the House of Commons have rendered invaluable services to Parliament by codifying its practice and procedure.

The members may be willing to know that the first authoritative manual was produced by Henry Elsynge who held office during the early years of the Long Parliament. The main authority for the 17th Century procedure was provided by Henry Scobell in his *Memorials*. The standard authority on the 18th century procedure was provided by John Hatsel in his *Precedents*. The famous *Treatise on the Law*,

[M. IBRAHIM IMAM]

Privileges Proceedings and usage of Parliament, by Sir Thomas Erskine May has been the standard work on parliamentary practice since the first edition appeared in 1844. The latest edition, the 16th, was edited by Sir F. Fellowes, T. G. B. Cocks and Lord Champion. Sir Fellowes is well known to most of us here and furthermore he was responsible for the edition of the Standing Orders of this House. This edition of Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice a copy of which has just been presented to this House is used in all Commonwealth Parliaments and is the acknowledged text-book on Parliamentary procedure.

Mr Speaker, by now the honourable members might have realised the historical and parliamentary importance of this gift, as being not a gift of a mere book and as such I am confident that the House will join me with one voice in paying a tribute to the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to the members of its delegation who have travelled such a long distance to do us this honour.

Mr Speaker, you can convey to Earl De La Warr and his comrades that we are indeed honoured by their presence in this House and to assure them of our heartfelt appreciation of this gift. They shall as well convey to their comrades in the Houses of Parliament our unswerving loyalty to the British Crown and the existence of a reservoir of goodwill and respect for the United Kingdom Government in this country.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and unanimously agreed to.

Resolved:

"That this House expresses on behalf of the Legislature of the Northern Region of Nigeria its sincere thanks and appreciation to the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the friendly gift of a specially bound and inscribed copy of Erskine May's "Parliamentary Practice" on the occasion of the attainment of Self-Government by this Region".

The Clerk of the House then led the leader of the delegation, Lord De La Warr, to the dais and introduced him to the Speaker who received the book."

Mr Speaker: On behalf of this Honourable House I accept this gift, and I give directions that it should be placed securely in the Library. I am happy to accept this volume since my time

in the chair is strictly limited. In the eight years in which I have been presiding over this honourable House I have never had any honourable member use Erskine May against me! Now that so much attention has been directed to this book, I am very apprehensive for my successors! But 'Erskine May' is a two-edged sword and can also be quoted back again.

My Lord and gentlemen, I instructed that a copy of the resolution which has just been passed be fairly printed and be given to you. I pray that on your return to London you will hand it to those who sent you.

My Lord and Gentlemen, on behalf of this honourable House I thank you.

The delegates were then escorted out of the Chamber by the Seargent-At-Arms.

BUSINESS MOTION

The Minister of Works (Hon. G. U. Ohikere): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House at its rising this day do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of Land and Survey (Hon. Ibrahim Musa Gashash): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed?

Question put agreed to.

Letter from the Speaker

Mr Speaker: I would like to inform the House that I have handed a letter to the Clerk of this House which he will now read to you.

Clerk: "To the Clerk of the Legislature, Northern Region of Nigeria."

Dear Alhaji Umaru Gwandu,

With the attainment of Self-Government by this Region I feel that the time has come for me to give up the Chair of the House of Assembly. In accordance with Section 23 of the Constitutional Instrument as revised, but with considerable natural regret, I am writing to you to ask you to be good enough to place my resignation in the hands of this Honourable House. I shall at all times cherish my recollection of my association with it, with affection and will remain ever indebted to you and your staff for the unflinching assistance and support that I have been fortunate enough to receive from you.

Yours sincerely,
C. R. NIVEN

Hon. Premier (Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello K.B.E., Sardauna of Sokoto): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like with your permission to address to you a few words on behalf of the Regional Government, Members of this House and myself, to convey to you our deep feelings of regret for your resignation, as expressed in the letter just read by the Clerk to the Legislature and to express to you the sense of loss which your resignation and absence from this hon. House will mean to us.

I am proud to say that you, Mr Speaker, were our first Speaker to preside over this Legislative body. It is indeed, a great honour for you to have presided continuously over the past seven years, during which period many constitutional changes have taken place. You have indeed created a history for having presided over a House which has a very good record, which you yourself from time to time actually mentioned, for its decorum, sense of humour and above all, courtesy. The dignity with which you have held your high office and discharged your onerous duties has won our admiration and respect and will remain for ever an example and an inspiration to future holders of the office.

I am sure that I speak for all hon. Ministers in this House when I pay this warm tribute to the very valuable work which you have done for this country, not only as Speaker but as a very able Administrator. Thirty-eight years service is indeed a very great record for any administrator and I may perhaps rightly say, that you have beaten any past record.

During the long period of your Presidency and Speakership of our debates, you have had occasions to rebuke and warn when spirits ran high and debates tended to become overheated. Your good judgement on such occasions had been valuable and has helped to steer our debates on the right lines. I do not think there is any Member of this House who will not freely acknowledge a great debt to you for your guidance and encouragement towards the achievement of the high standard of parliamentary practice in this House. I am sure, therefore, that I speak for all Members of this House, Government and Opposition alike, in acknowledging with much gratitude, the high purpose and deep sense of vocation which you have so obviously brought to your duties, and adorned the Office of Speaker in this country. We share your justifiable pride in this achievement.

I would also like on behalf of my Ministers and of the House to express through you our warm appreciation with regard to the very respectable manner in which Mrs Niven has supported you all these years in the discharge of your duties. Her untiring efforts her deep interests in the welfare of the people of this country, coupled with her charming smiles, deserve a special commendation in her own right. It is common knowledge that no husband can successfully carry out his duties unless he is supported by a good wife.

It is difficult for one to part with a friend whom one loves sincerely, but parting in one way or the other is inevitable. After a long and hard work one must retire and rest. As I mentioned during the last meeting of this House, a Northerner will be appointed as Speaker of this House before our next meeting in order to comply with our Northernisation Policy, it is inevitable that we have to have a Northerner to occupy this high office.

Mr Speaker, Sir, though you are leaving us, our thoughts will ever be with you and I am sure this country which you love so much and have worked for will continue to have your services in other spheres.

Mr Speaker, we wish you and Mrs Niven very many more happy and prosperous years in your retirement. (*Applause*).

Mallam Ibrahim Imam (Yerwa Town South): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Premier on this non-controversial issue. It is with the greatest regret and grief that the House accepts your resignation. Mr Speaker you have become a member of this House since 1947 and the President and subsequently the Speaker since 1952. During your eight-year period of presidency and speakership you have been able to raise the standard of the debates of this House. Notwithstanding the many text-books on the subjects of parliamentary procedure and constitutional Law in its relation to Legislature, the hon. members of this House owe much to your knowledge and practical experience in the art of parliamentary Practice which you have imparted to us. During your tenure of office you have won the full admiration and confidence of all sides of the House by your strict impartiality, the quality most essential to a Speaker in any parliament of the world.

Mr Speaker, your absence in this house is going to be felt not only by members of this house but by the country as a whole because of your rare, scholarly and dignified qualities.

[M. IBRAHIM IMAM]

The hon. members of the House will agree with me that in paying a tribute to your able and good services to this house we shall not forget the other invaluable services that you have rendered to Nigeria from 1921 to 1954 in your capacity as administrator. During this period you have gone through all the stages of administrative work finishing your service after having acted twice as Lieutenant Governor of the Region in 1952 and 1955.

You also deserve the honour of being the first Public Relation officer of Nigeria from 1943-45. During that turbulent period of the Second World War you have displayed a great deal of intelligence and tactics required of a British diplomat. Your love for this country can be seen by your effort of devoting your precious time to the writing of the Country's history. Although you are going to leave us you will be carrying our spirit as said by the Hon. Premier. I am very confident that you will leave behind you a heritage which makes your memory remain ever fresh in the minds of the people of this country. This heritage is mainly due to your scholarly contribution to the country. Among the many books you have written, your *Short History of Nigeria*, *Nigeria's Story*, *An Outline of a Colony and How Nigeria is Governed* stand out as the best books ever written by any other author on these subjects.

Mr Speaker, before taking my seat I should like to repeat what I have said during the the previous session of the House that to commemorate you, Mr Speaker, your full-sized portrait in your full ceremonial gown, wearing a full-bottomed wig instead of your flat-top cap must be available to be hung in the Speaker's Room.

I hope this House will join me in paying a tribute to you, Mr Speaker and your dear wife who has been with you during your long stay in this country and who has no doubt contributed not in a lesser degree to the success of your career.

The hon. Premier and the other occupants of the Government front Benches will agree with me that the practice and procedure in this House is to some great extent modelled on the practice and procedure of the House of Commons. In pursuance of this policy, I want to know what the Government has in mind for the Speaker after his retirement as his opposite number in the United Kingdom

on retirement is normally voted a pension of £4,000 and honoured with a Viscounty.

The Premier: *Za mu yi masa sarauta.* (We will give him a title) (*Laughter*).

Mallam Ibrahim Imam: I wish you Mr Speaker, and your beloved wife the best of luck and many happy life during your retirement and to greet you in the language of those with whom you stayed long I should say '*Allah Nguburo*' '*Allah Kelefa*'. (Goodbye, Sir).

The Attorney-General (Hon. H. H. Marshall, Q.C.): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my sentiments. A man is not often afforded the privilege of completing, in the course of his life, two separate and successful careers of service to his Sovereign and to the country to which he is devoted. You, Sir, are among the few to whom this privilege has been granted. You began your first career as an administrative officer in Nigeria in 1921, and spent almost all your time in the administrative service in the Northern Region until in 1954 you retired as Senior Resident, Plateau Province. During the course of your distinguished career you acted more than once in the office of the Chief Commissioner, Northern Provinces and Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Region as my hon. Friend, the Leader of Opposition pointed out. Having left the administrative service and departed from Nigeria, you were appointed President of the Northern House of Assembly. You were thus able to undertake as your main occupation and pre-occupation a work which you had begun as a part-time duty while you were an administrative officer. For it was the law under the Constitution of 1947 that the Senior Resident Northern Provinces should be the President of the House of Assembly and you acted in this capacity on several occasions.

Before the Constitution of 1951, the Regional Houses of Assembly were mere deliberative and advisory bodies without legislative power, and were very differently constituted from the present Houses. In addition to the President, the Northern House consisted of twelve Residents, the Secretary Northern Provinces, counting as a Resident for this purpose, the Deputy Directors of Medical Services, Education, Agriculture, and Public Works, and the Senior Crown Counsel, Northern Provinces. There were also fifteen only provincial members, three of whom came from Kano, two from Sokoto and one from each remaining province. There were also six Members appointed by the

Governor of Nigeria to represent interests and communities which were, in his opinion, not otherwise adequately represented. Today, as a result of two new Constitutions and many amendments to the last Constitution, we have a House consisting of 131 Elected Members, five Special Members and one Official Member. We have a Speaker (the name was changed to President in a 1957 amendment to the 1954 Constitution) who up to the present time has been appointed by the Governor, after consultation with the leaders of the main parties in the House. In future he is to be elected by the House. The House of Assembly is now, of course, no longer merely a deliberative body but a legislative assembly with full powers except in Federal matters. So far have we come in so short a time.

In 1951, this building in which we are now assembled had only just been completed. Up to that time it had been the practice to hold meetings of the former House of Assembly in the Trade Centre. Since you first occupied the Chair, Sir, the changes in the nature of the House have been profound, and the history of the development of the House can be said to have been all written during your Presidency and Speakership. Constitutional development was inevitable, but high standards and high quality were not. Had it not been for your guidance during the formative years of this young body, things might so easily have turned out differently and this House might have grown into an unruly and untidy Assembly. But from the very first, you have firmly and kindly guided each and every one of us in the way we should go. Standing Orders, which are based on the Standing Orders of the House of Commons with the necessary modifications to suit local conditions, have been enforced with scrupulous fairness and impartiality. While at first considerable latitude was given to those inexperienced in debate, never was this latitude allowed to degenerate into licence; and later on not only you, but the Members of the House themselves began to see to it that advantage should not be taken of concessions of this kind. In addition, you, Sir, have spent a considerable amount of your leisure time in studying procedure both in the House of Commons and in the Legislatures of other countries to learn how things should be done in order that you might pass on your knowledge to us.

In the course of building up a dignified assembly, the trappings and furnishings could

not, of course, be forgotten. You resolutely set your face against any slavish copying of the traditions of other legislative assemblies, and insisted that if traditions were to be established they must be in keeping and harmony with the spirit and customs of the Northern Region. It is for this reason that the familiar Speaker's wig and gown is not in evidence in this House; but the Speaker's robes have been chosen with an eye to harmony with the Northerners' robes so that a future African Speaker of Northern origin can wear them without any incongruity. Mr Speaker, if this House accedes to the making of a portrait of Mr Speaker dressed in wig and robe, it will be the first time he has ever worn them. (*Laughter*). As to the Speaker's hat, I will say little. We have all watched with interest the process of trial and error that has gone on in the selection of headgear over a period of time, and there has been considerable conjecture at the beginning of each Session as to whether finality would or would not have been attained and if not what was in store for us in the future.

Mr Speaker, the ancients had a strange story about a sacred bird called the phoenix. It was believed that there existed only one phoenix at a time, but that there always was a phoenix. There were several schools of thought as to the nature of the phoenix and how he succeeded in perpetuating his existence, but the most popular version was that he was a gaily coloured bird who, having busied himself with useful activities throughout a long life, built himself a nest on an altar in the temple of the gods and, having installed himself in it, was burned to ashes by some little-understood process of spontaneous combustion. (*Laughter*). After the fire was over a new phoenix arose from the ashes, and proceeded to live another long, busy, and useful life. This process was apparently capable of being prolonged indefinitely. Mr Speaker, before I came to the Northern Region and had the pleasure of meeting you, I did not believe in the phoenix. Now I do, and I feel sure that, having said goodbye to you once, and having seen you return in renewed and varied plumage, we need not grieve too much at your departure today. Who knows but that tomorrow or the next day you will return to us in yet another form. (*Laughter*) (*hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, as a Member of this House since 1951, and as the last Official Member to survive the constitutional processes, and on behalf of all other officials, I wish you, as

[THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL]
a former official, God speed, a happy retirement,
and early return some other day.

I also associate myself with the expressions made by the previous speakers as to Mrs Niven's enormous help to you in your high office, and to Nigeria as a whole, for so many years. We shall all miss her as much as we shall miss you, and her annual return here, full of life and energy and good works will be much missed. We also hope to see her, Sir, another day. *(Applause)*.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, I find myself rather overwhelmed by what has been said. I wish that I felt in my own heart that I deserved a tenth of the kind things which have been said. I feel sometimes that the strain of sitting in this Chair—and it is a strain—has on occasions clouded my judgment, and I was not as fair as I might have been. But in the face of such assurances from such distinguished judges as the Premier—and Ibrahim Imam—of all people—I feel a little restored in my self-confidence.

It is not possible to answer or even thank the speakers for the kind things which have been said, but I would especially like to thank the hon. Members who have spoken for their references to my wife. I do not think there was a single day during the time she was in Kaduna in which she was not in the gallery for some hours. And that was not from a sense of duty, but from a sense of interest.

But I cannot take the credit for having created this House. I can take the credit for having guided it. This House, like any other human body, is made up of people; and it is you, hon. Members, and the Members of the House that went before you, who have done most to create the House, and to you I think that this Region should be grateful.

That raises the matter of the hat, which the hon. Attorney-General has mentioned. You may have forgotten that the reason why the Speaker carries a hat is because a crisis may arise in which he has to admonish a Member, and he cannot do it unless he puts a hat on. *(Laughter)*. There was only one occasion, as far as I can remember, in this House in which the hat might have been worn, and at that time I did not have a hat. *(Laughter)*. The culprit on that occasion has now turned over a new leaf—it is a long time ago—and he is now Minister of a large Ministry. *(Laughter, and cries of "Minister of Works")*.

This House has not been without its drama. There were three occasions which I remember, and which I shall never forget; I do not know whether the Members of the House remember them. There was one when an hon. Member—not in this House now—from Plateau, laughed so much that he fell out of his chair. *(Laughter)*. That would not have been significant, but he became jammed between the desk and the chair, and it took four hon. Members neighbouring to extricate him. *(Laughter)*.

Another occasion was when this House was unable to open its gallery because of bees. *(Laughter)*. Every Member, as far as I recollect, had at least one bee; and the more highly scented Members had three or four. *(Laughter)*. And another is, I think, unique in the history of any Parliament, because I claim to be the only Speaker who has ever actually fallen out of his Chair, that was due to the fact that the Public Works Department had put new wheels on the Chair without warning the Speaker of their existence! *(Laughter)*.

I will always remember the good sense shown by this House, and the way in which the Ministers gradually assumed more and more responsibility; and the way in which they improved in debate was quite remarkable. And the further they got away from their typewritten notes, the better they become.

And I shall never forget the sturdy opposition of Ibrahim Imam, who opposed remorselessly every question of any kind, whether it was worth opposing or not. I do not know whether hon. Members are aware, but the floor below the seat where he sat over there was torn up by his shoes in his excitement! *(Laughter)*. But whatever happened, I always appreciated that however intense the situation that arose, and however much he might have argued against a point of order, he always remained polite, and always thanked me for the ruling which put him down.

I would like to thank now the Members of the staff of this House—Umaru Gwandu and his people—for all they have done to make things easy for me. I have said before that any House, any Legislature, depends on its staff for the smooth running of its machinery. And they have been very good here, though they have been changed more than I like to see.

I must say one word about the future. I have thought a lot about it while I have been sitting here, and I think that the Northern Region, if it goes on electing people of the capacity and calibre of this House, has little

to fear. I think that free elections, and a House of this nature in which everybody is prepared to say what he thinks, guarantees the future happiness of this Region. No democracy can be perfect. There are always things which somebody objects to, and there always will be. But so long as those objections have been said in public, so long will the country retain its health. Honourable Members, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that has been said and for the kindness which I have always received from you and I wish you success and happiness in the future. And I wish my successors in this Chair all the good fortune that they can have and the guidance that God will give them. (*Applause*).

House suspended at five minutes after twelve noon.

House resumed

(DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MOTION ELECTING NEW SPEAKER

Alhaji Muhammadu Danmallam Wambai Katsina (Katsina East): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order paper:

That Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, M.B.E., do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Certain posts can be held by most persons, other posts can be held by some people but there are few posts which can only be filled efficiently by the very few selected persons. The post of the Speaker of the House of Assembly belongs to this last category which can only be efficiently filled by persons possessing certain exceptional qualities. The post of Speaker requires among other things a deep knowledge and a clear understanding of the Parliamentary system. It requires concentration and tolerance and it also requires trust worthiness and integrity of the highest order and, above all, the person to fill this post must command respect. Alhaji Umaru Gwandu possesses all these qualities to the very high degree and perhaps more than any other person we can think of. As the Clerk to the Legislature from the beginning up to the present moment, he has worked exceedingly well and to the satisfaction of everybody. He has set a high standard which every Northerner should follow in different branches of the Government service. The post of the Speaker will not be new to Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, for all these years he has been closely associated with the out-going Speaker, a Gentleman

who appreciates our way of life and always trying for the progress of our people and of the Region as well.

Lastly, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will say I have full confidence in Alhaji Umaru Gwandu and by saying so I am merely voicing out the opinion of the entire Members of this House and of the thousands of people all over the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as this Motion is non-controversial, I need not waste the time of the House. So I beg to move. (*Applause*).

Mallam Bala Zeffi (Kaduna Capital Territory): Mr Deputy Speaker, (*Applause*). It is not surprising for me to second the Motion moved by the last speaker. We, on the Opposition Benches always support things which are worthwhile and give our support immediately as occasion permits. I strongly support the Motion that Alhaji Umaru Gwandu should be made the Speaker of this House. We of the opposition have tried Alhaji Umaru Gwandu on so many occasions to see whether he is partial but have found him a man of good standing and impartiality and we did not find him lacking in any way. We found that he was doing his work honestly and earnestly. Also, if we refer to the history of Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, we will find that he is the most suitable person for the post. Alhaji Umaru Gwandu has two qualities which make him most suitable to be the Speaker of this House. Firstly, he has Arabic education, through which he learnt a lot about the people and their way of life and, secondly, he has western education and he is the first Northerner to hold the post of the Clerk to this House. He knows how to run the House very well and therefore, Mr Deputy Speaker he deserves the post. We have only one thing to appeal to Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, it is on two things that the Government brought forward and if any body has been very observant he will see that they are all useful things. If we trace the history of this Region we shall find that originally it was Shehu Usman Dan Fodio and Shehu Abdullahi who ran the affairs of this country and if we can turn our face on the other hand we shall find that it is somebody from that family who is now the Premier of the Northern Region, and scrutinising this most critically, we shall also find that the man proposed to hold this post of the Speaker also comes from the same family. We people of this country are always proud (*applause*) of the administrative foundation laid by these

[M. BALA KEFFI]
 people. Those people had Eastern Education only, but this time we have both Arabic and western education, and that is why I feel that somebody who has both will be most suitable for this post. (*Applause*). Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not my intention to talk at length but with these few remarks I support that Alhaji Umaru Gwandu should be the Speaker of this House.

Deputy Speaker: Knowing that this kind of Motion is usually non-controversial in this House and has the support of both sides, I shall put the question straight away so as to enable the business of the day to be finished in time.

Question proposed.

Question put and unanimously agreed to.

Resolved:

"That Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, M.B.E., do take the Chair of this House as Speaker."

Deputy Speaker: Now that the Motion is carried, is it the wish of the hon. Members that I arrange for the sponsors to go and bring in the Speaker-elect? (*Assent*).

The hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Danmallam and the hon. Mallam Bala Keffi brought in the new Speaker-elect amid applause from both sides of the House.

Deputy Speaker: I am very pleased to inform you of the decision of the House that you do take the Chair of this House as Speaker. (*Applause*).

Speaker-Elect (Alhaji Umaru Gwandu, M.B.E.): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have served this House for nearly ten years continuously, it is not my wish to go against the will of this House. I have therefore the greatest pleasure in accepting the post of Speaker which this House has so unanimously conferred upon me. I would also like, with your permission Mr Deputy Speaker, to thank my two hon. Friends, the Member for Katsina East and the Member for Kaduna Capital Territory, the former for proposing my name and the latter for supporting the Motion. I therefore submit myself to the will of the House. (*Applause*).

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Speaker-elect took and subscribed the Oath.

(MR SPEAKER *in the chair*) (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, in view of the great honour which you have done me this morning, it is proper for me to resign from being the Clerk not only to this House for which I have enjoyed serving for so many years but also as the Clerk of the other House. I have also considered very carefully since this idea was mooted, the question of my future as a Civil Servant. In order to serve you well and to cater for your interests, I have to make a sacrifice—a sacrifice which will affect me personally. I intend to seek the permission of His Excellency the Governor to retire from the Public Service.

Once more I would like to say how grateful I am to the Members of this House for their unanimous support, and I would assure them that I will endeavour to see that those qualities which prompted them to appoint me to this office will not be found wanting. Thank you. (*Applause*).

(*Alhaji Isyaku Gwamna rose*).

Mr Speaker: I think before the hon. Member speaks, in accordance with the Standing Orders we have to suspend the Sitting at 1.00 o'clock, and I am sure it will not be the wish of this House to come back this afternoon. May I know the wish of the House? If the House does not wish to come back this afternoon, then we had better suspend the Standing Orders in order that we may now continue after 1.00 o'clock. Would somebody from the Government Bench move the suspension of the relevant Standing Order?

The Minister of Education (Hon. Alhaji Isa Kaita, O.B.E., Madakin Katsina): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (1) be suspended so that the Sitting of this House shall continue until the business of the day has been completed.

The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Alhaji Mustafa Monguno): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed.

Standing Order 4 (1) accordingly suspended.

Alhaji Isyaku Gwamna (Jos Town): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very pleased to stand up to speak on behalf of the House. As everybody knows, Alhaji Umaru Gwandu is really worthy of the post of Speaker to this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, it will be remembered that

I was the very person who brought up the matter in this House some time ago that a Northerner should be made the Speaker of the House on the attainment of Self-Government. Now God has fulfilled my wish. As the Mover of this Motion said—

The Minister of Health (Hon. Alhaji Ahman, Galadima of Pategi): A point of order, I think this question is out of order.

Mr Speaker: I am glad that a point of order has been raised as soon as I have taken my Chair. (*applause*). But I think this is rather a conventional question, not relating strictly to the business on the Order Paper. I think that as soon as the Motion was carried we should have stopped at that point. But I think an arrangement was made and I think the suggestion came from this (*Government*) side of the House. It was with that point in mind that I allowed the hon. Member to say something. Is it the wish of the House that the hon. Member should be allowed to continue? (*Assent*).

Alhaji Isyaku Gwamna: Thank you, Mr Speaker, It is not my intention to speak at length, but I wish to express the opinion of some of the hon. Members of this House and also that of the general public.

Alhaji Umaru Gwandu is a man of patience and integrity. Mr Speaker, Sir, I heard of you before I became a Member of this House. When later I had the good opportunity of meeting you, I found that you deserved all the good qualities that people had attributed to you.

Mr Speaker, the work of guiding this House is a very difficult one. People often disturb you but you have never shown any slackness.

As has already been said by a Member from the Opposition Benches, the leader of this Region is a descendant of Shehu Usman Dan Fodio, and the Speaker of this House is also a descendant of the same great man. I always pray that there will not be any change in the future because I feel that administrative work should always be carried out by the descendants of Shehu Usman Dan Fodio (*Cheers*). I pray that God will help the newly elected Speaker in his deliberations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I take my seat I wish to say two things—firstly, most of the Members of this House do not know my position in this House, and journalists have often asked me what my position is. It is two and half years now since I have been an Independent Member, and the reason why—

Mr Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, but I do not think this is the time for talking about party politics. (*hear, hear*). Will the hon. Member come to the point.

Alhaji Isyaku Gwamna: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have today joined the Northern People's Congress. (*Laughter and applause*). I hope I will be moved to the front benches of the House.

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Member can cross the carpet. That is the parliamentary practice. The Member may cross the carpet. He may do it practically if he likes. (*Applause, cheers and interruptions*).

(*The hon. Alhaji Isyaku Gwamna crosses the carpet to the Government side of the House*).

Mr R. B. Ojeba (Igbira): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very pleasant that on this occasion when we are celebrating Self-Government a Northerner has been appointed Speaker of this House. The appointment has added greatly to the Celebrations. It is, in fact, an important factor of the Celebrations. The past Speaker, as you already know, has served this Region in many Departments. I have no doubt that he has made many friends. He has contributed greatly to the training of the present Speaker, who has fittingly taken his place now. We thank him for all the services he has given. The new Speaker, as you know, is well-known to all of us. He has been very tolerant, sympathetic, and always ready to help every Member. If any Member is in difficulty or requires any information, he is always prepared to help him. We are well aware that Alhaji Umaru Gwandu and the Speaker of the House of Chiefs come from Gwandu. It is not surprising, therefore, that these 'Gwandus' have played a big part in the Government of this Region. The people of Gwandu have every reason to be proud of them. I congratulate the new Speaker on his new appointment, and I wish him God's guidance.

Since there are more people wishing to speak, and since I am not very acquainted with the Speaker's past performances, with these few words I beg to take my seat. (*Applause*).

Mallam Shehu Cigari (Sokoto South-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Government on the steps they have taken to appoint a Northerner to be the Speaker of this House. It is a matter of pride for every Northerner that the Speaker of this House is a Northerner. It is very appropriate that we Members of this House should congratulate the new Speaker on his appointment. I know him personally, and I know him through

[M. SHEHU CIGARI]

dealing with him in the course of his duties in the House. I know that he is a man of impartiality, and he runs all the business of the House, together with that of the Members, satisfactorily. I know he is a courageous person, and moreover he is doing his utmost to further the advancement of this Region. I pray that God's guidance will help him to follow the lines of his character, so that he may continue his good qualities. I pray that God will guide him away from the evil things of those leaders of the Western Region.

Mr Speaker: I am sorry to have to interrupt. Members of the other Legislative Houses should not be mentioned except on a specific point. Unless you are going to relate this point to the question under discussion, it will be out of order.

Mallam Shehu Cigari: We are pleased with the appointment, and may God help you.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, (Yerwa Town South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with some of the points raised by the previous speakers, and in doing so I must say that your appointment to this office is because of your merit. It did not come as a surprise to those of us who have known you for a very long time. Mr Speaker, you will recollect that my contact with you goes back to 1934 when both of us were in Katsina Higher College. Your association with the Legislature of this Region goes back to 1944, when you attended the Chiefs' Conference as Personal Assistant to the late Emir of Gwandu. You attended the Constitutional Assembly as Personal Assistant to him in 1945, and were appointed Interpreter to this House in 1948, and Clerk to this House in 1949. Your rich experience in Parliamentary procedure, coupled with the knowledge you acquired when you were attached to the United Kingdom Houses of Parliament in 1954, have made you a successful Clerk to this House. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association courses you attended in the United Kingdom in 1954 will no doubt make you an acquisition to this House. Your non-partisan behaviour and strict impartiality will enable you to win the confidence of all sides of this House in your time. I am confident that the Members of this House will not doubt your integrity as a Speaker, and your award of the Member of the British Empire is a recognition of your qualities.

Before I sit down, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that

the salary attached to the post of Speaker is small. The Speaker of this House should be given at least a Minister's salary. The precedent that this would create has already been created in many Commonwealth countries. In the United Kingdom House of Commons and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Speaker gets exactly the same salary as a Minister gets. Further, to take my contention to its logical conclusion, I would go on to say that in India and Pakistan the Speaker gets more than even the Prime Minister. I think it would be of interest for the Members of this House to know that in India the Prime Minister gets £1,460, while the Speaker gets £2,700; and in Pakistan the Prime Minister gets £3,600, while the Speaker gets £3,750. These Parliaments are moving with the reality that the Speaker is the embodiment of the House.

In this connection, I should like to say that I was surprised to hear you say that you were sacrificing your Civil Service post. To me and to other Members of this House I am pretty sure that your brighter future as a Speaker of this House will be as a Civil Servant, provided that the Northern Regional Government is to follow the practice of any other Government, because as I have said earlier, in England in the House of Commons the Speaker of the House is paid £4,000 per annum. I think I am right, Mr Speaker, when I say that your apprehension is no less and no more than if you are going to lose your pension rights, when you retire prematurely. I feel, Mr Speaker, that when you retire from the Speakership of this House you should be awarded a very big lump sum pension. I think that the Members of this House will join me in congratulating you on your past successes, and wishing you every success as the Speaker of this House. (*Applause*).

Mr J. S. Olawoyin (Offa): Mr Speaker, Sir, as you have taken over the post of the Speaker, I should like to have the grand opportunity of saying a word or two on the appointment of Alhaji Umaru Gwandu as the first black man to occupy the seat of the Speaker of this honourable House as of right.

Alhaji Umaru Gwandu is a credit to the Northern Region and a worthy son of Nigeria. By his gentle and admirable approach to any given situation when he was the Clerk of the House, Alhaji Umaru convinced all Members of this hon. House that given any position of responsibility in life he would hold such a post creditably to the surprise of all cynics and doubting Thomases.

The constitutional advance already made is due to the good sense of judgment of the Government party and the sense of responsibility and restraint by the Opposition Members. It is only fitting and proper that on the attainment of Self-Government a Northerner has been appointed the Speaker of the House. Alhaji Umaru Gwandu is quick-witted and has ready answers to any problem. He will no doubt gain the confidence of both sides of the House by his wisdom, good manners and the bewitching smiles which he always wears on his dumpled cheeks.

I trust and hope most sincerely that you will certainly live up to the expectation of those who consider you the fit and proper person to occupy the highly exalted office of Speaker in a Self-governing Northern Region, which, by its size, is more than four times the size of Great Britain, and the population of which is by far larger than that of the other Regions put together.

Now that Nigeria, and the North included, has voluntarily decided to adopt Westminster as its model, I think it cannot be overstressed that due respect must always be given to the opinion of the Parliamentary Opposition. This opinion should be treated as opinion not expressed by personal enemies of a group of people.

Now, may I make a point of general principle, distribution of offices, like the distribution of amenities, must not be concentrated on a particular Province nor on

Mr Speaker: Point of order, I have already ruled out somebody who started to bring up something controversial. The correct Parliamentary Procedure is when a motion of this nature, which is non-controversial is brought before the House, Members should not raise matters which the people responsible will not get a chance to reply.

Will the Hon. Member come to the point.

Mr Olawoyin: When you were the Clerk of the House you were a friend of all, irrespective of our political affiliations. I hope too that you will with your great sense of humour and wide experience, steer the great and difficult ship of parliamentary procedure with caution and care. On behalf of my Friends of the Opposition and the entire people of this Region, I commend you to the mercy and care of God in the hope that whenever, and that may be very soon, it pleases God to reverse positions of parties on the floor of this House, you will gladly continue as Speaker in a

house controlled by the Action Group of Nigeria which will usher in life (*cries of No. No.*) more abundant and freedom for all.

Hon. Member: "No, No".

Mr Olawoyin: Mr Speaker, I congratulate you.

The Minister of Agriculture, (Hon. Alhaji Mustafa Monguno): Point of Order, the Member is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker: He has already finished his speech.

Hon Members once more I should like to thank you on this very historic day because many things have taken place this morning, we witnessed the laying of the Foundation Stones of our future debating Chamber: one by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, representing Her Majesty the Queen who is the symbol that unites the countries within the Commonwealth and also the custodian of Parliamentary Democracy and the other by our highly respected Premier, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, representing the people of this Region who are well known for their great qualities. These qualities were mentioned by His Royal Highness and I am not going to repeat them because they are so abundantly clear. Also we witnessed a ceremony this morning during which an official delegation of the United Kingdom Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association brought us what has been termed the "Bible on Parliamentary Procedure." A few minutes ago you have passed a Resolution electing a Northerner, myself, as your first African Speaker. I am proud that I am the first Northerner to be appointed the Speaker of this House as I was also the first to be appointed the Clerk to the Northern Legislative Houses. This is indeed a very rare occasion; it is the first of its kind at least in this country. I am therefore grateful to the Members of this Hon. House and the Government for initiating the proposal.

With regard to the Members who have spoken on my qualities, I would like to assure them and all the rest of the Members that I will endeavour to the best of my ability to discharge my duties with the strictest impartiality. (*Applause*). But I cannot do so properly unless I have the support of the Members of this House, no matter to which party they belong.

I should like to correct one point raised by my Hon. Friend, Mallam Ibrahim Imam. I mentioned that I intended to seek the permission of His Excellency the Governor to retire

[HON. ALHAJI MUSTAFA MONGUNO]
from the Public Service; it will be a personal sacrifice. This is the point I had in mind, as you may probably be aware, the longer one stays in the Service, the greater pension when he finally retires. I am now entitled to a pension because I am 45.

With regard to the question of future status and the conditions of service of the Speaker, I think that is entirely a matter for the Government and this House. I am taking this appointment not for monetary gain. (*Applause*).

With regard to the point raised by Mr Olawoyin, I should like to say this, it is up to the Opposition to make itself effective (*Applause*) and, if I may give a little advice I am doing so just on Parliamentary Procedure. The Opposition could only make itself effective by constructive criticism and also by a method. Here, I should use the Parliamentary term which is known as the usual 'channel' and I think I better explain the term which, I am afraid to say, has not been used before. The Whips of the Opposition should contact the Whips of the Government and discuss matters

and that is what we call the 'usual channel'. The Whips of the Opposition should be in contact with the Whips of the Government, in order to find out more about things and to avoid the Opposition being ridiculed in the House.

Honourable members, I thank you once more for your patience for having stayed too long to see me take the Chair of this House. I wish you very safe return to your respective homes. *Allah ya salamu da Alheri.*

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Social Welfare and Co-operatives (Hon. Michael A. Buba) (Waziri of Shendam): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that the House now adjourn *sine die*.

Motion made, and question proposed that the House do now adjourn. (Minister of Social Welfare and Co-operatives, Hon. Michael A. Buba, Waziri of Shendam).

Question put and agreed to.

House accordingly adjourned sine die at 1.55 p.m.

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